



The Parish Priest Writes...

The **true “Peace” of Christ** at Christmas is for everyone regardless of our rank, race and religion. This true “Peace” slipped into our world in the **silence** of a starry night. In the piercing cold of a simple **stable** at Bethlehem, the Child Jesus, the “Prince of Peace,” the **Saviour** of all peoples was born to us 2,000 years ago.

Today, the skies of our world are sadly ripped by rockets and bombs that threaten to destroy everything that exist – human beings and God’s created beauty in the world. Yet, this “Peace” that the Child Jesus wants to bring to us 2,000 years ago is not in vain . . . He paid the price with His Life on the Cross . . . We are each called to **be Christ’s bearers of “Peace” to all** . . . “How should this **change my life?**”

As a Parish community, our Christmas programme tries to provide us with **opportunities** of becoming bearers of the “Peace” of the Child Jesus. After being reconciled with God in our Penitential Service, we deepen the mystery of the Child Jesus’ coming through our Triduum contemplation-prayer. **Renewed and rooted in the Lord**, we share our deep joy of the true “Peace” of the Child Jesus, with all peoples – our brothers and sisters in Christ in our families, the migrant workers, our aged-sick and poor, and also our Muslim, Buddhist friends of other beliefs. This is **celebrating Christmas with a difference!**

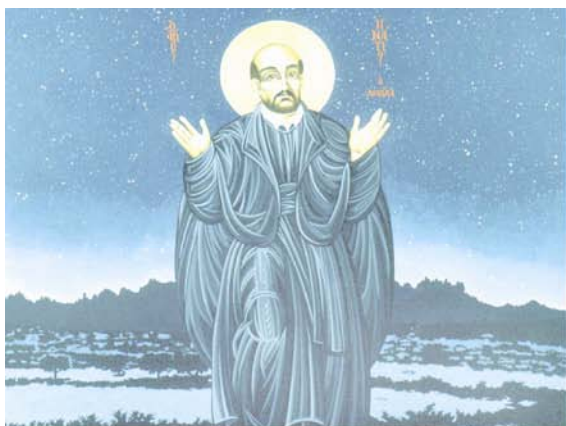
Fr Philip Heng S.J.

4th Sunday of Advent Reflection by Fr. Gerry Keane, SJ

Were I a Parish Priest, a position which I have been providentially spared for the good of the church, I would invite a woman to deliver the homily at my Mass today. Why? Because, while I might make a reasonable job of the religious significance of today’s gospel, I would come nowhere near portraying the human drama generated by two expectant mothers. Mere males are utter strangers to this morning’s drama.

Small wonder Mary took off from the ever-bewildered Joseph to share her expectancy with another woman – a cousin who had defied the sterility of age. What did Elizabeth and Mary speak about? The former’s ecstasy at having tested the laws of nature and thrown off the curse, as was then thought, of her sterility? The joy of an unborn stirring inside her? The fulfilment of every woman finally achieved? Mary’s joy was the realization of what was done for her. “He that is mighty has done great things for me.” A mere fifteen-year-old mothering the child of a Father who created oceans, mountains, the skies, the animals, man and everything our planet has to offer, must surely lie well beyond the mind of the mortal.

Perhaps it is the rich relationship of the two cousins that we should look to. Do we find in each other the exciting evidence of God’s presence, whether in the mystery of human life or the presence of the divine? I know if I could I would cease to bemoan the fact that I was no Elizabeth of Mary.



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|-------------------------|---|---|
| Parish Priest | : | Fr. Philip Heng, SJ (ext. 12) |
| Assistant Parish Priest | : | Fr. James Tan, SJ (ext. 18) |
| Secretary | : | Ms. Rosalind Lee (ext. 10)
<i>(Mon – Sat; 9:00AM – 1PM)</i> |
| Administrator | : | Mr. Chester Sahetapy (ext. 15) * |
| Pastoral Coordinator | : | Ms. Ellen Tan (ext. 14) |
| Youth Coordinator | : | Ms. Audrey Seah (ext. 19) |

* Mon – Thurs 9:30AM-5:30PM • Fri 12:00-8:00PM • Sat 8:00AM-12noon



Parish News

The Divine Mercy Prayer Ministry would like to thank everyone who contributed and supported their recent Advent Sale which raised \$3,002.00 for the poor and needy.

Last Sunday's Christmas sale for the poor in Kenya, Africa raised \$12,307.65. Thank you very much for your generous support.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL AND PRAYER GROUP

No prayer meet this Wednesday 23 and 30 December. Instead, members are encouraged to attend our Parish Christmas programme (see programme distributed in Church).

WEEKEND CATECHISM

- *Our Primary One classes* for 2010 are already full. Any further enquiries will be waitlisted and subject to review in 2010. Email Emily at gechiu@singnet.com
- *Catechetical Sunday* will be celebrated on *Saturday 9 January* with a meeting cum training from *2.30 pm* followed by *6 pm* Mass. All weekend catechists/assistants are requested to be present.
- *All Weekend Catechism Classes* will only begin on the weekend of 16/17 January. Primary 1 to 4 classes will be at Maris Stella Kindergarten premises while Primary 5 to 6 and Secondary levels will be at St Ignatius. Please look out for updates and instructions in this bulletin.
- *Sec 3 Confirmation 2010* - We request all parents of our current Sec 2 youth proceeding into the Confirmation class to re-register your youth at a meeting on *Sunday 10 January at 4 pm* in La Storta room. This re-registration is compulsory.

What's on this week?

Special Reminders for Christmas: Triduum 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm – 20th, 21st and 22nd

Three days of Gospel Contemplation to prepare for Christmas. Do take this opportunity to deepen the meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Mass for Elderly, Sick of your family

Wednesday 23rd at 8.00 pm

Please do bring your parents and to join in the Christmas Mass with special blessings and healing prayers. The St Joseph Home's aged will present the Christmas pageant (with volunteers).

AT THE PLACE OF GATHERING

Parish Christmas Programme fliers are available. Please take one for your family.

Our Parish Social Mission Activities and Programme

– Our Church needs to serve the poor and we need your generous help. Please take home a copy and register soon.

Archdiocesan News

5 GOLDEN RINGS

on *Saturday 2 January, 3 pm and 8 pm*
Venue: The Attic, Church of the Holy Spirit (248 Upper Thomson Road).

Walk on Water Productions presents this Christmas comedy to usher in the year 2010.

For ticketing (love offering for the tickets), please email wow@calmtheseas.com to reserve your seats or call Jillian at 9474-3964.

Jesuit News

CENTRE FOR IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AND COUNSELLING 2010 PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY TO JUNE

This is available at the parish office, Place of Gathering, CISC office (Kingsmead Hall behind Church of St Ignatius) or at their website: www.catholic.org.sg/cisc

MANAGING NEGATIVE EMOTIONS

Mondays, 11, 18, 25 January, 1 February, 7.30 to 10.00 pm

4-session course examining how Jesus managed problematic emotions by turning to His Father. It will help those Christians with anger, depression, fear and anxiety to manage their emotions effectively with Faith. Course Director: Dr. Amy Daniel (Ph.D. in pastoral theology and registered counsellor)

Contribution: \$80 (4 sessions) ; Closing date: 2 January

Registration: Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Counselling - tel: 6467-6072; fax: 6468-7584; email: cisc2664@gmail.com or website: <http://www.catholic.org.sg/cisc>



Weekly Prayers & Devotions

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesdays, 2.30 pm at
St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead Hall)

Gentle Light

Tuesdays, 10 am – 12 noon at
St Francis Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead Hall)
Thursdays, 10 am – 12 noon at
Loyola Room (Attic Level, Church)

Charismatic Renewal & Prayer Group Meetings

Wednesdays, 8 pm at St Ignatius Hall

Christian Meditation

Fridays, 2.30 pm at St Francis Xavier
Chapel (Kingsmead Hall)

Divine Mercy Devotion

Fridays, 6.30 pm in Church after the 6
pm Mass

Daily Rosary in Church

After 7am Mass
5.25 pm - 5.45 pm before 6 pm Mass

Sunday Masses Sat : 6pm
Sun: 7am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12noon
& 6pm

Weekday Masses Mon - Fri: 7am & 6pm; Sat: 7am

Confessions Every Friday and Saturday at 5.40pm
Every Sunday Mass - 20mins before
Mass begin

Infant Baptisms On the 2nd Sunday of each month
at 4pm. Registration forms from the
Church office

Weddings Couples must make yourselves
known to the priest 6 months ahead
before booking the church

Church Office At the Attic, 3rd floor (*at the back of
the church building*)

**Entrance via,
8 Victoria Park
Road** Kingsmead Hall (*Priests' Residence*),
St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall,
Jesuit Novitiate,
Centre for Ignatian Spirituality &
Counselling

**Columbarium
Opening Hours** Monday to Sunday: 7 am – 7 pm;
Public Holiday: Closed

**Inigo Bookstore
King's Rd
Entrance** Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 1.30pm
Sat: 8:30am-9:30am; 4pm-6pm
Sun: 8:30am-1:30pm; 5.30-6pm;
7-7:20pm



PARISH GOAL

*"Finding God in Myself,
Others and All Situations for
God's Greater Glory"*

Living the Goal through
Ignatian Spirituality –
4 Dimensions:

1. Personal:

Developing a Personal
Relationship with the Lord
through a meaningful
Prayer Life.

2. A Vocation – God's Call to Holiness:

Growing in God's gift of
the lay, priesthood and
religious vocation.

3. Communitarian (7 "larger families"):

Building and bonding as a
community that is Christ-
centered and Christ-like. We
do this by participating in our
Parish activities actively,
especially in the celebration
of the Eucharist and by
building greater harmony
with one another and with
our Christian friends and
those of other beliefs.

4. Social Mission:

Committing ourselves to
the justice and care of
the poor and needy of
our society, and the
world around us.

Main Structure of Parish

The Parish Priest, Assisting
Priests, Jesuits and Staff
serve the needs of the
Parish through close
collaboration with all PPC
and all Church members.
Every person in the Parish
strives to live out the Goal
of the Parish in and
through their particular
vocation, together with
the Parish Priest, who is
primarily responsible to
the Archbishop of
Singapore and his
Jesuit Religious Superiors.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

20 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent
21 Mon	Memorial of St Peter Canisus, S.J.
22 Tue	4th Week of Advent
23 Wed	Memorial of St John of Kanty
24 Thu	Vigil of Christmas
25 Fri	Christmas Day
26 Sat	Feast of St Stephen, Protomartyr
27 Sun	Feast of the Holy Family
28 Mon	Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs
29 Tue	Fifth Day within Octave of Christmas
30 Wed	Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas
31 Thu	Seventh Day within Octave of Christmas

2010 January

1 Fri	Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
2 Sat	Memorial Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
3 Sun	Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord

Jesuit Community at Kingsmead Hall Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerard Keane, SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng, SJ, Fr Leslie Raj, SJ, Sch Gregory Tan, SJ
Fr Paul Goh, SJ **Tel: 6464 9866** Fr Anthony Ponnudurai, SJ **Tel: 6464 9652** Fr Colin Tan, SJ **Tel: 6469 7356**,
Loyola Novitiate **Tel: 6467 2790** Ignatian Spirituality Centre **Tel: 6467 6072**
Jesuit Refugee Service **Tel: 6463 6022**



church of
st. IGNATIUS
SINGAPORE





*The Jesuit Community
in Kingsmead Hall
and
Novitiate
would like
to wish
all our
Parishioners*

*A very Blessed
Christmas
and
a grace-filled
New Year
2010!*



Jesus the Light



Reflect on the different
artistic elements
of the crib





Celebrating Christmas in our Parish – with a Difference!

1. **Filipino migrant workers** labour selflessly in foreign countries to support their loved ones at home. A special **Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass** (Dec 18th) and Christmas Mass-gathering (Dec 27) for them is our Parish way of affirming them. They are rightly and truly our sisters and brothers of our Parish community.



Filipino migrant workers – loved by God

2. **A Triduum** – i.e. The three-day series of Prayers and Guided Contemplation on the Gospel Scenes is to help our Parish community to **grow spiritually**. We hope that God will **transform** our hearts, homes, parish and world with the true Peace of the Christ-Child at Christmas.



Opening our hearts to God in prayer

3. **The aged and sick** e.g. our parents, those house-bound or those who reside in hospice etc. should not be forgotten. A **special Christmas pageant** presented by the **aged** themselves (St Joseph's Home – on Dec 23rd) helps affirm that they can still contribute to our Christmas joy; this affirms their dignity too. A Mass with special prayers for **God's healing graces** to come upon them is our Parish way of saying to them, "mom, dad, uncle, aunty . . ." our Parish community has **not forgotten you** and we **love you too**.



The aged and sick – are precious in God's eyes



Unity in diversity of religious beliefs

4. Other than our traditional crowded festive Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, we will also gather **the aged parents and relatives** of our Parish, **the aged poor** of other beliefs for a **Christmas dinner and party** (Dec 26th). For this special celebration, we have also invited special guests of different faiths – our **Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Bahai** brothers and sisters to enrich our celebration and to share our Christmas joy of Christ's birth with them.