



Exorcising Ghosts

There was an exorcism at the 6pm mass last Sunday. There will be one at the 6pm mass this Sunday and the next. Before you start shaking your head in disbelief and accusing me of making things up, let me explain.

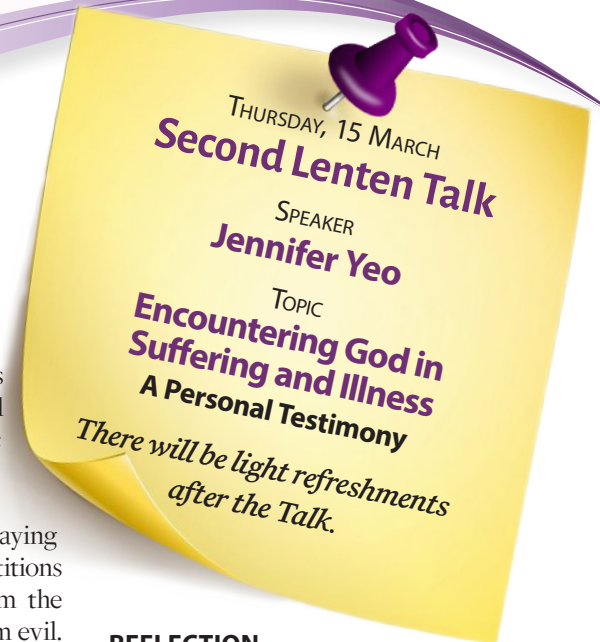
The season of Lent also serves as the period of “purification and enlightenment” for adults who will be initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. These elects, those formally and ritually recognized by the Church as God’s chosen to become members of the Body of Christ at the *Rite of Election*, undergo “intense spiritual preparation” to deepen their faith and strengthen their desire to receive the sacraments. The elects also participate in a number of preparatory rites as ritual expressions of their spiritual progress and readiness. Among these are the scrutinies, celebrated together with the masses on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. A rite of exorcism is also performed at each scrutiny. Now, you see that I am not making things up!

Scrutinies and exorcisms have been part of the Christian initiation process since the early Church. Commenting on the initiation rites in the *Explanatio Symboli Ad Initiandos*, St. Ambrose of Milan (337-397CE) writes: “Thus far the mysteries of the Scrutinies have been celebrated. Therein search was made lest some uncleanness should still cling to the body of any one of you. By the exorcism was sought and applied a sanctifying not only of the body, but of the soul as well.” In the past, the scrutinies were connected with the notion of the Church examining the elects to determine their readiness and worthiness to receive baptism. The current *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) associates the scrutinies with the elects’ personal reflections on their lives in

order to uncover the difficult areas requiring repentance, protection and healing. Unlike the highly dramatic exorcisms portrayed in movies, the rite of exorcism paired with each scrutiny, is more restrained. Praying over the elects, the celebrant petitions the Lord to liberate the elects from the clutches of sin and protect them from evil. Taken together, the three scrutinies and exorcisms ritually communicate an elect’s conversion, asking for divine light to shine on the areas of darkness that haunt him or her like ghosts, and beseeching the Lord to exorcise them, so that the elect may progress from an old life he or she wishes to leave behind to a new life in Christ.

The RCIA prescribes that masses incorporating the scrutinies and exorcisms should always use the Year A readings for the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. These readings, and especially the gospel readings, have been chosen not only to aid the elects in reflecting on the “mystery of sin”, but also help them in deepening their relationship with the Lord. The gospels of the “Samaritan woman by the well” in the first scrutiny (John 4:5-42), the “marginalized man who was born blind” in the second scrutiny (John 9:1-41), and the “death and resurrection of Lazarus” (John 11:1-45), respectively represent the themes of personal sin, social sin and the “ultimate evil of death”. From a different perspective, the same three gospels may draw listeners to encounter “Christ the Redeemer, ‘who is the living water’, ‘the light of the world’ and ‘the resurrection and the life’ (RCIA #143).” By meditating on these readings, the elects can come to a better knowledge of the sins that weigh them down, and also the liberation offered by Jesus.

As we pray for the continued purification and conversion of our elects over Lent, and during the scrutinies



REFLECTION

God is Love

✝ Do we know love in our daily lives? Do we really know how much God’s love is? If God does not love us, what are we doing here?

God’s self-giving love is like a mother that gives herself in love to her child. God loves you so much that he gave his only son, that is important. Jesus’ message and purpose was for us to see the light, feel his love, and understand there is always light from darkness. Precious things are often not easily seen. If we place our full trust in Jesus, we will be free of our burdens and negativities. The only way to eternal joy is believing in Jesus.

God’s love is felt through faith. It is by this faith that we are saved. Remember that God’s love is never exhausted. You don’t have to earn God’s love. He already loves you and nothing will change this, even if you and I mess up.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

and exorcism, we, too, should pray for ourselves, petitioning the Lord to help prepare us to renew our baptismal promises more worthily at Easter. We ask God for the honesty and clarity needed to scrutinize our own hearts, and implore Jesus to cast out the sins and harmful predilections that continue to haunt us.

Fr Jerome Leon, SJ

PARISH NEWS

Next weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

"In different ways and to varying degrees we are all wounded. We ALL thirst for God's Mercy," St. John Paul 2nd says. "Apart from the mercy of God there is no other Source of Hope for mankind."

All are invited to the Divine Mercy Novena starting on Good Friday 30 March, 10.15am, St. Ignatius Hall. Sessions will be conducted by Frs Colin Tan, James Tan, Agustinus Tanudjaja and Jerome Leon. Come and discover the dreams and Hopes The Divine Mercy has for you!

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Church of St Ignatius: Monday 19 March, 8.00pm at the main Church. As this is a communal celebration, we invite all to remain for the closing prayer and blessing at 9.30pm.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER

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

Date: Friday, 23 March

Time: 6.30 - 8pm

Place: Church of St. Ignatius, Sacred Heart Hall canteen

Due to limited seats, tickets must be pre-purchased.

Tickets: \$15 per ticket / \$12 for ages 9 and below

Purchase tickets: Parish Office (6466 0625) weekdays

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm: after Saturday/

Sunday Masses; after CCD classes Tuesday/Thursday

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

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

We are currently on our Term 1 break. Sessions begin for Term 2 on the weekend of 24/25 March.

Please pray for our Sec 4 youths attending the iComm Confirmation Retreat next weekend 16-18 March. Due to the night activity for the Confirmation Retreat, the open carpark at Sacred Heart Hall must be cleared immediately after Saturday's 6.00pm Mass on 17 March.

FILIPINO LEGION OF MARY BIBLE GROUP invites all Filipinos to join them on a journey to learn more about the "God of Freedom and Life", A new bible study course on the Book of Exodus. Every second Sunday of the month, from 11 March, 2.00pm. Contact Lily Caguing at 9680 8306.

Lent/Easter 2018

THE RECONCILING COMMUNITY

All activities are at the main Church unless stated otherwise

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

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, 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

Penitential Service

Monday, 8.00pm, 19 March
Church of St Ignatius

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

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.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

"Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6)". In quoting this verse from Jewish scriptures, Jesus (in Matt 9:13) reminds us go beyond acts of sacrifices and to also be compassionate. All are welcome this Wednesday 14 March on Matt 9:10-13 at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner starts at 7.30pm and we end at 9.30pm.

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 Step Closer To God

The Church of St Ignatius played host and welcomed some 1,000 participants in the RCIA Rite of Election for 16 churches in the North, West and City Districts on Sunday 25 February. The rite was celebrated by Archbishop William Goh.

As their time of preparation comes to an end, and as Easter draws ever nearer, the Catechumens and Candidates (with the support of their Godparents and Sponsors) affirmed their commitment to becoming Catholics before the gathered community, and our prayers are with them as they continue on this journey of Faith.

VANESSA TOK



Church of St Teresa

“The rite of election and sending was like a step closer in my journey in faith with the Lord. I feel blessed to be part of this community!” **RETHINAM**



PHOTOS: KENNETH LEE



Church of Holy Spirit

“Perhaps Joshua 1:9 has been coming to mind more regularly, as Easter draws near, and I still can’t say I fully embrace or understand all that the Catholic Church teaches. but I know His presence is with me and that gives me courage to continue walking forward.” **MARIA**



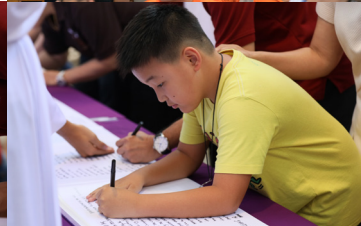
Church of Blessed Sacrament

“It is a day of grace, a day we see God’s love for his people, the sheep of his flock made visible through the proceedings of the rite, headed by our archbishop. I asked myself, “What is asked of me as I present myself as godparent to my godson?”

I experienced a comforting reassurance that as community, we can do as God wills, building His Kingdom, each doing our part. I saw how God longs for his people. My godson had a few minutes with his Grace. I accompanied in silence, I stood at his side and found myself in the midst of an intimate conversation between God and his follower. I was in awe, all was so good! There was a joy so simple and so overflowing, just realizing that we are in the holy presence of God and he is ever reaching out to receive all! Thanks be to God.” **VIVIAN TAN, GODPARENT OF GABRIEL SNG**

“The rites are like a blessing for both ours and our godson’s families. We reflect on the voice of St John Baptist, that we ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight!’”

GODPARENT, PETER & MARIA



Church of St Ignatius

“Although the Rite of Election was more for the Elects, as a candidate it was especially meaningful as well, affirming my baptismal calling as a Christian. It is a milestone on entering into the fullness of truth in the Catholic Church, and a deeper relationship with Christ our Lord.” **SAMUEL CHEN**

“I felt excited about coming this far to the Rite of Election and signing my new baptism name in the Book of Elect... The Archbishop’s homily helped me reflect on my long struggle with understanding and believing in God... I feel blessed that the Archbishop prayed for me to strengthen my faith and to continue my RCIA journey towards becoming a baptised member of the Catholic Church.” **KEN IP**



NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 14 March, SH-02-E
Programme: "Who Am I to Judge? – by Edward Sri. Session 5 – Engaging Moral Relativism

ZONE A DISTRICT 3

Wednesday, 14 March, # 02-06
Programme : The Bible and the Virgin Mary – Lesson 4: The New Eve

JESUIT NEWS

HOW TO MAKE STRESS YOUR FRIEND

Based on research by Dr. Kelly McGonigle, learn how the handling of stress can either shorten or extend our life span.

Facilitator: Fr. Matthew Linn, SJ

Date/Time: Wednesday, 30 May/7.30pm - 9.30pm

Contribution: \$50

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/MattLinn18>

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Pope Francis has invited each diocese to dedicate "24 Hours for the Lord" where at least one church will be open for 24 hours, offering both Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Hourly reflections will guide you to encounter Jesus Christ.

Date & Time: From Friday 9 March, 6pm, until Saturday 10 March, 6pm

Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
The lights are kept on for you. Come home.

CRUCIS SINGAPURA ON 17 MARCH

Jesus Youth ("An International Catholic Lay Movement Approved by the Holy See"), invites you to Crucis Singapura – a unique Way of the Cross prayed while walking barefoot across the island marking the sign of the Cross. Participants will walk across 8 pre-defined routes, the longest is 20km and shortest 3 km. Register to receive a confirmation email. Go to www.singapore.jesuyouth.org to register before 7 March or call Nobin Jose (9092 2091).

RECRUITMENT FOR BETHANY EAST

The upcoming clergy retirement residence Bethany East (Siglap) is seeking staff for the following paid positions: nursing aide, housekeeper, and cook. If interested, please email your full resume and expected salary to chanceryrecruitment@catholic.org.sg by 25 March 2018.

Volunteering opportunities are also available for clergy eldercare in the Archdiocese. If interested, volunteer forms are available at all parish offices. Please note that volunteer positions are unpaid.

CLARITY'S LIGHTING THE WAY

Introductory Workshop, 24 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Agape Village. Workshop for people who have direct or indirect experiences with friends or loved ones suffering from depression, but have difficulty getting them to seek help. Fees \$15. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/LTW24Mar> or call 6757 7990.

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