



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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Sunday
1 April
2018

“So you believe in God?”

Once, I was walking in Bangkok, when I was there for a student's meeting in the 1980's. I happened to ask a woman for directions and for some reason, I had said that I was a Christian and I remembered her asking me: “So you believe in God?” I was stunned by her question. She was sincere in asking me. And I was equally sincere in wanting to reply to her. As I was then a new convert and was filled with faith, fervor and joy, I was more than happy to share with her my new found faith and reason for my joy. I

REFLECTION

Everlasting Joy of Easter

✠ What is my experience of being risen? Have I prayed my way into believing the miracle?

The promise of the Easter miracle was confirmed by the humble cloth found at the tomb. It is ours to accept – this is what we say. We see and believe. Faith is a gift that we are free to accept or refuse. Seeing everything in and around us with our own eyes.

The miracle makes sense of all else and it is for us to relish. It assures us of life everlasting with God in Heaven. It frees us from the spell, which the world has cast over us. We are risen people and should find joy in our victory over hatred, sinfulness, fear, despair and death. To live our lives in the hope of the resurrection.

The resurrected Jesus makes us realize that his existence is not about being born to suffer, but a new existence was born in him.

FR GERRY KEANE, SJ

went on to explain enthusiastically: “We cannot see God but we can feel the effects of God's presence like the wind. We cannot see the wind, but we can feel the effects of the wind on us – the soothing sensation of a cool breeze on our face or its presence in the rustling of the leaves on the trees. Similarly, Jesus reveals the face of God we cannot see, hence to see Jesus is to see the face of God who is Love. We cannot see God but we can feel the effects of his love.”

Indeed, in this holy week as we look back, we see how the history of salvation is played out in the wrongful killing of an innocent man – who had claimed to be the Son of God. If he did not resurrect on the third day, he would have been swallowed into oblivion long ago and died a pitiful and senseless death. Do you believe that God loves you enough to die for you? **So do you believe in God?**

As I wondered too, why should a man suffer so much in physical torture and mental anguish if he did not think that it was worth paying the price of his life by dying for our sake? If a friend were to ask me to stand in his place to face the death squad, surely, I would think twice. It would certainly be safe to say that I am too much of a coward to say ‘Yes’. Yet, we see examples of many who have stepped forward when it counts – Maximilian Kolbe is one example. He was in Auschwitz concentration camp on the 14th August 1941 and willingly replaced a stranger, Franciszek Gajowniczek who was one of the ten randomly selected to be executed by the Nazi. But he had cried out: “My wife, my children!” At this point, Maximilian Kolbe, OFM, a Polish Conventual Franciscan Priest offered to take his place. It was accepted. He became a martyr and a saint. He showed us that love can still be found in the most

The PPC Exco,
the parish staff,
and the Jesuit
community at
Kingsmead Hall
wish all parishioners
a Blessed and Holy
Easter 2018

oppressive and depressing situation of the extermination camp in history.

Recently, on 24th March 2018 in France, a Lt-Colonel, Arnaud Beltrame, 44 years old, swapped himself for a hostage in a supermarket and was then shot dead by the attacker. He and Maximilian Kolbe are Christ-persons-made present again, in *persona Christi* in our world.... They remind and invite us to follow the example of Christ who loves us with a perfect love by stepping in on our behalf to take our place when we were in mortal danger.

Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver to atone for his brothers. He eventually redeemed them and saved them from starvation when Joseph rose to power as the right hand man of Pharaoh in Egypt (Gen 37:28). Jesus was sold for thirty silver pieces to atone for our sins, and redeems us from eternal death and rescues us from our enemy in his victory, triumph and glory.

Indeed, **Easter is a joyous new spring time in the life of the Church** – for us the Easter people of God so that we do not cower in darkness and fear; nor hide in shame and guilt but dare to stand high in witnessing to the world our faith in a God who loves and gives us his Son, Jesus the Christ as an example to follow. In following him we know that he has come so that “we may have life and have it to the full.” (Jn 10:10). To believe in Christ as the Son of God is to have the fullness of life.

“So you believe in God?” The call is ours to make for a fullness or an emptiness in life and in death. “What is your answer to this question?”

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

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

FIRST FRIDAY – SACRED HEART OF JESUS MASS

Friday 6 April, 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.

INFANT BAPTISMS Saturday 12 May, 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday, 7 May, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Dennis (9457 7772) & Michelle Ng (9633 8236), or Ava (9618 0012) & Gerald Teo (9674 6820).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Parents, children and youth are reminded that there are no catechetical sessions this weekend as we celebrate Easter. Sessions resume next Saturday 7/Sunday 8 April.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Worship can be part of our daily living and not just for masses, Charismatic Renewal, youth rallies and retreats. All are welcome to a night of worship by Seeking Surrender of the DVC youth community. This Wednesday April 4, at St Ignatius Hall. Start at 7.30pm with fellowship dinner and end at 9.30pm.

PPC MEETING

Saturday 14 April, 9.15am to noon, St Ignatius Hall
A Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Saturday 14 April, 9.15am to noon at the St Ignatius Hall. All Ministry, NCC, SCC and other Church group leaders, their core team members, parish staff, and representatives of foreign resident groups are cordially invited to the meeting to discuss matters relating to the parish, including present and future plans.

Register at administrator@stignatius.org.sg for catering and planning purposes. Ministry and parish groups are asked to refrain from organising activities on that day to allow for greater participation at the meeting.

POSITIVE PARENTING

Parenting enrichment programme by Magis Family Ministry and Marriage Encounter

Calling all parents with teens! Come join the Parenting Enrichment Programme held every Saturday, 10am-12noon, over 4 weeks from 21 April to 12 May at the St Ignatius Hall. Led by facilitators from Marriage Encounter who have successfully conducted these in other parishes. Positive Parenting covers topics such as Parent Expectations, Parent Image, Criticism and Discipline. Sessions are geared for parents with teens, but all parents

| DIVINE MERCY NOVENA | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Day | Date | Venue | Time | Speaker |
| 1 | Fri 30 March | St Ignatius Hall | 10.15am | Fr Colin Tan, SJ |
| | The unfathomable depths of God's mercy for all human kind. "Neither do I condemn you... Go and sin no more." | | | |
| 2 | Sat 31 March | St Ignatius Hall | 3.00pm | Fr Colin Tan, SJ |
| | Mercy for our priests and religious. "Through them as through channels My Mercy flows out upon mankind." | | | |
| 3 | Sun 1 April | St Ignatius Hall | 3.00pm | Fr Weymns Sanches, SJ |
| | Devout and faithful souls. "These souls brought me consolation on the Way of the Cross." | | | |
| 4 | Mon 2 April | Main Church | 6.40pm | Fr Gregory Tan, SJ |
| | Mercy for those who do not yet know or believe in God. | | | |
| 5 | Tue 3 April | Main Church | 6.40pm | Fr Jerome Leon, SJ |
| | Mercy for wounded souls who long to "come home." The Prodigal Son | | | |
| 6 | Wed 4 April | Main Church | 6.40pm | Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ |
| | Mercy for the children. Meek and humble of hearts. | | | |
| 7 | Thur 5 April | Main Church | 6.40pm | Fr Jerome Leon, SJ |
| | Blessed are the Merciful. In the midst of all afflictions and challenges they go forward confident of God's Mercy. | | | |
| 8 | Fri 6 April | Main Church | 7.00pm | |
| | Souls in purgatory (Silent Reflection). | | | |
| 9 | Sat 7 April | Main Church | 3.00pm | Fr Colin Tan, SJ |
| | 2.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3.50pm Benediction and 4.00pm High tea at Loyola Room. | | | |
| Feast of Divine Mercy Sun 8 April | | Main Church | 12.15pm Mass With offerings of all petitions and thanksgiving. Chaplets will be recited after Mass | |

are welcome. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ydbc9mlv>

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS

Adults who wish to receive Sacrament of Confirmation must attend the preparation sessions and rehearsal. Registration form at church office or <http://stignatius.org.sg/home/resources>

Preparation sessions: Saturday 5, 12 & 19 May, 11am at Loyola Room

Rehearsal: Friday 11 May, 7.30pm at main church

Confirmation: Saturday 2 June, 2pm at main church

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Dorothy Theresa Ng – 79 years old

Date of death: 25 March 2018

Peter Tan – 81 years old

Date of death – 27 March 2018

Alice Chua – 89

Date of death: 28 March 2018

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

Faith + HIDDEN IN Pain

“As a scientist, my job is to figure out why things happen. But I don’t think I’ll ever understand how someone like me could get to be with someone like you ... You know, maybe I don’t need to understand it, I just need to be grateful ...”

Sounds cheesy? These are lines from an episode of the American television sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. The scene was at a garden where one of the lead characters was reciting his wedding vows to his bride. While the show is meant to entertain, the words contain a deeper meaning and significance, which made me wonder if the scriptwriters are religious people.

While the quotes were not conveying something I do not already know, I found them instructive in helping me ponder how well I put the underlying messages into practice. There are many things in life that are difficult to comprehend. Some are personal, while others relate to events

or people around me. In this instance, it was a happy occasion where two people in love ended up with each other, so it’s easy enough to not demand answers and just offer thanks. But what about challenging or painful moments? Can we similarly feel grateful for these without expecting to know why it happened? I have to admit I struggle.

Over a year ago, I lost a dear friend. Our paths crossed as colleagues – not once but twice, and it was during the second time that we became close, as circumstances would dictate. Months before she passed on, she suffered a relapse of her illness, but chose to keep her deteriorating condition from us. As such, we did not get to see her for the last time. It did not help that she was one of the gentlest souls I have ever known. It was just as hard to accept that her young son has to grow up without his mother.

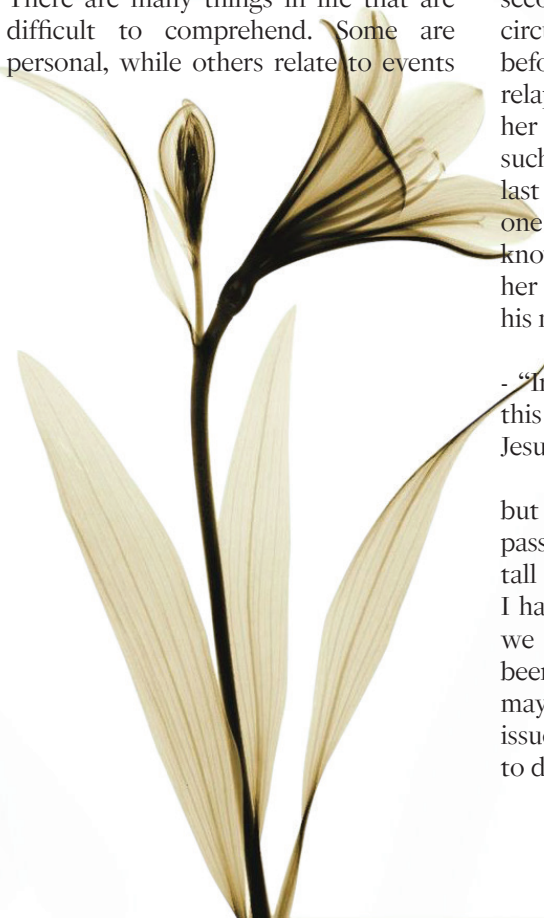
Yet, we have been told in 1 Th 5:18 - “In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

The instruction is clear and simple, but when I first came across this passage, I thought that it was such a tall order – how do I give thanks when I have been hurt by someone? How do we give thanks when our homes have been destroyed by floods? But maybe ... maybe it’s not that hard. I think one of the issues is how we have been conditioned to define events or situations – labelling

them as good or bad, success or failure. Particularly if it’s the latter, we search for answers to make sense of what is going on, hoping to bring about change and if it’s not possible, then to “persuade” ourselves into acceptance. Over time, I have found this to be too tiring. Hence, the first small step I have taken is to try to treat experiences I go through, especially the ones I deem unpleasant, as teaching and learning moments. I ask God to show me what He would like for me to take away from the occasion. It is uncomfortable, trying to suspend judgement and sitting in that space of negative emotions. Oddly enough, this path has been liberating – instead of obeying the natural instinct to bolt or put up a resistance.

I cannot say I have completely come to terms with my friend’s untimely departure. I still miss her, especially her knack for listening empathetically. But in an unexpected way, when I chose not to focus on my grief and loss, I was led to being thankful for the friendship we had. And while she is no longer physically present, I would like to think that I remain connected with her. My friend was not a believer, but she bore her pain and suffering gracefully during her last days. What I can do is to honour her memory by living my life the way she would have – with thoughtfulness, kindness and love.

SARA WEE



NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1

Wednesday 11 April, SH-02-E

Programme: "Who Am I to Judge? – Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love" by Edward Sri. Session 6 – "I disagree" doesn't mean "I hate you"

ZONE B DISTRICT 1

Tuesday 3 April, SH-E

Programme: Recitation Of Rosary /DVD screening on Our Lady Of Guadalupe / Discussion & Fellowship

JESUIT NEWS

EASTER DAY OF QUIET

Come spend some time this Easter season to reflect on the Lord's Resurrection. Prayer and handicraft resources as well as the labyrinth walk will be available.

Date: Friday, 20 April 2018 & Saturday, 21 April 2018 (choose one)

Time: 10am - 5pm

Contribution: \$60 (inclusive of lunch and refreshments)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/EDOQ18>

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ACCIRD INTERRELIGIOUS PANEL & DISCUSSION ON "BIRTH"

Tuesday, 10 April, 7.15pm-9.30pm,

Cathedral of the Good Shepherd,

Annex Building Level 3

Rabbi Fettmann (Chesed El Synagogue),

Ms Suhailah (Muis) and Sr Maria Lau, IJ will

share about the meaning and significance

of birth and religious initiation into their

respective religions as well as the

attendant rituals, rites and customs.

Register name, parish/organisation and

contact number by 9 April at gerald.

accird@catholic.org.sg

ANGELICO ART AWARD 2018 DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Dates: 3 April (10am) or 4 April (7pm) or 7

April (4.30pm)

Venue: 2nd level, Catholic Centre,

55 Waterloo Street

Facilitated by Joanna Tan from

Heartspace, these casual dialogue

sessions are open to anyone interested

in joining the Angelico Art Award 2018.

Q&A session with introduction to AAA

and the theme, Prepare the way for the

Lord! – Mark 1:3. Come to find out more

and get inspired. For more information,

enquiries@angelicoart.com.

COME AWAY BEACH RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

From 26 to 29 May (4D3N), at Bintan

Vacation in a meaningful way in this "play

and pray" retreat designed to help grow

and deepen our faith. Learning from the

Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola,

you will experience quiet prayer, daily

discernment, self-care and a way of

finding God in all things and time. Open

to all from 21 to 40 years old. Organised

by the Cenacle Sisters. Registration/

enquiries on program and fees at

cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com

or www.cenaclemission.com

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