



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Where Are We Going?

People do not know the answer to this question. Where does God lead us? Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Do we really believe in this?

God comes in the most acceptable way, in the new life of a child. In the child, life begins again with all its primeval freshness. The mystery of a child, by his life and innocence. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, as theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Advent is a time of Joy – a joyful message that God is coming and the time is nearer. It is simply to act normally to the joy of a new birth, and that from heaven. To be born again is only a beginning, an infancy.

We are children of God when we are

born of water and Holy Spirit, but we have yet to become the sons and daughters of God. To become Christian means to go to Christ on the strength of his word alone. God is present in his word, and we wait in joy for the word to become flesh. It is through faith in him that our new birth is to take place.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

The Comfort of Hope

+ What comfort is there in waiting? Comfort is usually not found waiting for a doctor's appointment. Here you simply hope, as frustration builds, that you can get out quickly and get on with your life.

This everyday hope has to do with desires that come and go, and quickly pass. These hopes can also be things in which we invest our lives and dream dreams about accomplishments and fulfilment, but often have to do with "hoping for" something.

There is a waiting that brings deeper comfort because it is based upon a fundamental hope, a "hoping in" something. Fundamental hope is focused on the welfare of people and our hope of salvation. "Out of the loss of common, everyday hope true hope arises," wrote Josef Pieper in *Hope and History*. This is the hope of the martyrs, which persists when all human hopes have been vanquished.

This fundamental hope, grounded in the living God of Israel, led Isaiah to call out, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." This is the promise of God himself: "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep." This

Parish Priest	Fr Leslie Raj, SJ
Assistant Parish Priests	Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ
Parish Administrator	Angela Kurnadi
Parish Accountant	Joyce Setiawan
Catechetical Director	Jeremy Aloysius
Youth Coordinator	Gerard Robert Cheryl Lek
Sacristan	Robert Ong
Operations Manager	David Saw
Facilities Manager	Steven Leong
Communications Manager	Therese Gian

promise grounds the fundamental hope of a people who must wait in faithfulness. This is hope in the comfort of God.

Mark's Gospel recalls Isaiah, seeing the fulfillment of this hope in "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the words of Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

The hope of the early Christians was that Jesus would establish the kingdom of peace. When the kingdom was established through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the disciples did not abandon Jesus or his promises, but relied upon fundamental hope: the truthfulness and faithfulness of God to do what God had promised in a time not our own.

In 2 Peter we read "that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home."

This hope is the fundamental reality that Jesus will return, and in the returning, our deepest needs are met. Our waiting is the comfort of the living God, who comes to us when ordinary hopes disappear, and who is coming to us even now. The joy of this hope gives comfort in the waiting.

Dr. John W. Martens

Associate Professor of Theology,
University of St. Thomas



Sunday 10 December 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Monday 11 December

Liturgy of the day

Tuesday 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bl Thomas Holland SJ

Wednesday 13 December

St Lucy

Thursday 14 December

St John of the Cross

Friday 15 December

Liturgy of the day

Saturday 16 December

Liturgy of the day

Sunday 17 December

Third Sunday of Advent

AMERICA

PARISH NEWS

Next weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation. Contributions help others encounter the love of Christ through the work of numerous archdiocesan organisations and building projects. Info on gift.catholicfoundation.sg

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Church of St Ignatius: Monday, 18 December, 8.00pm
As this is a communal celebration, we invite all to remain for the closing prayer and blessing at 9.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN PAGEANT & CAROLLING

Sunday 24 December, 5.30pm
Children (ages 6 -10 yrs old), interested to join the Christmas Eve Pageant at 5:30pm (before the 6pm Mass), will meet for practices in the Sacred Heart Canteen on Dec 10th and 17th at 2.00 pm - 3:30. Parents' help is needed to monitor their children at the rehearsals and at the play. Bring along any Nativity costumes if you have.

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday, 14 January at 3.00 pm.



Advent and Christmas 2017 THE ANTICIPATING COMMUNITY

Simbang Gabi

Sunday 17 December, 8.00pm

Penitential Service

Monday 18 December, 8.00pm

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant followed by Mass

Sunday 24 December, 5.30pm

Reflection followed by Christmas Mass

Sunday 24 December, 11.00pm

Christmas Day Masses

Monday 25 December, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

Special Christmas Mass and Party for the aged, sick and housebound (PaCES Ministry)

Thursday, 28 December, 2.30pm

An Evening of Carols, Food and Fellowship

Saturday 30 December, 7.30pm, St Ignatius Hall

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday 30 December, 6.00pm

Sunday 31 December, 6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Monday 1 January, 8.15am, 10.15am and 6.00pm

Unless otherwise stated all events at main church.

Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday, 7 January, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Gordon (9615 3447) & Alison Pinto (9691 3447) or Lea (9173 8717) & Wahjudi Gunawan.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF FR LESLIE RAJ SJ

Our Parish celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Leslie Raj on Saturday 13 January, 6pm. Concelebrated Mass presided by Archbishop William Goh, followed by a Reception at our Halls. All are welcome.

2018 LEADING LITTLE ONES TO GOD REGISTRATION

LLOTG K2 (children born in 2012) online registration is now open until 10 December. Registration: <https://goo.gl/FbN3vN> (case-sensitive).

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN will take a break from Sunday 24 December and will resume on Sunday 25 February 2018.

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

New Registrations for 2018 are now CLOSED. Please contact us at: stignatius.wecat@gmail.com if you have missed the registration or if you have any queries

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are welcome to the final CRC gathering for 2017 at the SACCRE Rally and talk on: Stirring Up Spiritual Gifts by Jim Murphy. At Holy Cross, 7.30pm-10pm. Let us be thankful for the gifts we have been endowed with, and find out how we can use it for God's greater glory, for His kingdom here on earth. We will be back on January 9.

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Maria Ng Im Tik – 82 years old
Date of death: 5 December 2017

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

All NCC members, family and parishioners are invited to the NCC Thanksgiving Mass. Saturday, 9 December, 9.30am at St Ignatius Hall, followed by Fellowship brunch.

ZONE A DISTRICT 3

in lieu of December Meeting, members are encouraged to attend the NCC Thanksgiving Mass.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 21 December, #01-04

Programme : 1) Gospel Sharing - Daily Word of God
2) History of Christianity

GREENLEAF/SIXTH AVE GROUP

Our December program is attendance at the NCC Thanksgiving Mass.

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.
Mother Teresa

Finding God In Silence

Christmas is fast approaching, and the world once again buzzes into frenzy. The lengthy list of Christmas presents for family and friends, the invitations to Christmas and New Year celebrations, the long-awaited holiday with the families, preoccupy our time and demand our attention. In the midst of distraction of the senses and disquiet of the mind, we often forget to prepare our heart in silence to remember the Lord's incarnation and to await expectantly for His second coming.

A noisy world, deprived of silence, breeds restless souls. The ceaseless assault on the senses and mind has removed tranquility from humanity. Men and women are no longer accustomed to silence – noise is welcomed, and numerous activities and idle conversations are created to fill the void. Cardinal Sarah sums this up eloquently in *The Power of Silence*: “Without silence, God disappears in the noise. And this noise becomes all the more obsessive because God is absent. Unless the world rediscovers silence, it is lost.”

God is gently knocking at our door, patiently inviting us to encounter

and to remain in Him. It is almost impossible for us to listen to Him, unless we are quiet. After all, the word LISTEN and SILENT are spelled with the same letters.

Being silent sounds simple, but it is not easy. Fortunately, the Church history is filled with saints who have deep personal relationship with God, and to these contemplatives we turn our attention to rediscover the treasures within our heritage. They live a life of God-centeredness and with the stillness of the heart, which prepares them for the encounter with the Divine. They have left their gems to guide us, so that we can discover and walk along the path ourselves:

➤ Following Jesus's footsteps, the desert fathers and mothers withdrew into the desert, and the monks retreated into the monasteries, spending their lives in silence and solitude. We may not be called to lead a contemplative life, and yet, if circumstances allow, it is good to make time for an annual silent retreat. Just as we have a vacation with our family or friends, we set aside time vacationing with God – to disconnect from the world and

reconnect with the Divine.

➤ Many saints, including Mother Teresa, spent daily quiet time at the Eucharist, before the Tabernacle or the Blessed Sacrament, or at the foot of the Cross, by simply remaining in His loving presence, where Heart speaks to heart.

➤ Church tradition has encouraged us to pray *Lectio Divina* by meditating and contemplating on the Scripture, and allowing the word of God to seep into our being.

➤ St. Paul asks us to pray unceasingly, and breathing is the one thing we do unceasingly from our birth to our passing. We still our wandering mind with every conscious breath we take. And when breath becomes our prayer – be it through Jesus Prayer or simply being aware of God's presence – we continuously dwell in Him.

Let this Advent season be our response to God's invitation to rest in Him. Let us rediscover Silence. For it is in stillness that God speaks to us – in the silence of our body and our mind, in the depth of our heart, and with the eyes and ears of our soul.

ROSINA SIMON



Resting in God @ St. Ignatius Parish
Two Adoration Rooms ❁ Retreats at Kingsmead Centre

JESUIT NEWS

CRAFT OF RELATIONSHIP: CONNECTING IN LOVE

Learn about the 5 Love Languages (Gary Chapman), the Stages of Love (Pat Love), and Emotional Connection/ Disconnections (Sue Johnson).

Date & Time: Thursday, 14 December 2017, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Facilitators: Francis See & Aileen Yap

Contribution: \$30

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

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, Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ

Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2018

By Rev Fr David Garcia, OP.

Inviting all Catholics and people of goodwill interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. A year-long systematic course in Moral Theology consisting of 6 individual modules, organized by Caritas Singapore. Every Thursday, from 4 January, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. Information and registration at www.caritas-singapore.org or email formation@caritas-singapore.org

CATHOLIC LAWYERS GUILD (CLG)

Pro Bono Mediation – You can resolve disputes without going to Court. An accredited Mediator can assist disputants to enter into a legally enforceable Settlement Agreement, which provides a win-win situation for both sides. The service is free, for eligible applicants. Please email the CLG at admin@clgsingapore.com, or call the Pro

Bono hotline at 6516 4279 or our CLG administrator at 6801 7494.

PIETA

Pieta is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month), 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8.

OLPS MASS & POTLUCK BY ST RAPHAEL SINGLES

Venue: OLPS Canteen (Siglap)

Date & Time: Sunday 17 December, 10am

Purpose: Fellowship, friendship, potluck & Mass

Cost: Bring some food to share

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stRalp/>

Email: StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com to confirm your participation

Church Office

120, King's Road, Singapore
268172 or 8, Victoria Park Road,
Singapore 266492

Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road
Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence),
St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall,
Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian
Spirituality & Counselling)

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 are
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

Daily: 6.30am – 8.00pm

Public Holiday: Closed

Inigo Bookstore

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:

4.00pm to 6.20pm and 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.

**Church of St Ignatius has no
official social media accounts.**

WEEKLY

Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and
Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm,
except first and last Fridays of the month

Intercessory Prayers

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

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: 4904ed

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.

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier

Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

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)