



Not the Head, But the Heart

You have been warned: clear out of church and carpark immediately after the noon mass this Sunday, to make way for a 900-strong crowd who will be descending upon our hallowed ground on King's Road! Congestions, of humans and cars, are anticipated for the Rite of Election (RoE), which begets the question: "What is the RoE?"

In the liturgical celebration of the RoE, the Church publicly and formally declares that catechumens, or the unbaptized aspiring to be Catholics, as people who have been called and chosen to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, namely Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, at the Easter Vigil. After the RoE, they will no longer be called catechumens but elects, reflecting the fact that they are God's chosen, and one step closer to the "door of the Church." It also marks the beginning of the period of "Enlightenment and Purification," coinciding with Lent, in which the elects are expected to deepen their faith and resolution to become Catholics. In the same celebration, the Christians from other traditions who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church, are given due recognition and publicly called to continuing conversion as they journey steadily towards Easter.

The RoE also serves as a milestone in the greater process of initiation for those seeking life in the Catholic Church – the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). The rite may be adaptable for youths (RCIY) and even older children (RCIC). Gone are the days when the usual route to baptism was simply receiving a few short weeks of individual catechetical instructions. Other than for infants, young children, and in cases of emergency, the Church now normatively requires one desiring to be Catholic to undergo an extended period of formation and gradu-

al initiation, and usually in the company of others who share the same aspiration.

The RCIA is by no means an entirely "new invention". Rather, it has "restored, revived, adapted and renewed" many elements and practices from the initiation process in the early Church. It is the fruit of the spirit of resourcement and aggiornamento – the Second Vatican Council's call to revisit the Church's rich history in order to appropriate things that are helpful for the Church's mission

REFLECTION

For the Glory of God

+ What experience of God have you had in your lifetime that has helped you "see the light"?

Transfigured body of Christ means that he is more than what he appears to be and he is real. You accept the transfigured body as something special, a unique friend and neighbour. He is something far out of the ordinary.

We must see God in reality and in our everyday experience. Suffering is only part of reality. Human distraction is one that hinders peace. Pray, read the Bible and sing hymns – a total dedication to God. Accepting God's glory in your body, discovering for yourself, believing that the future will be a happy one, and that things are going to turn out well.

Our Lenten journey reminds us that Jesus Christ is at once visible as the Son of God the Father – a kind of God who makes such things possible.

Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God.

today. According to the third century document, The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus of Rome, those seeking baptism then had to be examined by the Church, gain their sponsors' endorsement of their worthiness, and "hear the Word" for a three-year period, before they can receive baptism. These elements are also found in modern RCIA programs.

While catechesis remains an important part of the RCIA, it should rightly be considered a process through which one gradually immerses into the mysteries of the Christian faith. Thus, the RCIA does not aim to "teach the faith" so to speak, but facilitates faith experiences and the deepening of these experiences through reflection and prayer, with the hope of helping inquirers, catechumens and candidates to discern their call and strengthen their commitment. It is not a educational program that merely transmits "head knowledge", but a "journey of the heart", in which the person involved gazes deeper into himself and his life experiences to encounter the heart of Christian faith – the person of Jesus. When Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am," (Mt. 16:15) he was not seeking an answer based on logical deductions or scientific investigation, but knowledge that is founded on faith.

As we petition the Lord to continue to bless our catechumens and candidates as they journey towards Easter Vigil, we also pray for ourselves asking the Lord for similar graces: that our Lenten observances are not merely done out of routine or to gain "head knowledge", but help us, as members of the Church, to be more united with Jesus.

(For more information about the RCIA program, please contact the parish office.)

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

Fr Jerome Leon, SJ

Lent/Easter 2018 THE RECONCILING COMMUNITY

Ash Wednesday 14 February
Masses at 7.00am, 6.00pm
and 8.00pm

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent from
23 February to 23 March. After
7.00am Mass and 30 minutes
before 6.00pm Mass and the
first Friday 8.00pm Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration
for Children**
Friday, 16 March, 7.45pm

Fish Fry Friday
23 March, 6.15pm
Sacred Heart Hall canteen

Lenten Talks 7.45pm – 9.30pm
Thursday, 8 March
Speaker: Fr Colin Tan SJ
Topic: **The Wounded Self:** How
God Heals and Transforms Us
— From Fear to Faith!

Thursday, 15 March
Speaker: Jennifer Yeo
Topic: **Encountering God** in
Suffering and Illness —
A Personal Testimony

Thursday, 22 March
Speakers: Dr Colin Ong,
Dr Philip Yap and Dr James Low
Topic: **The Road We Travel:**
Making Decisions at the
End-of-Life in the Light of Faith

West District Penitential Service
All services start at 8.00pm
Monday, 19 March
Church of St Ignatius

Tuesday, 20 March
Church of St Mary of the Angels

Wednesday, 21 March
Church of the Holy Cross

Thursday, 22 March
Church of St Francis of Assisi

Friday, 23 March
Blessed Sacrament Church

HOLY WEEK MASSES

**Palm Sunday of The Lord's
Passion** with the blessing of
Palms on Saturday, 24 March,
6.00pm. Sunday, 25 March,
6.45am 8.15am (with Children's
procession) 10.15am, 12.15pm
and 6.00pm

All activities are at the main Church unless stated otherwise.

LENTEN TRIDUUM PREPARATION FOR EASTER

**Holy Thursday Mass of
The Lord's Supper**
29 March, 7.30pm

Reposition and Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament
till midnight

Pilgrimage of Light for Youth
and Young Adults at 8.30pm

11.00pm – 12midnight
Tenebrae

The Hour of Holy Darkness

**Good Friday of
The Lord's Passion**
30 March (NO 7.00am and
6.00pm Masses)

7.00am – 8.00am
Prayers and Meditation
Theme: **A Bruised Reed
Bending in the Wind**

Stations of the Cross at 9.00am
Good Friday Liturgy 12noon,
3.00pm and 6.00pm

Holy Saturday
31 March (NO 7.00am and
6.00pm Masses)

7.00am – 8.00am
Prayers and Meditation
Theme: **The Tomb of
Life and Hope**

Easter Vigil with Mass and
RCIA baptism at 8.00pm

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
LORD'S RESURRECTION**
(NO Confessions) 1 April
6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am,
12.15pm and 6.00pm

Novena to The Divine Mercy
Friday, 30 March at 10.15am,
Saturday, 31 March and
Sunday, 1 April at 3.00pm
at St Ignatius Hall
Monday, 2 April to Thursday,
5 April after 6.00pm Mass
Friday, 6 April at 7.15pm
Saturday, 7 April at 3.00pm

**FEAST OF THE
DIVINE MERCY**
Sunday, 8 April 12.15pm Mass
All petitions will be offered
at this Mass.

PARISH NEWS

Next week's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the poor.

THEMATIC MASSES

For the first weekend of March
Saturday, 6.00pm – Family Mass
Sunday, 8.15am – Children's Mass
Sunday, 12.15pm – Youth Mass

We want to encourage greater participation of the children, the youth and the families in our Liturgy so that they can take ownership of the Mass, and together make all feel at home in St Ignatius Church. Please make a special effort to join us.

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday, 2 March, 8.00pm. Please note that there will be NO 6.00pm Mass. Come with family and friends to renew your consecration to the Heart of Jesus. All are welcome.

LENT BOARDS

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As a sign of your commitment, you may use the materials provided at the Place of Gathering to post your penitential intentions.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER

All are welcome for food, fellowship and fun at our 7th annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinner on Friday, 23 March.

Time: 6.30 - 8pm

Place: Church of St. Ignatius, Sacred Heart Hall canteen.
\$15 per ticket / \$12 for ages 9 and below. Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased.

Tickets at: **Parish Office** (6466 0625) weekdays from this Monday 26 February, **after Sunday Masses** on 11 and 18 March, and **after CCD classes** on Tuesday and Thursday 13 and 15 March.

Buffet dinner by Hoe Brothers Catering featuring fried and baked fish, french fries, mashed potatoes, salad, steamed broccoli, brownies, apple crumble and drinks.

SOLI DEO GLORIA (SDG) CHORALE is looking for people who are passionate to praise God with their gift of music. They are also singing for the Easter Vigil mass on 31 March and are inviting parishioners to join them to await the resurrection of the Lord. Rehearsals are this Sunday 25 February and 11 March, 2.30pm to 5.30pm; and 4, 18 and 25 March, 2.30pm to 4pm. Sign up with Kelvin John Lim at 90294465 or email at kelvinjohnlim77@gmail.com

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 11 March 2017 at 3.00 pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday 4 March, 3.00 pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child's baptism. Contact Anthony (9815 9889) & Mariana Heng (9270 8213) or Lea (9173 8717) & Wahjudi Gunawan.

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

II Hearts

There are many reasons why Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* remains one of the most beloved musicals. One is the richness of characters and the meaning the audience can draw from it.

The protagonist, Jean Valjean, is a small-time thief who was jailed for 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving child. Hardened by his time in jail, he does not hesitate to steal from the kindly bishop who has offered him warm shelter and food. The kind Bishop, who not only forgives but also defends him, touches his heart and stirs his conscience. Valjean, breaking parole, repents and turns his life around to become someone who is willing to risk his life to save others, strangers and enemies alike. A heart of stone that turns into flesh.

Inspector Javert, a self-righteous policeman bent on carrying the law, pursues Valjean relentlessly. When Valjean spares his life, Javert is unable to reconcile the conflicts in his heart: being saved by someone whom he perceives to be a sinful criminal. He condemns

himself by committing suicide; a tragic end, as he does not allow himself to be loved and to receive mercy. A heart of stone that refuses to transform.

Valjean and Javert are the contemporaries of Moses and Pharaoh. Indeed, history is filled with narratives of the two opposites of humanity, from ancient times and for as long as civilization will continue. Some souls, like Moses and Valjean, encounter God and God's mercy and become fully alive – humbled, saved and set free, transforming into a channel of God's grace for others. Others, like Pharaoh and Javert, encounter God and yet choose to harden their hearts – souls condemned by their pride and unwillingness to receive and to extend mercy.

Our stories may not be as dramatic as theirs. Nevertheless, when we look back at the episodes in our life, we would notice that there were times when we allowed ourselves to love and be vulnerable, to have a bleeding heart, when we allowed joy and sorrow in our lives. And there were days when we turned our heart into stone, building a fence to protect ourselves

from being hurt, risking nothing and gaining nothing. We alternate our heart between flesh and stone. We are both.

Indeed, life presents us with so many decisions, and every choice we make either soften or harden our heart. The Scripture often reminds us of the importance of the heart: the word "heart" is cited more frequently than the word "love." It truly is the centre of our being and the source of our actions.

The Lenten season is the perfect time to withdraw and consciously pay attention to the movements in our heart. It is an invitation to reflect on the time when we experienced love and mercy that touched us deeply, and of simple gestures of kindness extended to us by loved ones or strangers. When we loved generously and unconditionally, or when we "loved" with strings attached. When we refused to forgive or snubbed someone who extended an olive branch. When we were indifferent.

Perhaps we let the memories stir our heart. And bring them in our prayers, allowing gratitude to wash us clean and enliven us, and regrets and wounds to heal. The Lord assures us in Ezekiel 36:26, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." The hurt we carry and the hurt we cause, we ask Him to mend them all. And we let His warmth melt the ice in our heart.

Joseph Campbell writes "what we hold in our hearts define what we have in our lives." May Lent remind us to be more attentive to the movements in our heart, choosing the heart of flesh even when it is difficult to do so. Especially when it is difficult to do so.

PARISH NEWS

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN resumes from this Sunday's 8.15 am and 10.15 am Masses. Liturgy of the Word for Children allows children to hear the Word of God in age-appropriately adapted Gospel readings and to share the gospel message. Each session requires 2 Proclaimers (to proclaim and share) and 4 to 6 Supporters (to assist and guide). As the success of Children's Liturgy depends on a strong team of enthusiastic volunteers, we are calling all parents, grandparents and anyone who would like to share the Gospel with children aged 3 to 10 years. If you are interested, please leave your contact at the Help Desk at the Place of Gathering.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

When St. Paul complained of the pain that won't go away, God said to him, "My Grace is sufficient for you, for Power is perfected in weakness" 2Cor 12:9-10. We must trust in the sufficiency of God's grace. Our problems are meant to make us "act justly, to love mercy and to walk

humbly with our God". All are welcome this Wednesday February 28, at St Ignatius Hall. Start at 7.30pm with light dinner fellowship and end at 9.30pm.

CONNECTIONS! by Magis Family Ministry All families are invited to a fun-filled Saturday morning at CONNECTIONS! where you will pray, trust and connect with your loved ones in new ways. Be part of our first CONNECTIONS! event on 10 March! Time: 9am to 1pm (lunch served after) Venue: Annex Hall at 2nd floor of Annex Building. Sign up quickly as spaces are limited to 40 families. Registration: scanQR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/y96dnaz8>



NCC NEWS

KING'S/QUEEN'S & TAN KIM CHENG ROADS

Saturday 3 March, 7.30pm, 97 Sunset Way Programme: Lenten Booklet, Reflection/Stations of the Cross

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CHARITIES WEEK 2018

The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2018. 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. All donations are eligible for 250% Tax Exemptions". For

information and clarifications, call 6337 6197, 9271 3335) or email at pamela@caritas-singapore.org.

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. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is this Tuesday 27 February, 7:30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

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 elderly and homebound

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners hospitalised (regardless of hospital). In emergencies, 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 Friday 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, 8.00pm (No 6.00pm Mass)

Followed by
Eucharistic Adoration by Generation CHRIST!

Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 6.00pm, followed by prayers in Columbarium