



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

What the Eye Cannot See

“Lord that I may see!” is just yet another expression for thirsting for God, of yearning for the infinite, of answering the urgency of love ever driving me towards the knowledge of myself which is where I find my God. “May I know myself that I may know you” was the prayer of the great St Augustine. We might well make it ours.

A little thought quickly assures me how blind I am. Not physically in need of sight, but spiritually in need of vision. Seeing is understanding with the heart and how much there is about me and within me that fails to appreciate what is given me.

Perhaps there are some aspects of living that I really appreciate. Music may be. But there are numberless wonders of

nature that are lost on me. Perhaps my greatest illness is my unacknowledged blindness, my living in darkness, my inability to see in awesome appreciation. Faith, though small as the mustard seed, is the gateway to experiencing what the eye cannot see. It frees me from that blindness that surrounds me. It helps me to live in the light of that loveliness and scatters that darkness that has from time immemorial plagued mankind.

To emerge from darkness is to find God, to know conversion and to see the brightness of God’s creation. Do I define my faith in such terms and so ask “Lord that I may see”?

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

Touching Our Pain

✝ A few weeks ago at a new ministry for older parishioners, volunteers showed me a lovely quotation from Mother Teresa and asked if I could share a short reflection on it before their closing prayer. I obliged but have to confide here that her words were meaningful even on their own: “*Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus—a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you.*”

Visiting the house of a Catholic friend once, I noticed on his desk a little glass jar filled with sand, and enquired. “It’s sand from Holy Land!” he proudly showed me, exclaiming, “You never know, Jesus could have stepped on this a long time ago!” He had collected it while on pilgrimage and now keeps this precious jar on his desk – *sacred sand* that Jesus might have touched.

Similarly, I have come across stories of people going to Jerusalem to be baptised in the River Jordan. Some of us might even know a friend or two who have had this privilege. They usually return sharing an

experience of special joy, having been immersed in the same waters that received our Lord – *extra holy water* that Jesus might have touched.

Nothing wrong with these. They seem quite nice, in fact. But they raise the question: why would anyone take the trouble of bringing home sand from a foreign land, or travel across the world to be baptised in muddy, sticky river waters?

I imagine the rationale behind these devoted actions is actually the same. Perhaps our friends have even shared this reason with us: *By touching something Jesus touched, I’m somehow touching Jesus. I’m touching God Himself.* Although not necessary to Christian faith, they foster a deep sense of connection to the person of Jesus.

This got me reflecting. Those grains of sand that Jesus might have stepped on and those drops of water that might have touched his flesh were probably incidental. They were not integral to His mission. They were just there. What was integral though was what Mother Teresa described as Jesus’ kiss. The purpose of this man’s life was to go through pain in His love for us – to touch



Sunday 26 March 2017

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Monday 27 March

Liturgy of the day

Tuesday 28 March

Liturgy of the day

Wednesday 29 March

Liturgy of the day

Thursday 30 March

Liturgy of the day

Friday 31 March

Liturgy of the day

Saturday 1 April

Liturgy of the day

Sunday 2 April

Fifth Sunday of Lent

our pain Himself. We have a God who desired to touch something that *we* have touched. Jesus’ decision at Gethsemane was not a light one, but He said yes. And now God has a special connection with us, and likewise, we with Him – *divine pain* that we know He touched.

This pain was not incidental. It was intentional. It was an integral aspect in His mission of love. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus chose to be immersed in water as at the end of His ministry He chose to be immersed in pain. Towards the crucial climax of His life as He walked on the sand, He walked also in pain. In pain, God touched us, so that in our pain we can touch Him.

Perhaps like sand and water, there is something precious here. In holding our pain sacred and holy, we are touching something not merely touched by the Divine, but intentionally embraced by Him. As Mother Teresa said, “*A sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you.*”

Don Basil Kannangara, SJ

PARISH NEWS

There will be **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next week.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent
Morning session after 7.00am Mass. Evening session 20 mins before 6.00pm Mass.

LENT: PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Church of St Ignatius: Thursday, 6 April, 8.00pm
As this is a communal celebration, we invite you to remain for the closing prayer and blessing at 9.30pm

When this season of penitence (LENT) comes to a close, we participate in the Sacred Triduum that leads us to the Resurrection of the Lord (EASTER SUNDAY). On Easter Sunday, we gather before the Light of Christ, are sprinkled with the Water of Life and we renew our Baptismal Promises.

No confessions before mass on Easter Sunday (16 April).

WEST DISTRICT PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICES:

Monday, 3 April: St Mary's of the Angel church, 8.00pm
Tuesday, 4 April: Holy Cross church, 8.00pm
Wednesday, 5 April: St Francis of Assisi church, 8.00pm
Friday, 7 April: Blessed Sacrament Church, 8.00m

LENTEN FISH FRY

Gather family and friends for fellowship and fun over fish and chips. Dinner, lucky draw and ice-breaker games at Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

- * Friday, 31 March, 6.30pm – 8.00pm
- * \$15 adults/\$12 children (aged 3–9)

Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased: after this weekend's Mass and at church office.

PREPARED FOR EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency evacuation, announcements will be made through church Public Address System.

- * Parishioners should proceed to leave the church premises quickly but in an orderly manner by using the nearest Emergency Exits.
 - * Able bodied people are to help the aged and the handicapped.
 - * Use only the stairs. Do Not use the Lifts.
 - * Proceed orderly to the Emergency Assembly Areas (EEA) i.e. towards King's Road/Empress Road.
 - * Follow the instruction of the evacuation wardens.
 - * Car Owners, DO NOT remove your car from the carparks.
 - * Stay in the EAA until clearance is given to return to church
- REMEMBER YOUR SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO US.**

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Our Sec 3s will be going to the Botanic Gardens next Saturday morning for a time of prayer and fellowship. Please pray they they will continue to encounter God in new ways. Parents, please remember to submit the consent forms.

Primary 5 and 6 children will be living out their call to care for our less privileged neighbours by selling flags in support of Pertapis Home at all Masses next week. Please give generously.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

"Remain in Him, And He will remain in us."
A consistent prayer life helps us to remain in our Lord. His spring of living water will flow to nourish and give us strength and joy especially during trials. Join us for an evening of prayers and intercession. This Wednesday, March 29 at St Ignatius Hall. We start at 7.30pm with fellowship dinner and end at 9.30pm. All are welcome.

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Madeleine Chia – 84 years old
Date of death: 17 March 2017

DVC COMMUNITY



"VICTORY STORIES" is an Easter Concert where we share Easter Jubilation through Songs of Praise and Testimonies!
Date and Time: Saturday, 22 April, 8pm to 10pm
Venue: Mrs Lee Choon Guan Concert Hall, ACS (Barker Rd)
Tickets: \$18*, and are for sale online at <https://ticketbox.sg/victory-stories> or at the Parish Office during office hours.

*All proceeds will be donated to Catholic Foundation's GIFT Campaign.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday, 4 April, SH-E
Programme: Lenten reflection and rosary

ZONE C DISTRICT 1

Friday, 31 March, 02-05/06
Programme: Lenten Preparation

ZONE D DISTRICT 2

Wednesday, 29 March, La Storta
Programme: Understanding Church history – from the early Church Fathers, the Crusades to Vatican II.

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 March 21, SH-E
Programme: Video talk by Dr. Edward Sri on "The Paschal Mystery"

GREENLEAF/SIXTH AVENUE GROUP

Monday, 3 April, #01-09.
Programme: Lenten reflections.

KING'S, QUEEN'S & TAN KIM CHENG GROUP

Saturday, 1 April, 7:30pm. Home of Geralyn & Gerard Vincent
Programme: The Lenten booklet reflection

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

The primary meaning of "conscience" is the reflection we do prior to action. But an older still operative meaning tells us retrospectively whether what we did was right or wrong. This "consequent conscience" tends to be more honest, because we cannot deceive ourselves that the third piece of pecan pie was good for us, especially if we are now feeling painfully full.

In the sacrament of penance we can catch ourselves and look at the harm we have done. Confident that God already knows our sins and is inviting us to the sacrament of reconciliation, we do not have to be afraid of being caught and punished. We are freer to be honest with ourselves because of the promise that God will explicitly forgive us. Any humbling we do in this scrutiny lifts us up.

Jesus condemns the Pharisee who trusts in his own sinlessness (Lk. 18:9-14). The Pharisee honestly names the sins he does not commit and recounts the good things he does. In contrast, the tax collector bemoans his sinfulness. Yet it is the guilty tax collector who goes away justified.

Most of us "good people" are more like the Pharisee than the tax collector, we think of ourselves as generous and honest people who thank God for our successes. We need confession so that we can be more like the tax collector who laments his sinfulness and thus is right with God. Knowing that we are good at pharisaical self-deception, we need confession for a "search and be rescued" mission.

Catholics search for particular enactments of sin because we have a sacramental mind. We see deep religious issues such as sin in terms of particulars. There are at least three areas for this search.

In the first, we check ourselves out on typical sins. The sin-lists in old prayer books asked whether we had made nasty remarks, cheated, had lustful thoughts, refused to forgive, told a lie, were jealous and so forth. All of us could find ourselves somewhere on the list. The

purpose of sin-lists like the Ten Commandments is not only to forbid certain actions, but to promote the good protected by each commandment. Once on top of Pilot Mountain in North Carolina, I saw two signs. One sign was a clear prohibition, "Stay on the path or you may be injured or die". However, another sign read, "Be careful of the flowers and let others enjoy them." One says avoid harm; the other says protect and foster the good.

Even if we never did anything wrong, we would still have far to go in fulfilling the positive point of the commandments. For example, the Fifth Commandment tells us not to kill (which should include the killing we do with backstabbing, cutting remarks). This commandment also implies that we are obligated to keep people alive. Can any of us say we have done enough to help the billions who are malnourished? As the philosopher Peter Singer argues, we would feel guilty if we walked by a child drowning in a one-foot pool of water. But we daily walk on without noticing the millions of children who needlessly die each year. If we did notice, we "good people" might realize that we are seriously guilty of violating the Fifth Commandment.

Most of us "good people" have asked ourselves what we could do in the face of world poverty. Not knowing a good answer, our conscience is eased, since we reckon that if we do not know, then we are not guilty. We quietly absolve ourselves from pressing ourselves to find out what can and should be done. We stay away from the piercing demands made by St. John: "We ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" (1 Jn. 3:16-17).

The second area for honestly facing ourselves is to reflect on the ways we are growing, stunting our own growth or even killing ourselves. When my Jesuit community had an influx of mice, I bought mouse poison. I put the remaining poison in a box inside a plastic sack. About a year later I discovered that another mouse had eaten through the wrapping. The mouse thought it was getting away with something, but in fact it was killing itself. That is a good metaphor

for sin. We think we are just doing what

we want or getting what we deserve, but in fact we are rotting away our souls.

Many of us "good people" cleverly practice self-deception by renaming our vices as virtues. When others spend too much on themselves, that is selfish ostentation. But when we do the same, that is self-love. We focus on the good we do, while hiding our motives. We give generously to others, for example, because we want to be thought of as generous. Another trick is to let good, noble thoughts substitute for concrete action. We "good people" think ourselves good because of the virtues we praise, not the virtues we practice; or because of the vices we condemn, not the vices we exert to overcome.

Uncovering self-deception is difficult, but all the more important when it comes to understanding the kind of person we have become. Our blindness allows us to "see" selectively. An entrepreneur sees another's dire need as a business opportunity, whereas a saint sees this need as an opportunity for giving. We need the sacrament of honesty to expose such blind spots. We cannot just mail a list of misdeeds to our confessor, asking for absolution by return mail. Rather, we speak to a human being whose role is to be interested in us as persons. This encounter encourages us to focus on who we are becoming and to deal with the ways we are sliding by.

The third area for facing ourselves is to look at our relationships. Our moral lives begin and end in relationships. In our roles as friends or citizens, as colleagues or family members, we are never more than relatively adequate. We "good people" neglect the basic relationship of our lives -- our relation to God. We need confession to make clear to ourselves that we forget God. If we find ourselves feeling no need to receive this sacrament, we can be sure that this apathy is due to our lack of a vibrant, compelling love for God. If a spirited relationship of love for God were burning in our hearts, we would never be content to "just forget the past and do better next time", we might be inclined to go to confession two to three times a week.

Psychologists have rightly taught us how important it is to think positive thoughts about ourselves and our deeds. But if that is all we do, we live in denial. Confession is a gift from God to admit that we are also sinners. The prior knowledge that God will forgive us frees us to be honest. The subsequent experience of God's forgiveness frees us to live honestly.

DO GOOD PEOPLE NEED CONFESSION?

JESUIT NEWS

DEEPENING AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS

In the workshop 'Introduction to Authentic Conversations', we become more conscious of an experience of the presence of God through real conversation. In this deepening installation (retreat), we dive into the mystery of Presence as a ministry of Presence.

Dates/ Times: Saturday, 29 Apr (9.00am) to Monday, 1 May (4.00pm) 2017

Fee: \$260 (non-AC), \$300 (AC); inclusive of 3 SD sessions

Facilitators: Lance Ng and Celina Lin

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/deepeningacr>

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

CHARITIES WEEK 2017

The season of Lent is 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 such as the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, and persons living with HIV / AIDS. Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. Your donation will enjoy a tax deduction of 250 percent

Enquiries: 6337 6197, 9271 3335) or email pamela@caritas-singapore.org.

2017 CHINA VISIT IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE CICM MISSIONARIES

From May 31 to June 14. All-inclusive cost \$2,900. Limited group size.

A unique opportunity for meeting fellow Catholics in NE China.

More information: call Fr Paul Staes, cism (9787 7758) or email him at spe@catholic.org.sg

PIETA

"For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name" Matthew 18:20

Gather to pray, break open the WORD of GOD, reflect and support one another. Scripture, prayers and spiritual exercises bring us wisdom, consolation and restore us to fullness of life. Every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm to 9.00pm, at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

We welcome any parent who has lost a child (including unborn babies).

"Rest in God alone, my soul! He is the source of my hope." Psalm 62:5

Contact us: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or <https://m.facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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)