

Epiphany: A God who loves Hide and Seek

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e are familiar with children playing a game of "hide and seek". In a sense, it captures something of the history of God's self-revelation to humanity. It was a God who was "hiding" and we were left frantically "seeking" the divine presence of God in our lives and in our world. For many of us, we sense that God is still hiding. Yet, today we are celebrating the Epiphany — the

revelation or manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God who is always seeking us out instead. Maybe we are the ones who are still hiding!

Why am I hiding from God or even running away from God? Or putting it more personally, how is it that I don't feel the presence of Jesus in my life? Sometimes we feel that

God seems absent and silent — that God is still hidden from our sight. Indeed, these moments when dark clouds gather suddenly when we are gripped by fear, by foreboding of an impending storm coming from the horizon, can be moments of grace. These moments when we lose someone close to us — the death of a father, a mother, a brother, a sister, a husband, a wife or a child, or a close friend - can turn our lives upside down. Indeed, these moments of pain, grief, loss, separation and anguish are reminders of our mortality, and the incomprehensibility of suffering and being human.

For others, God seems hidden because of disappointments, rejections, failures in life. When things don't work out the way I want it to be — when I feel unfairly treated; when I feel angry because of a loss of respect, love and dignity. In such times, I hide from God and others because of shame, anger and pain.

Yet, these situations are also for us profound experiences of the divine

presence of God coming very near to us to comfort, console and embrace us when words fail us. We feel drawn to reflect on the meaning of suffering in our lives. We are reminded that we are prone to errors and misjudgments. We know that we have to take time out to pray and remember and reflect on the birth of Jesus who took on himself

all of human condition and nature. He chose to identify himself with us and give us hope because he himself has been the wounded healer. He was the victim and the sacrifice- the touchstone of salvation, the friend who laid down his life for my sake. His love gives me strength to forgive, to be merciful and to seek and find God and life again.

So as I begin my first week of taking office as the Parish Priest of St Ignatius, I am aware of the hidden graces of God to encourage and empower me. I am so grateful to so many of you who have conveyed your prayers, support and friendship to me. I know that Jesus



Sunday 7 January 2018

The Epiphany of The Lord 1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians3:2-3,5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Monday 8 JanuaryFeast of the Baptism of Our Lord

Tuesday 9 January Liturgy of the day

Wednesday 10 January Liturgy of the day

Thursday 11 January
Liturgy of the day

Friday 12 January Liturgy of the day

Saturday 13 January Liturgy of the day

Sunday 14 January Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

will continue to unveil each day and to reveal his will, grace and plan at work in my life, and in all of you who are part of this family of God in this parish.

Finally, I hope that we too may become more aware of the call to be more "loving, inclusive, discerning and apostolic" (LIDA) in our lives, our family, and our ministries. A question to reflect, share and discuss is: "How can each of us do more of LIDA and put it into practice?" In doing so, may you find God who is often more present than absent in your life. Perhaps, I am the one who is still hiding and waiting for God to find me! Don't hide too long — it can be lonely in the dark. Come out and walk in the light of God's revelation of love and life. And rejoice that God has found you no matter who you are, what you have and do and where you are. Make yourself at home in St Ignatius parish and with Jesus who is at home with you!

Fr Colin Tan, SJ

PARISH NEWS

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.

There will be fewer parking spaces on the Saturday 13 January for the 6pm Mass as Tents for the reception will be erected at the Kingsmead carpark. If you are only attending Mass and not the reception, please seek the help of traffic assistants when parking so that your car will not be blocked after Mass.

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE (YAB) STUDY GROUP

Find out how the early Christians lived as a church with other young adults following Jeff Cavin' study on Acts of the Apostles. From Sunday, 21 January, 10.30am to 12noon at Room 02-02. Contact Edris (9722 4023) or Sarah (8123 9629).

SAT ROCKERS

Embark on a journey through the entire Bible with the ever-popular 24-part Bible Timeline of God's love for His People as key people, places and events of the Bible unfold and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of salvation. Starting 20 January, 1.30 pm at #02-02. Contact: Magdalene at 9152 8227 or svdp88@gmail.com Pre-registration is required.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

DVD Previews:

January 10 – David the King

January 17 – Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

January 24 – Wisdom: God's Vision for Life

Wednesdays, 9.45am to 12noon at Room 02-02. Whatsapp

Viv @9785 2268 or Jo @8183 2273

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

All parents have been informed regarding the new registrations for 2018. Please also note the Parents' Meeting is at 8.00pm on the following dates at St Ignatius Hall:

★ P1 – Friday, 19 Jan

★ S1 – Thursday, 18 Jan

★ P2/P3 – Monday, 15 Jan

★ S3 – Friday, 26 Jan

★ P6 – Monday, 22 Jan

Catechetical sessions will resume on Saturday, 3/ Sunday, 4 February.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Let us have a new start on a clean slate in our relationship with our Lord, and allow His Spirit to dwell in us and minister to our innermost being. All are welcome to a night of Praise & Worship this Wednesday, January 10, at St Ignatius Hall. Start at 7.30pm with fellowship dinner and end by 9.30pm.

SYMPOSIUM ON "LIVING THE JOY OF LOVE IN OUR FAMILIES"

The newly formed Family Life Ministry is organising a symposium to help us learn how to live the joy of love within our families. Saturday, 20 January, 9am to 1pm at the St Ignatius Hall.

Moderated by Fr Charles Sim SJ PhD, a panel of mixed faith, single parents and Catholic couples will discuss "Family: Becoming God's Greatest Masterpiece".



Fr. Adrian Danker SJ PhD moderates a panel of educationists, parents and young adults to discuss "Finding God In Singapore's Education System".

FORMED.ORG

Parishioners of St Ignatius can now access this online platform, which provides information on the truth, teaching and meaning of the Catholic faith. Explore links to renowned speakers, online movies and audio resources. Go to 1) www.FORMED.org 2) Enter our parish code 4904ed on the homepage

RIP NEWS - RISEN IN THE LORD

Charlene Chew - 48 years old Date of death: 4 January 2018

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 10 January, SH-2-E

Programme: "Who am I to Judge? - Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love" by Edward Sri, Session 4 – The "Lost Art of Living"

ZONE A DISTRICT 3

Wednesday 17 January, #02-06

Programme: 1) The Bible and the Virgin Mary – Lesson 3 The Wedding at Cana/The Garden in Eden

ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday 9 January

Programme: DVD screening – The Bible Timeline

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 18 January, #01-04

Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing - Daily Word of God

2) History of Christianity

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Joyce Setiawan Parish Accountant ★ Jeremy Aloysius Catechetical Director ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager



A Family Circle

The Advent Wreath Making event

gathered the parish family in a special

way during the period of Advent prayer

and pondering. Organized by the

Welcoming Ministry of St Ignatius on

the first weekend of Advent, all came

together to celebrate the beginning of

a new Liturgical year with fun, feasting

Cheers and laughter as presents were

piled high, candy canes counted and

guessed, Bethlehem on a map hunted

and fellowship.

Fun

WELCOMING MINISTRY OF ST IGNATIUS

"My kids and I thoroughly enjoyed the Advent Wreath Making as a family and it has become a family tradition we all look forward too. It also helps us bond with the greater family of parishioners. The significance of the 4 candles as we light them up each week while counting down to Christmas is very meaningful. We love the smell of fresh pine in the home, too!" Gerald Koh

"I love that the Advent Wreath activity brings family and friends together. The wreath is the focal point for the family's creativity and becomes the proud centrepiece when brought home. As we remind our children of its

significance, it also renews our faith as we reflect on our Lord." Kim & Vivian

for blindfolded, Christmas Scrabble played, and icing Christmas Tree and Star shaped cookies. Hymns and music from the 8.15am family choir wafted

Feasting

The tea potluck produced freshly baked cakes and cookies, spiced with the aroma of butter and sugary icing.

through the Sacred Heart Hall.

Fellowship

Blessings abounded as Fr Matthew Tan prayed over us to start off our work amidst the fresh scent of fir. At the closing, Fr Jerome Leon enfolded us in the love of God with His Word. Blessing each individual wreath lovingly, we truly felt ready to commit to the presence of God in the waiting.

We were ready to celebrate our oneness, together in our emptiness as we waited for the Son of God be born in us again, to reach out to others, to share and care, forgive and relive, knowing that Christ was coming to be with us.



The Parish community of St Ignatius prepares the way of the Lord by sharing the joy of having Jesus among us.



of The King









Celebrating with Friends

TEXT: HAN YEN TEN PHOTOS: PETER KAY

Every year, members of Society of St Vincent De Paul (SSVP) host a year-end party for their Friends In Need (FINs) On 3 December, members and about 130 FINs, gathered for an evening of feasting, fun and bonding to spread holiday cheer.

Partygoers dressing up as reindeer using only balloons and other balloon games led to much laughter. Many also stepped up to sing their favourite karaoke songs. Dinner ended with the crowd favourite Bingo, where everyone went home a winner. A truly memorable event for both members and beneficiaries.

This party for FINs is just one of the many projects that the SSVP conference in Church of St Ignatius undertakes. Other initiatives include the Milk and Diapers Project for babies of low-income families, and the Kids' Project, which conducts activities for a children's home. To find out more, please email us at ssvp.stignatius@gmail.com.









A Christmas Workshop

TEXT: ANNABELLE LEONG

In the middle of 2017, members of St Ignatius D'Fellowship Program were seen in Sacred Heart Hall busily working together on creative craft. Fr Matthew was also spotted among them. This would soon turn out to be an unexpected adventure.

It was soon revealed that they were producing Christmas decorations to raise funds for the Social Mission Fund. Their regular craft activities had revealed that they had so much talent it would only be natural to start a Workshop. What better name than to call it a Santa's Workshop!

This inspiration sparked by the volunteers needed a lot of planning and hard work. They gamely pushed the idea to make it a reality. So while members and volunteers continued to meet regularly to engage in fellowship, praying, singing, exercising and





The sale took place on the first Sunday of Advent at the Place of Gathering. It was a resounding success judging by the response from parishioners who were enchanted by the colorful handmade Christmas items. By noon, all items were sold with a total of \$2,100 collected for the Social Mission Fund, thanks to the generous support of all.







Milk and Diapers

TEXT: MAGDALENE TEO-TAN

Since the SSVP Milk and Diaper programme started three years ago, we have grown and the programme is currently supporting 110 babies and toddlers. Volunteers deliver the milk and diapers once a month directly to the family of the children and bond with them by playing and befriending their families.

On 9 and 10 December, on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, SSVP Milk and Diaper team held its second Advent outreach at the Place of Gathering. The purpose was threefold: to inform and update parishioners on the programme, to give parishioners an opportunity to

participate and donate to the fund to purchase milk and diapers for children (below the age of 3) from low-income families in Singapore.

About 29 parishioners also signed up as volunteers to deliver milk and diapers. A briefing and training for new volunteers is being planned at the end of January.

Over the weekend, the outreach raised \$5,707. SSVP would like to thank parishioners who have donated to the Milk and Diaper fund. Interested parishioners who wish to know more, please contact Anthony Cheong at ssvpmilkanddiapers@gmail.com







Gathering of Friends

TEXT: NCC ZONE A DISTRICT 2 TEAM

There was feasting, games, and joy and laughter at the NCC A2's Advent Party a week before Christmas, where members and their families gathered at a member's home to celebrate the coming of the Child Jesus.

Members showed off their cooking and baking skills - sharing sumptuous dishes and desserts while bonding and catching up with each other. Most remarkable of all, we also welcomed new members.

Games of Pictionary and Charades based on carols and Bible passages drew great laughter. It was hilarious watching Elvis Presley and Rap renditions of Christmas Carols.

NCC A2 has some two dozen active members who attend the monthly gatherings and share their faith experiences in a chat group. Over the past three years programmes

have included study of the Bible - the Great Bible Adventure, the Psalms, and currently the Book of James. Lenten observances such as Stations of the Cross and Marian devotions are organised by different teams of members.

It has become an A2 custom that when members travel on pilgrimages or visit a foreign church, they pray for all in A2 and when possible, a candle is lit at Our Lady's Altar. When needs arise, Intercessory prayers are offered collectively for members and friends.





Celebration for All

TEXT: GWINNIE LEE PHOTOS: PETER KAY

It was a joyful day for elderly and homebound parishioners, and their caregivers and families as they were brought into the parish family to celebrate a special Christmas Mass and Party, organised by PaCES on Thursday 28 December.

Mass celebrated by Fr Matthew, solemnly brought home the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of Jesus. We grew to understand that Jesus is the real Christmas gift from a loving God and the reason we should give our time and love to others.

After Mass, guests enjoyed a buffet spread including home baked cakes and desserts prepared by volunteers. Carol singing in front of the beautiful Nativity scene, led by guitarist Timothy, his family and friends brought laughter, joy and a happy atmosphere. In the spirit of giving and sharing, a young Santa Claus made his appearance giving out presents to the elderly.

Many of the elderly parishioners were delighted to see familiar faces and friends, with Fr Colin joining the celebration.

Special thanks must be made to the choir, altar boys, volunteers and all who have helped in one way or another.





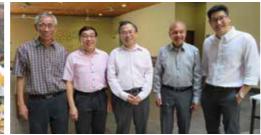




































True Meaning of Christmas

TEXT: CHANTAL WONG AND DOROTHY KAY PHOTOS: PETER KAY

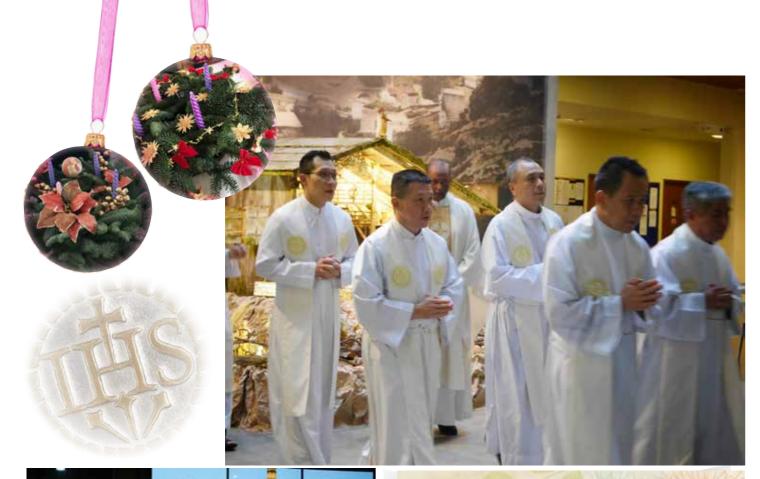
In the tradition of St Ignatius, the children of the parish were invited to participate in the annual Christmas Eve Pageant. With many families travelling for the holidays, we were happy to have children from the International schools' catechism program, CCD, together with some from our local schools, come together after two short rehearsals to create a Nativity play to recall the true meaning of Christmas.

The young cast was supported by the 8.15am Family Choir, CCD volunteers, parents, singing Mary's Boy Child, Away in the Manger, The First Noel, Angels We Have Heard on High and Joy to the World. Kids at the Christmas Eve Family Mass were invited to come forward and sit around the altar. Together with the congregation, they participated in the carolling, shouting aloud each time flash cards were held up – 'NO ROOM!, GOD with US! and HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!'

To the tune of Little Drummer Boy, the children processed out as Fr Matthew Tan blessed the Christmas Crib and Baby Jesus was placed in the manger. What a beautiful way of celebrating the real meaning of Christmas – the Birthday of Jesus.













A New Path

On the seventh day, 31 December, within the Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord, the Church honoured the Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This Sunday Eucharistic celebration also marked a priestly milestone for Fr Leslie Raj SJ as he celebrated the 6pm Mass. It would be his last as Parish Priest of the Catholic Church of St Ignatius. On behalf all parishioners, the Hospitality Ministry expresses our gratitude to Fr Leslie.

We remember all that you have done and achieved since you were first made Parish priest, including the building of this church. The Hospitality ministry that you started when we moved from the old church to the new, just one of the many initiatives you put in place, you gave us the name of Greeters and a more gracious existence. But you did much more than this and we know it. Despite your illness and your broken ankle, you helmed the Parish a second time and showed us what we can do against all odds. Your compassion for the elderly and the sick is something we can all learn from. You did not just preach about Christ the suffering servant, you were the suffering servant. You walked the walk.

With hearts filled with gratitude, we the Parishioners of St Ignatius thank God for the gift of you. Pray for us, Fr Les, as we continue to hold you in our prayers.

From your friends and your Parish Family, this is our prayer for you

Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, And rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Good Mates

The year 2017 marked a new chapter for me in many ways. Not only did I begin my first year in secondary school, but I spent the year away from Singapore as a boarder at Marist College Brisbane. It is renowned for its outreach programmes, a popular one being the MATES programme. The acronym MATES, stands for "Marists Are Taking Everyone Seriously". Through its various outreach activities, MATES provides an avenue to build solidarity with people on the

Due to its popularity, I only received a chance to go on a MATES visit in term 4, despite having signed up multiple times as early as term 2. Ouring a MATES visit, a group of around margins of society. four boys, together with a Religious Education teacher, will journey to the selected destination

I was eagerly awaiting and excited to go on my first visit after hearing of the many experiences of my friends who had participated in MATES. Our location was Paddington and spend roughly an hour there. Respite Centre, which is a day-care centre for the elderly, where they spend their day participating in various activities. Before we began our journey to Paddington, our teacher stressed that the reason we were embarking on the visit was not because we felt sorry for the elderly, but rather, to try and get to know and bring joy to them by befriending them - that is, by becoming their "mate". We got to interact with the elderly by playing games together. One game, in particular, Celebrity Heads, involved active group participation from all the elderly at the day centre. The laughter and the fun created a vibrant atmosphere, making the place feel very warm and friendly. Before we knew it, the hour had flown by.

I thoroughly enjoyed the MATES activity, and cannot wait to do a different activity next year. However, I felt that it was a pity that one can only participate in MATES once a year. Hence, my teacher told me that since I had enjoyed MATES tremendously, I should sign up for the St. Vincent de Paul group, which have frequent activities to raise money to support the Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane, and Marist Solidarity, which aims to provide education for the less fortunate children in places like Cambodia, Samoa and East Timor. Fundraising activities include weekly Thursday morning barbeques, selling homemade treats, raffle tickets, etc., at rugby games, and helping out with the Centen and Christmas donation drives.

The MATES visit coincided with the beginning of advent. The anticipation I felt before going on the visit and the joy I received from making friends with the elderly brought to life for me the waiting and preparation which marks this season of the Church calendar, leading up to the birth of Christ. There were also preparations for exams looming around the corner, and the sense of longing to return home for Christmas to spend time with my family during the holidays. This year, celebrating Christmas has an added meaning for me, as I wait to see Jesus, who came to earth as a child, to live his life in solidarity with us, by being our friend, our "mate".

JESUIT NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO AUTHENTIC CONVERSATIONS

This retreat day explores the art of listening, which is at the heart of an authentic conversation. Are we aware of what we really listen to? How does that shape quite unconsciously how we communicate, and fundamentally how we live our lives – by reacting, or acting?

Date: Saturday, 10 February Time: 9.30am – 5.30pm

Facilitator: Lance Ng Contribution: \$60

Register: http://tinyurl.com/itac2018

BECOME A JESUIT

If you are considering a vocation as a Jesuit priest or brother, go to www.mas-jesuits.org and www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore for information. You can also contact Fr Jerome Leon, SJ or Fr Adrian Danker, SJ at mas-vocations@jesuits.net

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 Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ, Fr Leslie Raj, 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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018

Gather with Christian friends for prayer, reflections, songs and fellowship to promote unity. 8 to 9pm.

18 January – Covenant Community Methodist Church (11 Blackmore Drive, S599986)

19 January – Mar Thoma Syrian Church (29 Jalan Keli, S577933)

23 January – St Andrew's Cathedral (Nave, 11 St Andrew's Rd S178959)

24 January – The Salvation Army Balestier Corps (126 Balestier Rd, S329681)

25 January – Church of the Transfiguration (51 Punggol Central S828725)

Organised by Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) and Host Churches

CARITAS SINGAPORE YOUNG ADULTS - FAITH ON FILM

An evening of film, food and fellowship. Freedom Writers is a film where a young teacher inspires at-risk students and makes a transformation in their lives. Reflections and sharings will be led by the team from the Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling.

27 January (Saturday), 5pm to 9pm, at Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh

ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE SINGAPORE

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE Date: 16 & 23 January (Tuesdays)

TIME: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

COST: \$20

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

Sunday Masses

Spirituality & Counselling)

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)