



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

To Live in God's Space

Our first reading from Genesis reminds us that we are meant to live in God's space. Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Eden, created by God to dwell and to share with Him. The Garden provided for their every need. But they lost it by disobeying God.

We may have also experienced a space of friendship, love, or community, which has been God's Garden of Eden for us. But like Adam and Eve, we lost it because of our disobedience, ingratitude, or carelessness.

When we lose such a space, we find ourselves in a desert of barrenness and desolation, facing loneliness and harshness, even death. Perhaps, we too are in a desert space, as we begin Lent.

Jesus enters into the desert to pray and to fast, becoming hungry in body, needy in want, and powerless. And

Satan tempts Jesus to focus on his own self, needs, power, not on God. But Jesus rejects Satan's temptations.

In the Old Testament, the desert is an anointed space where God calls a person out of the world. And there in the solitude of their communion — God speaks intimately to draw him into the depth of who God is, who this person is, and what God's love is really meant for, to save.

We see how Jesus in his weaknesses in the desert is, in fact, remarkably open to God, who is already at work in him. Jesus' actions in the desert can teach us as we begin our Lenten journey to grow in spiritual authenticity.

Lent is graced time for us to enter into our desert spaces to find God already waiting to help us reclaim the spiritual authenticity of who we are to

Confronting Temptation

† "I was disobedient to my mum and dad" the constant if not the thoroughly convincing confession of a child. And today, obedience among many an adult is seen not only as ignoble but downright offensive to human dignity. The real man is his own boss. May be he has never matures into an adult who sees disobedience as a refusal to swim with the flow of creative love which is our only life.

Today's readings remind us that sin comes into life because of disobedience. Man emerged as the only product of creative love that refused to acknowledge its true self and thus scorched God's plan for a world without evil. Man would not serve, he would rein in disobedience with tragic consequences.

All temptation, that penchant in man

to do what he knows is wrong, is refusal to take part in a world of love. So he either denies or refuses to consider sin and temptation. He sees them both — or pretends to do so — as obstacles to be ignored.

Christ, the only genuine human, readily acknowledged sin and sinfulness and suffered their consequence. He knew only too well what temptation meant and he confronted both, as today's gospel shows us, not with his own wisdom, but that found in sacred scripture long before his birth. "The Lord God... Him alone should you serve" not yourself or Satan.

We might lead a Lent well spent by a little reading of scriptural wisdom each day and learn the art of handling temptation.



Sunday 5 March 2017

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Monday 6 March

Liturgy of the day

Tuesday 7 March

Liturgy of the day

Wednesday 8 March

Liturgy of the day

Thursday 9 March

Liturgy of the day

Friday 10 March

Liturgy of the day

Saturday 11 March

Liturgy of the day

Sunday 12 March

Second Sunday of Lent

God — God's beloved, God's own.

But we find ourselves caught up in a masquerade to hide our truest selves. We pretend to be someone else; we run away from our pain and suffering; we deny ourselves the happiness we should have. And sometimes, we even give up our birthright as God's children.

The Lenten practices of prayer, alms-giving and fast can help us to re-examine our lives before the loving God who dwells within us, and whose only desire is to save and perfect us for the fullness of life with Him. And practice them we must because they can help us to strip away the masks that we wear.

We stand naked before God. As God's little ones, created in innocence and holiness to love, praise and serve God. God wants to nurture and strengthen us to live life well and happily together with Him in God's garden.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

Fr Adrian Danker, SJ

PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent
Morning session after 7.00am Mass
Evening session at 5.40pm, followed by Mass
Evening session at 7.40pm on 2 April

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday, 6 April, 8.00pm at the main Church.

THE CHARITIES WEEK 2017 APPEAL ENVELOPES

The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2017. Your donation will provide much needed funding to support our Catholic Charities and Agape Village, a project of Caritas Singapore, to serve over 50,000 beneficiaries in need such as the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Next week, please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. Your donation will enjoy a tax deduction of 250 percent

LENTEN FISH FRY

Food, fellowship and fun at the 6th annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinner on Friday, 31 March.
Time: 6.30pm –8.00pm
Place: Church of St Ignatius, Sacred Heart Hall canteen
\$15 adults/\$12 children (aged 3–9)
Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased.
Sale of tickets after Sunday Masses on 19 March, at church office Monday to Friday, and after CCD classes on Tuesday and Thursday, 14, 21 and 23 March.
Buffet dinner by Hoe Brothers Catering featuring fried and baked fish, french fries, salad, apple crumble, brownies and drinks.

JUMBLE SALE BY HOMEMAKERS

Saturday and Sunday, 27 and 28 May, 9.30am to 1pm at St Ignatius Hall.
In support of the Parish Social Mission Fund. Ensure donations are in good condition. NO bulky furniture, fax machines, TV and printers; video and cassette tapes and text books. Drop off your donations by Sunday 7 May outside the Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

CALL FOR GREETERS

The Greeting Ministry is looking for greeters to serve at 8.15am and 10.15am Masses on Sunday. We also need to build a pool of greeters for special Masses, usually on Saturday afternoons or public holidays. To volunteer, please leave your names and contact numbers at the Help Desk.

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Term 1 sessions end this weekend. We will resume after the school break on the weekend of 25/26 March.

PARENTS PRAYER GROUP

While your children are at their catechetical sessions, join the Parents Prayer Group and support your children, and each other, in prayer. Saturday, 1.30pm and 4.00pm. Sunday, 10.00am. At Room #02-06, Annexe building. For information, contact Donald Poon at 81232660 (Sunday), Andi Sumaryo at 91913734 (Saturday, 1.30pm) or Aaron Boey at 96185337 (Saturday, 4.00pm).

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

A Joyful Life in Prayer – a sharing of one person's journey towards a more fulfilling life after being baptised in the Holy Spirit, and caught within a secular world of trials and temptations. It is about putting everything about prayer into positive action...to be His beloved.

Come join us this Wednesday, March 8, at St Ignatius Hall. We start at 7.30pm with fellowship and end by 9.30pm. ALL ARE WELCOME.

SUNDAY CANTEEN (9AM TO 12PM)

Willing hands are needed for Sunday canteen. If you or your ministry is interested in serving this good cause (3-4 times a year), contact Raymond at 9731 8432 or raymond.thng37@gmail.com.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday, 8 March, SH-02-E
Programme: Symbolon episode 9 "Mary and the Saints?"

ZONE A DISTRICT 2

Wednesday, 15 March, #02-02
Programme: Stations of the Cross

ZONE A DISTRICT 3

Wednesday, 15 March, #02-06
Programme: Lenten Reflection – 3rd Sunday of Lent

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday, 16 March, 01-04
Programme: 1) Gospel sharing – Daily Word of God
2) Lenten Reflections

ZONE D DISTRICT 1

Friday, 10 March, SH-E
Programme: Lenten booklet: Reflection and discussion of 1st week of Lent.

Fr Leslie Raj, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Joyce Setiawan Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Robert Ong Sacristan

David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

Tender Mercies

I have been dancing a lot in the shower lately. No, not quite the Macarena or the Twist or whatever came to your mind, but an unintentional sort of dance. You know when you have fresh wounds and you don't quite want water to make contact with them? And at the very touch of water, you squirm away with a bit of a grimace?

Anyway, thanks to five rather big wounds, I've been squirming a lot when I bathe, to the point I can't help but burst out in laughter at how ridiculous I look each time. The five wounds are not stigmata, mind you, but boy do they hurt (they were picked up in a recent accident).

In fact they hurt so much I have brought my pain to God in prayer every day since. I've told him about the throbbing that comes with every pump of blood from the heart, I've told him about how tricky it is to find and stay in one position while sleeping. I've asked God to do His thing (maybe tell me to

pick up my mat and walk or something), and put me out of my misery.

And then a realisation came to me a few days ago. Perhaps I need this particular experience. To teach me that when I'm in pain, I can turn to God. And when I'm not in pain, I should thank God. I know it all sounds very catechism class. But on further reflection, I realised that a lot of the time, when I'm in pain – whether due to a hurt inflicted by someone or even from a mistake I've made – I don't bring it to God. Instead I ignore it by numbing or occupying myself with other things. Or I brush it away by thinking I can handle it and “God doesn't want to be bothered by these small things anyway”. Another realisation: when was the last time I actually thanked God for healing me? Gosh, am I one of the 9 of the 10 who were healed of leprosy by Jesus, but did not go back to thank him (Luke 17)?

I know all this sounds like rather harsh perspectives, but I know for myself it's true. I also know though, that God doesn't want me to keep on adding more pain, layering them up

one by one as I grow older. Surely older doesn't mean weightier?

My recent rumination on this matter has often brought me back to Jesus on the cross. He who willingly took on pain for us. For you, and for me. He who knows pain all too well, and still wants to help us when we feel it too. And the miracle of it all is that He wants to share in our pain, and by our turning our gaze to Him, He takes on more of the weight. If that's not true, authentic love, I'm not sure what is.

So I hope you will join me in being intentional about sharing our pains with our Lord. We know that God is interested in all kinds of pain – physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, all of it. And yes, He's interested in every degree of pain.

Perhaps before receiving Communion at Mass today we can truly consider what it is we need healing, as we say those words: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed. (ref. Matthew 8:8)”

And for the ways He has healed us lately, may we give thanks at Mass too, for it is truly right and just.

Meanwhile, as my healing process continues, it is nice to know that I do not dance alone.

KEITH NEUBRONNER



JESUIT NEWS

THE HOLLOW REED

As an African proverb goes: 'Let my spirit catch up with my body'; in our present daily whirlwind of unceasing activities & challenges, we need to engage the storm with our heart in the eye of the storm. In this weekend retreat in Lent, come and be still. Thus, be renewed by 'what no eye has seen, nor ear heard... what God has prepared for those who love him' (1 Cor. 2:9). Includes input, silent reflection, Spiritual Direction & journaling.

Date/time: Friday, 10 March (8pm) to Sunday, 12 March (3pm) 2017

Facilitator: Sr. Elizabeth Sim, FDCC

Fee: \$230 (non-AC), \$270 (AC); inclusive of 2 SD sessions

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/hollowreed>; Details: www.kingsmeadcentre.sg

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh SJ, Fr James Tan SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerard Keane SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng SJ, Fr Charles Sim SJ, Fr Colin Tan SJ, Msgr Philip Heng SJ,
Fr Adrian Danker SJ, Sch Don Basil Kannangara SJ

Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ONE FOR THE WALL

Is the lenten project by Crossings Café to provide meals for those in need, paid forward by your generosity. Purchase a meal (\$10 or \$5) and place your meal token on the wall at Crossings. These tokens will be used for someone in need of a meal. Enquiries: Crossings Café (Xernan or Noel 63382669)

THE HOLY TRINITY: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DAILY LIFE

Presenter: Mary Rajadurai

How the Blessed Trinity in the Bible developed in the early Church and the implications of this doctrine for everyday living.

Date/time: Wednesday, 15 March; 7.30pm to 9.00pm (begins with Vespers)

Venue: St Joseph's Church, Victoria Street, Conference room

Registration/Enquires: theology.sg@gmail.com or call Nick at 97843682

UNDERSTANDING SAME-SEX ATTRACTION (SSA)

Symposium to provide friendship, parental or pastoral guidance, and promote clearer understanding of SSA, so that more positive relationships can be built.

Date/time: Saturday, 25 March, 9am – 1pm

Venue: St Peter's Auditorium, Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102

Register at <http://catholicfamily.org.sg/ssas>

Church Office

3rd floor (from King's Road) or behind Kingsmead Hall (Victoria Park Road)

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday: 7.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday: 7.00am

Confessions

Every Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Every Sunday Mass: 20mins before Mass begins

Infant Baptism (each month)

Briefing for parents & godparents (compulsory): 1st Sunday, 3.00pm

Baptism: 2nd Sunday, 3.00pm

sharp. Registration forms available at front of Church office

Weddings

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least 6 months before the wedding.

Contact: Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Columbarium Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday:

6.30am – 8.00pm

Public Holiday: Closed

Inigo Bookstore

Open during weekend Masses.

Sick and elderly

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners regardless of which hospital they are at. You may also contact priests' residence at 6466 3225

Bereavement

Please contact the parish office Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614) for help and advice before contacting the funeral director.

Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

WEEKLY

Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

Divine Mercy Devotion

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the Main Church.

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: **4904ed**

MONTHLY – in Main Church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)

Followed by

Generation CHRIST!

Eucharistic Adoration

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)