



The Heart of Mercy – The Way of Love

How many times I have heard people saying to me, “*Father, I can forgive, but I can never forget.*” I often wonder what this really means. Does it mean that there are still lingering embers of anger, bitterness and un-forgiveness buried in their heart? And that it doesn’t take very much for the next gust of misunderstanding, craziness and anger to set it aflame again. If so, we need to see that there is more to “forgetting”. Perhaps there is still an injustice or that the perpetrator is unrepentant, and if the harm has not been atoned, then there is no retributive justice, and it will be hard to forget. Where then do I see God’s mercy and forgiveness in my life as a Christian?

When I have been maligned with untruthful and exaggerated gossip, I simply refused to partake of the “contaminated dish”. It would be good enough for me to swallow my pride in all innocence without getting indigestion and sleepless nights! How does Jesus deal with this question of forgiveness, human frailty and pride?

Peter brought his complaints to the Lord, “*How many times must I forgive, (aphiDmi) my brother who wrongs me?*” Seven times. Jesus replied, “*Seventy-seven times.*” (Mt 18:22). The Jewish understanding at the time of Jesus is that forgiveness was not just a feeling or an emotional reaction to an injustice done, but it required an action as well. Our response to forgiveness requires a concrete action on the part of the perpetrator to show remorse and repentance. (Lk 17:3).

Furthermore, Jesus tells us, “*If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other cheek as well.*” (Lk 6:29/Mt 5:39). This seems a strange response given the physical assault. However, at the time of Jesus the act of turning one’s

cheek when slapped was not a sign of submission. Turning the cheek would force the aggressor to strike with the left hand, which was seen as unclean. But if you turn the other cheek, you are forcing him to strike you using the backhand stroke, which was very insulting. In the Jewish law according to Maimonides, if you slap a person with the open palm of your hand, you will be fined 200 zuzims. But if you slap a person with the back of your hand, you will be fined 400 zuzims! This is because the back-handed slap was regarded as a double insult. Hence, the heavier fine. In truth, turning the other cheek would have been seen as an act of resistance to injustice and a courageous stand against violence and evil. But if he repents, an apology would suffice.

However, the context of this passage is about **loving your enemies**. Jesus is asking us to respond with more — *the Magis in converting the enemy’s heart*. You win and overcome with kindness and charity. He added, “*If anyone ask you to go a mile, go the next mile as well*” (Mt 5:41). “*If you love those who love you, what credit can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them ... And if you lend to those whom you hope to get your money back, what credit can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without any hope of return.* (Lk 6: 33-35)

Theologian and ethicist, Lewis Smedes states, “*To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.*” **Forgiveness ironically sets both you and your enemy free.** All it takes is for one person to forgive, but it takes courage and love to be reconciled and be freed.

Free to pray and pray to be freed.
“*Pray for those who abuse you*” (Luke 6:38).

REFLECTION

Seeing is not Believing

+ What does Christ give me with life filled with faith? Peace and joy. Faith is believing. Faith brings happiness. It is not like anything. It drives out fear. Life with full of faith needs no proof. Nothing has to be done.

In the Gospel today, Jesus’ appearance to his disciples is to recognize his true nature and what he has done for us. The disciples were in doubt and disturbed, he was putting his spirit in them. Doubt and fear is a stumbling block to faith. It varies from one person to the other. But believing with your heart is the way to courage.

Jesus came from the Father to live among us and teach us. We must do the same. We may not have seen Jesus, but we have his Word. The Gospel is the only thing that matters in life. We don’t question God’s glory and His Words. We accept it with the heart – that is when we meet his love, a heart that embraces us and continues to forgive us. Then, our lives will be filled with peace and joy.

FR GERRY KEANE, SJ

In praying, we turn to God who is merciful and who alone has the power to change the hearts of hardened sinners. While Jesus’ prayer from the cross is a perfect model of forgiveness for they know not what they do, it also reveals the heart of Mercy and the way to love in spite of our complicity, pride and ignorance. *He turns to us with greater love the more we acknowledge our miseries, for misery appeals to mercy.*” (Fr Adolphe Tanquerey SS., DD.)

May this Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday help us walk in the path of God’s mercy, love and forgiveness. We pray for all who long to be free from un-forgiveness and pride and may learn the way of love to experience the Peace of our Risen Lord.

FR COLINTAN, SJ

The Reconciling Community Steps Closer to our Loving God

The parish family of St Ignatius gathered together during the season of Lenten preparation and the Holy Week Triduum to await the dawning of Easter Joy

“The Wounded Self: How God Heals and Transforms us – from Fear to Faith” was the first of three Lenten Talks, presented by our Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan, SJ, on 8 March. The evening started with a short praise and worship by the charismatic choir, followed by a short welcome from Keith Neubronner, facilitator and coordinator at Kingsmead.

Fr Colin chose this topic because everyone has experienced fear at one time. There are many causes of fear: Worries, Anxieties, Stress/Shame of all sorts, striving for Perfectionism, in short WASP.

Extreme prolonged feelings of fear can harm us severely, affecting us physically, psychologically, emotionally and make us broken and wounded

God offers us help. We only need to trust Him and have faith in Him that He will never disregard His people.

people. Worst of all, fear can damage our spiritual wellbeing. We don't understand why we suffer, we have difficulties in trusting God, and we might even lose faith in Him – becoming truly wounded and broken.

Who are these broken people, where are they? They might be ourselves, hurt by experiences reaching back to our childhood. We find them in our own family, among friends, and colleagues at the workplace.

The reasons leading to woundedness and brokenness are manifold. An unresolved misunderstanding, miscommunication, feelings of neglect



(child with parent), feeling unloved, difficulties in relationships, to name just a few. Fr Colin shared his own family experience caused by an apparently irresponsible father.

Unresolved issues can fester in us, causing great suffering that is hard to bear, and can even drive us to despair. But there is a way out, God offers us help. We only need to trust Him and have faith in Him that He will never disregard His people. He always looks after us. In words of Meister Eckhart, German theologian and mystic, “The Eye with which I see God is the same with which God sees me. My eye and God's eye is one eye, and one sight, and one knowledge and one love.”

We are not left alone with our troubles. We must not give up on ourselves and on others, but live in faith in God and trust Him. Healing from brokenness and woundedness means that first we have to forgive ourselves for our failings and shortcomings before we can offer forgiveness to others. Only then is

healing and repair possible.

Most of the time we think of broken things as worthless and better to be discarded. But we could see from a video clip that good can come out even from brokenness. A water bearer had to carry water from a well to his home. One of his vessels was broken, and the water dripped onto the ground. After some time, plants started to grow on the side of the path where the water had dripped, the other side remained barren.

The moral: even brokenness can bring about change for the better. We must not allow ourselves to give in to fear and despair, but place our trust in God who will never forsake us.

After a short question and answer session Fr. Colin closed the evening with a prayer and a blessing.

URSULA BAYER

“Encountering God in Suffering and Illness” – a personal testimony by Jennifer Yeo, was the second talk in the series on 15 March.

Here, Carol Tan shares her thoughts. “My first thoughts after listening to Jennifer Yeo were, ‘Wow, what an amazing woman! She is so positive and strong in her faith, and how can I emulate her?’

I further reflected, ‘Aiyah, what she has gone through would not happen to me!’ She was diagnosed in 2017 with Sinonasal Undifferentiated Carcinoma (SNUC), a very rare and deadly cancer that happens 1 in 5 million, which is hard to diagnose and has a very low cure rate. After undergoing two cycles of chemotherapy the tumour disappeared seven weeks later. Mrs Yeo also shared her son's childhood leukaemia, diagnosed 21 years ago when he was three and today, he is a healthy year 4 medical student.

So what are the lessons that I can take away from it?

1. Family and emotional support

Her husband and two older children supported and stayed with her throughout her treatment in Houston, Texas. Her parents and two younger children also visited when she was undergoing treatment. Her husband was cooking and working on Asian time, which is the opposite of US time zone. Her daughter did the same, while her son relocated from New York to Houston to work while she was there.

2. Keeping our eyes and ears on God

Many times, she mentioned how she reached out to God and how he answered her – with passages from the bible, and the people that he put in her path. When she was first diagnosed, she went to a priest for Anointing of the Sick and was told, ‘May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.’

She consulted Dr Chin-Hong Pui, who treated her son at St Jude's Children's Research Hospital who referred her to MD Anderson in Houston, a hospital where they had seen the most number of cases of her type of cancer. When she was in Houston, she met

Cardinal Daniel Dinardo, who sits on the Vatican Council with her husband and who eventually baptised her four children in December 2017.

After her remission, she was at peace and took heart from Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

3. Faith is purer than gold

Most of us would usually want to fight cancer. However, the Lord spoke with Mrs Yeo and told her to love the cancer cells as they are part of her body. She prayed and asked God to fill her every cell with love and to tell the cancer cells, in the name of Jesus, be healed.

We need to have prayer and faith. Ask and believe that you will receive and do not have any doubts. How is faith purer than gold? Gold is 99.9%. Our faith must be 100%. We must not have any negative thoughts because our faith is a gift from God.

Sacrifice of fasting is needed in addition to prayer. From a study on mice in the US, she read that a low-calorie fasting-like diet, plus chemotherapy, enables the immune system to recognise and kill skin and breast cancer cells, hence she decided to fast for 3 days and 3 nights. Her family told her not to be a hero, so she fasted for 2 days instead.

These 3 lessons applies to every situation, good or bad. Fr Colin summed it up at the end and said that even if we want to be a hero, without God in our lives, we are zero.”

CAROL TAN



Lenten Talks

The Road We Travel – Making Decisions at the End of Life in the Light of Faith, was the final talk by 3 Catholic doctors, hosted by Father Matthew on 22 March. As with the previous weeks, the church was packed with parishioners and visitors from other parishes. They came together to learn about how to make End of Life decisions that are consistent with our faith.

The knowledge that God is now and forever at the heart of any human suffering does not lessen the pain nor make the experience easier for those standing at the bedside of the sick. Yet dying is a natural part of life and our gateway to transition and share an eternal life with God. This requires us to be more open and honest, not only about our physical needs, but more importantly, about ensuring that our spiritual needs will be addressed and honoured when the time comes.

Dr Colin Ong (emergency medicine and bioethics), Dr Philip Yap (geriatric medicine and dementia care), and Dr James Low (geriatric medicine, palliative care and clinical ethics) shared three foundational Christian principles that can guide us all in an End of Life journey – the sanctity of



are in line with the will of the patient. Dementia takes away the ability of the individual to communicate their wishes, and the emotion and stress of the situation may challenge the family to honour the same, so the need for advanced care plans and directives becomes even more important.

Dementia was described as a journey toward death that echoes that of Christ on the cross, and their carers who are trying to relieve the great burden, like Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross or Veronica wiping

life, the dignity of the human person, and stewardship. Doctors and medical science may ease suffering, sustain and even prolong life. But the decision of how far to go to, whether, or if, to transition from ordinary support like pain relief, hydration or feeding tubes to extraordinary measures like machines that breathe, or beat or resuscitate life is situational and very personal to each of us. The decision clearly presents a challenge to both the families and doctors to ensure that their actions

away the blood and sweat from Christ's forehead. The courage and kindness of others that is displayed in tragedy, and the dignity and faith of those transitioning to their eternal life can help us accept that there is good that comes out of suffering.

SANDRA FAIRCLOUGH

Videos of three Lenten talks are also available on the parish website for those who were not able to join the sessions.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN Lenten Programme

A Loving Gaze

The children, their parents and grandparents, and Fr Jerome learnt one profound truth at the Lenten EAC experience on 16 March. It was "fantastic", said Fr Jerome, that when we gaze at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, He gazes back at us.

About 50 children and their families walked a very simple yet poignant Way of the Cross with our Lord. At the end of the hour, the children led a procession to the foot of the Crucifix and there they knelt in silent adoration.

Fr Jerome was struck by how focused the children were throughout the celebration. A few of us from the EAC team noticed an elderly man move slowly up the sanctuary to venerate the Cross, so reverently. Later, we discovered that he is not a Catholic and that he has been accompanying his grandchildren to EAC evenings for the past couple of years.

Our children are truly the best evangelists, simply leading by example.

THE EAC TEAM



PHOTO: FR MATTHEW TAN

WAY OF THE CROSS A Gathering of Family

On Good Friday morning, our Magis Family Ministry gathered 14 families to lead the Stations of the Cross. Most of us were doing this for the very first time. We were one of 14 families that led the prayer at each station. My boys took turns to read. A parishioner remarked, "I love hearing the children read."

PHOTOS: DAVID SAW



PHOTOS: ANDY GOH

Maundy Thursday

In Service of Others

Each year, the Mass of the Lord's Supper brings one of my favourite bible verses to life when the priest washes the feet of twelve chosen members of the congregation. It is a powerful visual reminder of the mission Jesus left for each of us: to lead in the service of others, to lead by example, to lead with a heart for others.

The celebration this year was no different. But more than that, it moved me deeply as, for the first time, twelve women were chosen

to represent the twelve disciples. The twelve women ranged in ages from a young girl to an elderly lady, each at different stages of life, each valued and honoured for who they are as disciples in their journey of faith. The significance of this in light of what is going on in the world with the #metoo and Times Up movements was not lost on me. It occurred to me that Jesus was ahead of his time as he valued and honoured the women in his life and in his ministry, often giving them centrestage in spite of the patriarchal society of the time.

It reminded me that each of us is called to serve, in big or small ways, in whatever capacity we can, and stage of life we are at. It doesn't matter if we are male or female, young or old, skilled or unskilled. What we are called to do is to lead a life of faith, place ourselves in the hands of Jesus, and follow his example in going out into the world to serve those whom we encounter and bring Jesus to them.

At the end of the Mass, as the altar was stripped and the procession led us to the Altar of Repose, a sense of emptiness and darkness began to set in – the invitation was to stay with Jesus in the last hours of his life, in his time of anguish. This was heightened during the Tenebrae service. After each reflection and reading, the candles by the Altar of Repose were extinguished one by one, eventually plunging us into darkness at the end of the night. The invitation to enter into this time of darkness was not an easy one to embrace, yet I felt very drawn into the darkness, a time to reflect on the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made for me, a sacrifice made in response to the Father's call, a sacrifice made out of love.

I left the church in a solemn silence, aware of how deeply I am loved, of my worth as a child of God, of my value as a disciple of Jesus, and of my call to serve in the way Jesus served.

GENEVIEVE CHYE

"If I then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you." John 13: 14-15

As the mother of a 9 year old girl who was privileged to be called to have her feet washed on Maundy Thursday, I was moved to tears when Father Colin gently poured water over my daughter's feet and kissed it. No words could describe the feelings that welled up inside me. I was asked to prepare my daughter and to explain to her what it all meant to have her feet washed and kissed. She said to me, "But Mummy you wash my feet all the time." I said, "Yes darling, Mummy does it for you, but for someone else (like Jesus) to do it, it must mean something more, something more special. And what about that final kiss on the foot. Surely it is the ultimate act of humility and most importantly love."

The 12 chosen were all female. Girls and women, representing many parts of our parish – children, youths, mothers, caregivers, helpers, the wheelchair bound, the aged. It was not meant to marginalise men, but to show everyone the precious gift that women had to offer.

It was meant to reinforce what our Holy Father Pope Francis said about the role of women in the Church. He singled out their natural "ability to listen, to welcome and to generously open herself to others". But often and sadly, their sacrifices and time spent providing and caring for their spouses, children and families are left hidden, buried, unrecognised, unappreciated and worse, forgotten. It is the silent cross that women often bear.

As I sat there listening to Fr Colin talking about love, obedience and humility, it was a time to reflect not just about women, but also the unconditional love of Jesus, who suffered greatly and gave up his life for us. Do we appreciate it? Do we recognise the act of love and sacrifice when we see it? Have we forgotten? Maybe it's time we remember.

CHRISTINETAN



Lenten Fish Fry Family Supper

In fellowship over a fish dinner, Frs Colin, Jerome, Matthew, Charles, Keane and Tseng gathered together with parishioners and families of St Ignatius Church for the annual Lenten Fish Fry, on Friday 23 March.

Each person had to introduce himself or herself to at least one other parishioner to encourage greater outreach during Lent, and together they worked on a puzzle depicting Leonardo Da Vinci's The Last Supper.

Fun for family and friends, and delicious fish and chips – was made possible by volunteers Angela Kurnadi, Therese Gian, Emily Chang, Rachael O'Connor, Clarice, Chantal Wong, Jeanne Anne Hsi, Michelle Scurfield, Sandra Fairclough, Dorothy Kay, photographers James Choo and Angela's Daughter, Gopal Siva Kumar, Kasi Raja Suresh, David Saw, Jeremy Aloysius, and Leah, Benjamin, Ilana and Jacob Fernandez, Bob and Michael White, and Rick Scurfield. Adrian Huang on piano assisted Dorothy Kay in leading the sing-along.



PHOTOS: JAMES CHOO AND JOAN DWIARTANTO

PHOTOS: KENNETH LEE AND TERENCE TAN



Palm Sunday A Joyful Offering

✿“What should I give up for Lent?” Throughout Lent, the children of our parish considered this all-important question (and giving up “homework” is not an option).

On Palm Sunday, children at the 8.15am Mass, dressed as people of

Jerusalem, and a donkey, processed into Church to commemorate Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, waving palms excitedly.

As we began the final phase of preparation before Good Friday, the children were then asked to look beyond the Easter weekend and contemplate a different question: “What will I do differently after this Lent?” They wrote their answers on heart-shaped notes and decorated a poster board that was brought up during Offertory – offered up with joy, hope and anticipation. Hosanna!

AMANDA CHAN-GOH



PHOTOS: ANDY GOH



PHOTOS: ANDY GOH



Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt



✿This year, the St Ignatius Easter bunny (from the Children’s Liturgy team) scattered colourful plastic eggs at Our Lady’s grotto, and all the way round to the field behind the Sacred Heart canteen. Children eagerly scoured the grounds for plastic eggs of three different colours, which they then traded for a bag of delicious chocolate eggs. Younger children hunted for eggs in the Garden of Light and were similarly rewarded. Fr Colin also added to their Easter joy by distributing chocolates after Mass.

Meanwhile, families gathered in the canteen for Easter ‘Bunday’. Traditional hot cross buns were offered alongside chicken and curry chicken buns. Children, clutching bags



of chocolate eggs, were delighted to be treated to popcorn, balloon sculptures and tattoo stickers, and games and musical entertainment.

AMANDA CHAN-GOH

Bunday Breakfast

✿Parish Priest Fr Colin suggested that we hold a parish family celebration at the canteen on Easter morning. The canteen team then worked around the theme, “Easter Bunday” with a variety of buns on the menu for Easter breakfast.

Parishioners rose to the occasion by contributing Hot Cross Buns, Hamburger Buns, Sausage Buns, Kong Bak Buns, Chicken Buns, Curry Chicken Buns. Fr Jerome’s contribution was Pulled Pork Buns.

In the kitchen, some parishioners literally rolled up their sleeves to wash cups, bowls and cutlery. At one point, Fr Colin joined in! Indeed, it was a community effort!

Children who came bearing prizes from their Easter egg hunt were treated to popcorn and balloon angel wings. It was a great joy to see the whole parish family coming together to celebrate our Lord’s resurrection.

Happy Easter, everyone!



THE CANTEEN TEAM



PHOTOS: ALEX EE

The Liturgical Avenue on Easter Day

During the Easter Vigil, the Sacraments are celebrated, along the Liturgical Avenue. This is a unique design in our church especially for these Easter rituals. The Liturgical Avenue is demarcated by the greenish-grey tile that begins at the Place of Reconciliation, through the Place of Baptism and to the Sanctuary where we find the Table of the Bread of Life, the Ambo, Presider's Chair and the Tabernacle.

The Liturgical Avenue provides the place for the elect and their godparents to take their places during the singing of the Litany of Saints for the Blessing of the Water, the Profession of Faith and the Baptism itself. It gives the

opportunity for godparents to come forward in front of the congregation for the Presentation of a Lighted Candle to their 'godchild', giving way for each person present to hold a lighted candle for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Place of Eucharistic Celebration and Place of Proclamation

Place of Proclamation and Place of Eucharistic Celebration are closely linked in liturgy. In fact, the Second Vatican Council recalled, "The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are so closely joined together that they form a single act of worship."

Place of Eucharistic Reservation

The tabernacle is the "tent" in which God dwells among us. The altar and tabernacle are distinct, a fact emphasized by the distance between them. The altar top is where you celebrate the Eucharist, the tabernacle where you reserve it. You only reserve after you have consecrated. However, a link is established through the use of the same material for the altar top and the base where the tabernacle sits.

Place of Baptism

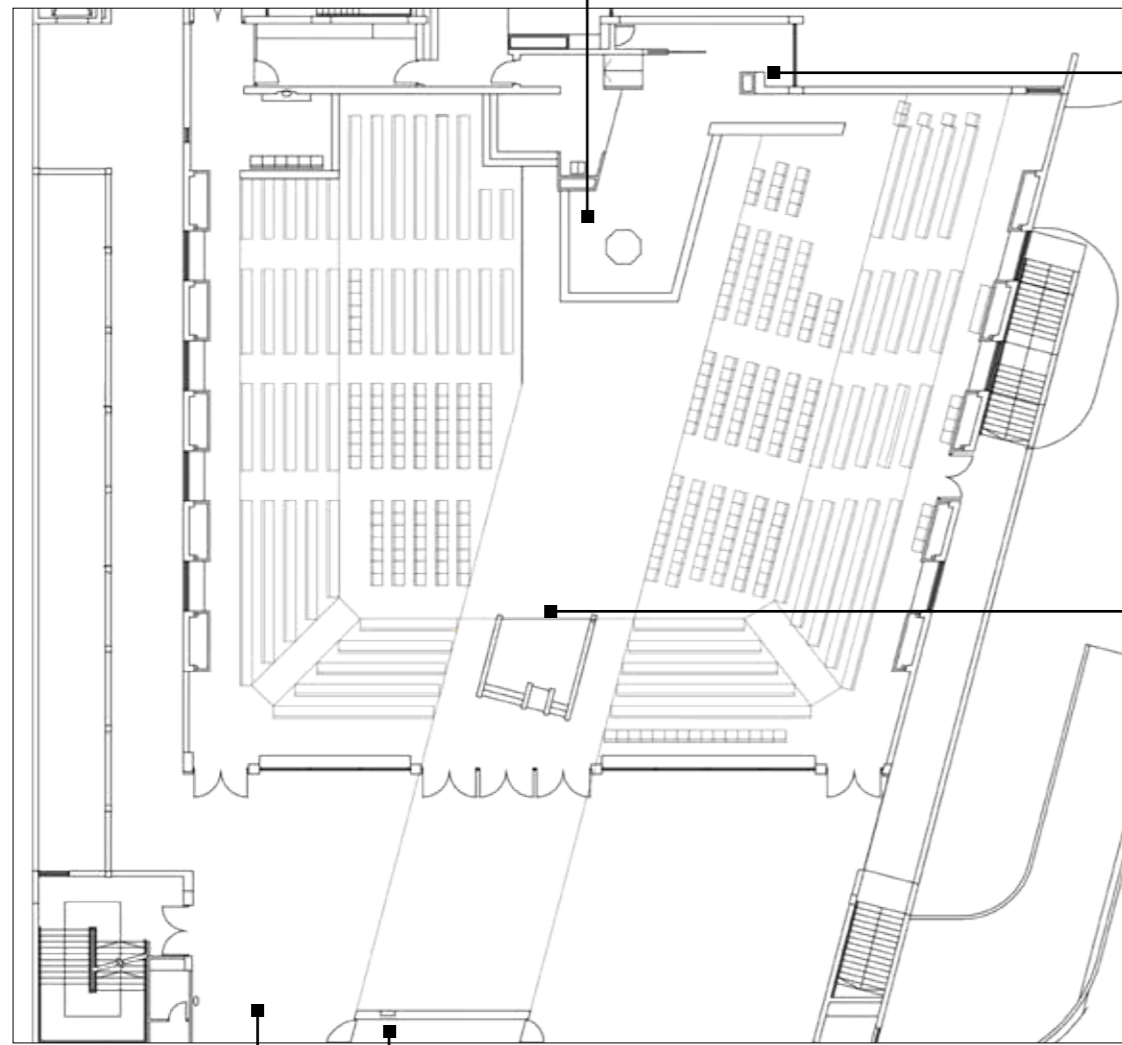
Entering the sacred space of our Lord, we encounter an outpouring of God's love as we dip fingers into the overflowing waters of the baptismal font. Reminded of our rebirth through baptism and cleansed in His love, we may now approach the altar table. The relationship between the font and the altar table marks a path of initiation along the liturgical avenue. The Place of Light establishes the position of the Paschal Candle, symbol of the risen Christ, appropriately next to the baptismal area.

Place of Gathering

Liturgy begins with a gathering. St Ignatius the pilgrim beckons one and all to the sanctuary. He stands with the congregation, a saint among many. It is fitting that our patron saint should be the one who gathers all together and be the first to welcome you to the church. His hand gestures an invitation that echoes the words of liturgical composer Marty Haugen: "All are welcome in this place."

Place of Reconciliation

We approach the table of the Lord by way of reconciliation. The oils displayed in the glass niche represent healing (oil of the catechumens, the holy chrism, oil of anointing). Distanced from God by sin, we find peace in repentance and absolution before we partake in the feast of life. This step of reconciliation begins our journey as we approach the liturgical avenue, so marked by a change in floor texture which extends from the inside of the church out into the gathering space to draw you in.



PHOTOS: KENNETH LEE AND TERANCE TAN

RCIA 2018 Sharing in a New Creation

Last Saturday evening the parish celebrated Easter Vigil. Although the liturgy lasted almost four hours, it did not feel long at all, for we joyfully celebrated the Risen Christ and our share in his victorious cross, and also witnessed the baptism, reception and confirmation of more than sixty people who have been journeying in the RCIA/RCIY for the good part of the year. Holy Saturday was indeed a long day for the elects (those seeking baptism), candidates (Christians to be received into the Catholic Church), and confirmands. They were requested to be in church by seven o'clock for morning prayers, and to participate in the Ephphatha and Creed recitation rites, which were then followed by an hour of personal reflection. Later in the evening, they had to return to the parish for the Vigil that lasted until a quarter to midnight. Despite the long gruelling schedule, I did not notice any sign of fatigue in our elects, candidates and confirmands throughout the day. In fact, from the beginning of the day until even after the Easter Vigil celebration, they exuded a great sense of energy. Their boisterous cheerfulness reminded me of what St Paul has written: "From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one

great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free" (Rom 8:22-23). The elects and candidates have spent the past eight months gradually immersing themselves into the mystery of the faith. The RCIA/RCIY is not simply a catechetical program, but a journey of faith, in which the elects and candidates slowly opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit, while they waited with great anticipation of the day they would receive the sacraments and embrace new life in the Catholic Church. How, then, could they contain their excitement when that day arrives? How could they not be boisterous when they are being liberated by the Lord?

Their feelings of overwhelming joy were contagious. Whenever the water of baptism drenched one of the elects that evening, the congregation broke out in loud cheers and thunderous applause, welcoming a "new creation". Indeed, the Church teaches that in baptism, one is "buried in Christ's death, and rises in Christ's resurrection as a 'new creature'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1214). Witnessing the initiation rites also reminds all of us of our own life in the Lord through baptism, and how God has repeatedly "creating us anew"

Our next RCIA/RCIY journey begins in July/August 2018. Registration starts in mid April. Please contact the parish office for more information.

in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Lord has also "created us anew" in a different sense. Just as the God had freed the children of Abraham from Egypt and formed them into the people of Israel, God has also liberated us and created us as a "new people." The addition of our newly baptized and received brothers and sisters into our family of God has not only helped us increase in numbers, but their dedication in seeking the Lord, has also inspired us and reinvigorated our faith. We have been invited to share in a "new creation" of God, and we are part of that "new creation." Thus, we didn't cheer only for the newly baptized and received, but also for ourselves, expressing our gratitude to God's love and graces in renewing us individually and as a community of faith.

The RCIA/RCIY is not a merely another ministry among others. Although there are facilitators and sponsors dedicated to the RCIA/RCIY journey, the Church reminds us that the "entire parish community" should help in the initiation process (RCIA #9). There are many ways to assist the RCIA/RCIY - by offering spiritual support through prayers, by becoming sponsors and facilitators, by showing the enquirers and catechumens hospitality, and perhaps most importantly, by introducing those seeking the Lord to the RCIA/RCIY.



A sharing of Easter joy by the newly baptised and the newly received into our Catholic family

✿ Coming from a family of freethinkers and agnostics, I was only introduced to Christianity when I studied at Methodist Girls School. When I met my boyfriend, I attended Sunday Mass with him, and what started as skepticism in Catholic rituals and tradition evolved into love as I understood the symbolism and deeper meaning. I also began to see how much God loves me and how much he has blessed me with. And I knew that one day I would be baptized into the Catholic Church.

I procrastinated for the longest time, giving myself the excuse that I was busy with work or school, but when a HPM facilitator at CSC said, "What are you waiting for? If you love God, you need to claim your Faith now." That night, I asked my boyfriend's cousin recommend where I should attend RCIA and she said St Ignatius.



I feel like I am able to be a lot closer to God, through prayer and through understanding His word, His commandments and the way Christ led his human life. It has been days since I've been baptized, but I have not stopped feeling an overflowing of love and content in my heart. Easter Vigil is the most meaningful and memorable night of my life, being able to claim and profess my Faith in front of friends, family and the Church.

My family, boyfriend, friends, dogs, studies, business -- these are my joys and also my struggles. God is at the center of everything because I know that everything has been given to me by God's Grace. And through every struggle, I know that I can look to Him to listen and to comfort, even if I don't get any answers, it's nice knowing that someone is loving you through even the

✿ All my life I had been seeking God, but I did not know how to find Him. I tried to discover God through knowledge, but the more I learned, the further away I felt. After I joined the RCIA program, I learned from Archbishop William that I needed to believe in God first and then I will understand. So I opened my heart completely to God and I experienced His love for the first time. I have finally found God.

KENNETH MATTHEW IP

worst times. As the first Catholic in my immediate and extended family, I feel a heavy responsibility to lead a model Catholic life, to be a walking testament of the Faith. I experience God every single day as I am able to find Him in every area of my life. Admittedly,

I experience him more so in the good times than bad, even though I ask for more in the bad. He always shows me the goodness He is willing to bless us with, and how he will grant the desires of our hearts as long as we stay faithful and true to Him in our actions, words and prayers. RCIA has taught me how to understand His word, how to stay faithful to our Lord, and how to be a good disciple. I will always be grateful for the past 8 months of my life. It is not the end, but the beginning.

YU HUIMIN

✿ I met a few authentic Catholic friends who persistently followed and believed Jesus Christ. Their testimony and presence in my life inspired me to step into the Catholic faith. The Holy Spirit continued to call me through the singing of songs. Our Lord Jesus Christ's mercy is more needed than ever before in my life. I felt an unspoken transcendental connection when in communion in prayer and contemplation with Mother Mary and praying for the intercessions of the saints.

**CHEN YONG LIANG
EZRA**

✿ I was invited by my Aunt and Uncle to witness their baptism at St Ignatius at Easter Vigil 2016. All the common misconceptions such as the idolatry of the Blessed Virgin came to mind. Hence, rather unwillingly, I went out of respect and love for them as they seemed genuinely excited and desperately wanted me to come and see for myself. Sure enough, I went on to experience Easter Vigil as my first mass, and loved it from the get-go. I appreciated how it was more reverent and serious about God, and how the Catholic faith also touched more on repentance. I joined the next RCIA batch! The RCIA/Y journey has been a truly transformative experience. I've made so many friends that constantly challenge me to be a better version of myself and have shown me examples of how to be both God-fearing and God-loving. The journey ignited what was already a spark inside me and drew me closer to God throughout the 8 months. I am thankful to my Aunt and Uncle for introducing me to the Catholic faith. My life has become so much more meaningful as the faith has taught me to treasure myself as I am, a child of God! This is a stark contrast to before, when I looked at myself as an abject failure. I experienced God at the very start of the



✿ I began this RCIA journey with a prayer, "In Your Will I surrender." I had wandered too long in rebellion and exile, 25 years of denying God, of choosing my own intellect instead of His Wisdom, of choosing pride instead of a heart of contrition. It was indeed time to come home to the house of the Lord. And like the prodigal child, I finally realised what God meant in Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by name, you are mine." That call from God happened when I wandered into a Catholic church next to my primary school and I remembered feeling right at home even though I had no knowledge of Jesus or even Christianity. Yet, that same memory came to me just when I was thinking about baptism and praying about it. Around the same time, I



✿ I was deeply touched by the Easter Vigil Mass, and feel truly blessed to have journeyed with a group of wonderful and inspiring people. Heartfelt thanks to Fr Jerome and all the RCIA team. May the Grace of these most special moments continue to carry us in our new Christian life.

DAVID CHETRET

RCIA journey. July/August was the toughest time that I had ever gone through in my life as I was defeated by so many challenges that I just gave up on JCI. I believe it was at my lowest and most vulnerable that God called me to Him. And that realisation is the biggest joy that anyone could ever have. I can't express how thankful I am to the RCIA team and Fr Jerome for journeying with us and always being there to guide and direct us in our spiritual growth. To God be the glory!

JARETH LEE



received the best gift of God's love from another child of God (Grace, my sponsor and godparent): an invitation to the RCIA journey at St Ignatius. This journey is a choice I made in response to God's call, in my surrender to God, I chose the heart of flesh, I chose Love, I chose Jesus.

CLAIRE JOYCE LEE

✿ I was first introduced to the RCIA by a fellow parishioner who enjoyed the programme here tremendously. It turned out to be a right decision. I wanted to take a step further to learn about the faith, and was encouraged by the school's Catholic Students Society (CSS) friends to do so. I was journeying with CSS for a year before attending the RCIA programme. My sponsor, Charlene was from CSS as well. The journey has been a beautiful one as we saw our friendship develop and how we were able to support each other, to remind each other to attend weekly RCIA sessions. We would share how our lives are touched by God and how it has shaped how we deal with struggles and stresses of life -- school, work, illnesses and death. The Word has answers for everything, and we are touched by how God personalises the message and approach for each of us. All we need to do is to be still and lift our troubles to God and be thankful for how things pan out. In God's time, all will be good.

AGNES LO





PHOTO: PETER KAY

My Journey with Jesus

I left Singapore with a touch of sadness at the end of January this year to return to boarding school in Brisbane. Although I had adjusted in the past year, it was difficult settling into the strict routine again and the start of another school year. It was the peak of summer. The blistering heat of the day lingered in the night, making it difficult to sleep. At night, fears of the coming year magnified, as thoughts would race through my head. Maybe I was homesick – I missed family and all the comforts of home. As the days passed, with the help of my friends, I began to settle in again.

School began to pick up pace. Before long, it was Lent. Being a Marist School, a usual great emphasis was placed on the various Lenten fundraising activities, which all students and staff were urged to participate in. These activities ranged from Lenten Fun Days to College Musicals, where even parents came! All the money collected was in aid of Marist Solidarity, an international organisation supporting the education of underprivileged children. The excitement of the Lenten activities created an atmosphere of constant awareness of those who were less fortunate, and the gentle urge to reach out, as Jesus had done for us.

Although schoolwork was heavier this year, the companionship of the boarders in my dorm grew stronger. I guess we were getting to know each other on a deeper level. Perhaps we were all somehow feeling that sense of longing. In a way, it was like journeying together as a close knit community, looking forward to our next school break. I have come to understand a little more about the story of the Israelites, of their struggles in the desert, where days turned to years. As a community, however, they became closer and slowly came to know their God.

Well, the holidays had finally arrived. I touched down in Singapore on early morning on Good Friday. My mother surprised me with news that we would be participating in the family Stations of the Cross. I was somewhat curious and excited. The station allocated for our family was the 12th Station, where Jesus died on the cross. Doing the prayer, all at once, I could see my own journey, and Jesus walking with me. That day brought yet another surprise when I learnt that my brother, Shawn, would be singing the Responsorial Psalm at the Easter morning Children's Mass.

I will not forget Easter morning: the beautiful jubilant Mass, the vibrant children, the renewal of the baptismal vows, the sprinkling of Holy Water with the hymn "Streams of Living Water" playing melodiously in the background. The hymn filled me with a sense of calmness. From the searing heat of early Lent, to refreshing waters, to soothing music, I had a glimpse of what Easter means. Yes, He is Risen. The words of Fr. Colin's Easter homily, "All fear is gone!" resonated true in me. There is new life ahead.

LEON SIMONETTI

PARISH NEWS

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN
Sing hymns, offer Rosary and intercessory prayers, and spend an intimate hour with Our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Friday 20 April, 7.45-9pm at main Church.

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

BE PART OF OUR PARISH FAMILY
The 12 NCC and SCC groups within our parish allow for parishioners to support each other in faith and fellowship. If you wish to be part of any of these communities of faith, contact the church office or Bernard at bernard@attitudeDS.com or 9450 7077. You can also leave your contact at the Help Desk at the Place of Gathering. All, whether young or old, are welcome.

INFANT BAPTISMS SATURDAY 12 MAY, 3.00PM.
Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday, 6 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).

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY
Join us in a Eucharistic celebration with celebrant Fr Tom Curran OCD. We continue to give thanks and rejoice in the resurrection of our Christ! All are welcome this Wednesday April 11, at St Ignatius Hall. Start with Praise & Worship at 7.30pm, Mass at 7.50pm, followed by fellowship dinner, 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

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 NOTE OF THANKS!

Fr Colin, SJ together with Fr Jerome Leon, SJ and Fr Matthew, SJ thank the Jesuit Community, RCIA team, Liturgy Committee, all ministries, groups, volunteers and church staff, Kumar and Suresh for their invaluable help and support in the Sacred Triduum.
We are very thankful for all that you do in our parish, and of the generous gifts of talent, time, ideas and especially and especially prayers.

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 are welcome. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ydbc9mlv> or the QR code here.



RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD
Wilton Ong Wei Tang – 61 years old
Date of death: 31 March 2018

Alphonsus Loh Kum Fook – 85 years old
Date of death: 3 April 2018

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 A DISTRICT 3
Wednesday 18 April, 7.30pm, 58 Swiss View, #01-03, S288061
Programme: Mass celebration cum potluck dinner

ZONE B DISTRICT 3
Thursday 19 April, #01-04
Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing - Daily Word of God
2) History of Christianity

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>

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 Leslie Raj, 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

"AWAKEN" RETREAT

"I have come to give Life, Life in all its fullness." John 10:10.

Calling young adults (18 to 25 years), come experience the unconditional love of God at Awaken, 14-17 June. More details at <http://www.csctr.net/awaken>

PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2018

Module 3 'Christian Morality'
By Rev Fr David Garcia, OP.

The Personal Moral Compass Course is for all Catholics and all people of goodwill interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is a year-long systematic course in Moral Theology consisting of 6 individual modules. This course is organized under Caritas Singapore.

Module 3 - "Christian Morality" starts from 19 April over 6 sessions.

Every Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, in Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh. For more information and registration, go to www.caritas-singapore.org or email formation@caritas-singapore.org

PIMBY KAMPONG BAHRU is back!

CANA invites you to spend an afternoon listening to stories of the faith and fortitude of our forefathers from Kampong Bahru. Walk through St Teresa's Church with stories that will haunt and inspire, and deepen appreciation of our faith – stories of this beacon on top the hill that was Light for all who sought solace. We will also visit the Carmelite Monastery. Sunday 22 April, 2pm - 5.30 pm. Meet at canteen of St Teresa's Church. Registration: email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com or call 63384080

HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT: A WEEKEND RETREAT

This retreat helps you to grow in the conviction of God's love. Examine images of self and God, and become more aware of any obstacles to God's love, so that you can free yourself to fall in love with God. Presented by spiritual directors at Montfort Centre. 20 - 22 April. Contribution: \$300. Registration: anthony@montfortcentre.org or 96311943. Close by 13 April.

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