



## Christmas Message

Dear friends at St Mary's,

On behalf of the friars of the parish and the staff at St Mary's, I would like to wish each and every one the blessing of the Christ-child! Christmas has always been a magical moment in many societies around the world and many Christian families gather to spend time together and to attend Church as a family.

Here in Singapore and at St Mary of the Angels, we have also been spiritually preparing ourselves with the last weeks of Advent. We have had an Advent campaign to help us understand better the dignity of the human person, the inherent human dignity that comes with being created in the image of God and how we should together overcome the scourge of human exploitation at all levels.

Materially, we have also embarked on repairing, maintaining and polishing up our timberworks in the church to keep this church a fitting place to worship God.

Christmas has been the one Christian celebration that in more recent times have reached out to the world and permeated its secular sense of celebrations. Although not much mention is made of the reason for this yearend celebration, I suspect the human spirit senses that this season is something special to humanity.

The spirit of generosity that is evident and of course often exploited by crass commercialization, nevertheless, offers a moment of respite from our need for domination, of being ahead in everything, and the relentless adrenalin that feeds the competitive culture in homes, schools, offices and yes, even among friends.

At Christmas, we celebrate in an almost unbelievable simplicity, the great generosity of God. In the poor and humble setting of the Christmas Crib, we are invited to pierce the mystery of this humble God. If not for divine generosity, how else can we explain such disarming paucity?

Yes, it does seem strange and out of place for us to be so well dressed to celebrate the birth of our Christ-child who was born in poverty!

However, it is fitting that we should be dressed for a celebration, for the reason which gave us Christmas Day. It is important for us though not to forget the reason for our celebration.

Dear People of God, as we look ahead to 2012, we also recall the generosity of God in our own days. 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the Ecumenical Council of Vatican II. It was a tremendous moment in the life of the Catholic Church when in 1962, the Pope together with Cardinals and Bishops the world over, assembled at the Vatican to chart a way forward for this ancient church. Many recalled that that was the springtime of hopes and visions.

Fifty years later, we have not lost sight of the hopes and visions of this great council. The Popes that were given to the Church in the years following this great Council were prophets and visionaries that implemented faithfully the hopes, dreams and changes that have brought the Catholic Church to where it is today.

With Christmas, we continue to acknowledge the same generosity of God with which Jesus came among us. Today, we continue to celebrate the humble and simple presence of God among us. Sometimes, we have also, like people of old, failed to recognise Jesus among us, hidden in the simplicity of his presence.

May this Christmas invite us to go back to basics; to the basics of human relationships, minus the manoeuvrings and the guessing of ulterior motives.

May we accord to each and every one, the same generosity of a simple friendship.

May the Christ-child of Bethlehem invite us to also view and accept God in his simple gesture of Love for all of humanity.

## CONTACT US

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## AT A GLANCE

**MONDAY 26 DEC**

ST STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR, feast

**TUESDAY 27 DEC**

ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST, feast

**WEDNESDAY 28 DEC**

HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS, feast

**THURSDAY 29 DEC**

FIFTH DAY WITHIN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS, St Thomas Becket

**FRIDAY 30 DEC**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, feast

**SATURDAY 31 DEC**

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS, St Silvester 1, pope

**SUNDAY 01 JAN**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Parish Event

Special Notice

Liturgy Related

Outward Bound



**INFANT BAPTISM:**  
**Sun 1 Jan | 3pm**

**Preparation Course:**

Fri 30 Dec | 8pm | Main Church

**Baptism Application Form:**

Available from Parish Office, church racks or website. Submit completed form with a copy of child's Birth Certificate to Parish Office **1 week** before Baptism date.



**EUCHARIST**

Sat: 6.55am (Morning Mass)  
Sat: 5.30pm (Sunset Mass)  
Sun: 7.30am (Mandarin), 9am, 10.45am, 12.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm  
3rd Sun: 3.30pm (Indonesian)  
Weekday: 6.55am (with Morning Prayer) & 6.30pm



**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**R1** Num 6: 22-27  
**R2** Gal 4: 4-7  
**G** Lk 2: 16-21



**NOVENA**

To Our Lady: Sat, 5pm  
To St Anthony: Tue, after 6.30pm Mass



**ROSARY DEVOTION**

Mon-Sat, after Morning Masses  
Family Rosary: Every Sat, 4.30pm



**RECONCILIATION**

20 mins before Sunday Masses, or by personal appointment with priest



## CHURCH OF ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

5 Bukit Batok East Ave 2, Singapore 659918 | info@stmary.sg | www.stmary.sg

**Parish Office**

Tel: 6567 3866 | Fax: 6562 1824

**Columbarium Office**

Tel: 6560 6361

## GOD'S TIME

In God's own good time, not ours, the promise of salvation is fulfilled. Abraham and Sarah were promised a land and as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. Finally they received a son, Issac, and his aged mother laughed at the very idea of him. They all lived out their lives in expectant faith that the Lord's promise would be kept.

Joseph, Mary, Simeon and Anna saw the infant Jesus who, despite all obstacles would be a light to enlighten the nations and the glory of the people Israel. God still takes time to give us time to follow Jesus and to place faith in the Savior.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B. Illustration @ 2001 .S.Erspamer. Text, Philip J. Sandstrom, STD @1996 OCP. All rights reserved.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### St Mary's 'App-y Christmas

A special gift for all SMOTA parishioners this Christmas as St Mary's presents its very own iPhone app on this joyous occasion.

Receive daily readings on your iPhone and keep up to date with the latest news of what is happening around the parish!

Download the app now <http://itunes.apple.com/sg/app/st.-mary/id489824416?mt=8>

Compatible with the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, the newly-launched app requires iOS 5 or later. Please send us your feedback and suggested improvements to

[viji@stmary.sg](mailto:viji@stmary.sg)

**Have yourself a 'App-y Christmas!**

See page 2 for more Highlights...

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Franciscans International Advent Project 2011

Kindly return FI envelopes on 24/25 Dec 2011. It would be a good time for offering your FI advent envelopes in support of the works of the Franciscans International in Asia.

We would like to thank you for participating in this Advent project and for your generous support!

## NCC SECRETARIAT

Stephen Wong, Pastoral Assistant | stephen@stmary.sg

### NCC MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

#### Mon 27 Dec – Sat 31 Dec

The following Neighbourhood Christian Community (NCC) will be having their meetings for the coming week:

#### Bukit Batok Area

Blk 267, Bt Batok East Ave 4 | Wed 28 Dec 10:15am  
Mystical Rose NCC | Monica ☎ 9328-6862

Parkview Apt Bt batok st 25 | Dec 26 8 pm

Mary Help of Christian NCC | Teofilo ☎ 9653 1828

#### Bukit Gombak Area

Bukit Gombak Area | Sat 31 Jan 7.30pm

St Anthony's Malayalam Cmty | Tom ☎ 8118-0902

#### Bukit Panjang Area

Blk 654, Senja Road | Thur 29 Dec 8:30pm

Bukit Batok NCC | Rey ☎ 9680-4761

#### Bukit Timah Area

Springdale Condominium | Tue 27 Dec 8pm

St John NCC | John ☎ 9185-3052

#### Choa Chu Kang Area

Blk 681 Choa Chu Kang Crescent | Thur 29 Dec 8:30pm

Yew Tee Branch NCC | Gani ☎ 9154-8405

Blk 683A Choa Chu Kang Cresent | Fri 30 Dec 8pm

Mary's Soldiers NCC | Gina ☎ 8265-7953

Please contact the respective NCC coordinators for more details.

### Parish NCCs Get-together

#### Sat 7 Jan | 9.30am - 1pm | Classroom 1 - 4

As we enter start another new year 2012, all NCC members are invited to come for a get-together for a time of reflection, sharing and visioning. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by 31 Dec 2011 appreciated for catering purpose.

For further enquiries, ☎ nccso@stmary.sg

## AROUND ST MARY'S

### Divine Mercy Prayer resume on Thur 5 Jan

### Wedding Choir (M-cubed) Recruitment

Calling all keyboardists, organists, psalmists and aspiring singers!

The celebration of marriage in the Catholic Church is one of the most profound and joyous occasion in a couple's journey together.

Join the wedding choir in being part of this symbolic union of

Christ and His Church as we lift our voices in celebration of Holy Matrimony. Auditions will be held in January 2012 and all who are interested can email Ethan at

☎ ethanjayhsu@gmail.com for more details.

### RCIY

Have any friends between the ages of 13 and 20 who are interested in our Catholic faith? Invite them to sign up for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Youth!

Weekly sessions (Saturdays) commence on 17 March 2012.

To register or enquire, please contact

Andrew ☎ 91004832 | ☎ andndrew@hotmail.com

### Patrician Meeting - an Open Forum by Our Lady Terror

#### Demons Praesidium

#### Sun 8 Jan | 2.30 - 4.30pm | Classroom 6,7

Theme : *Purgatory - is it only a Christian myth or real purification?*

For more information contact :

Cheryl ☎ cheryledinateo@gmail.com

Monica ☎ monicalau0101@gmail.com

### CPG

We are closed on 30th Dec 2011 for the festive season. And normal prayer meeting will resume on Fri 6 Jan 2012."

Wishing you and your team a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us for all your works and efforts in helping our prayer group.

## OUTSIDE THE PARISH

### Book of Prophet Jeremiah - by Msgr Eugene Vaz

#### 17 Tuesdays 3 Jan till 22 May

#### 9.30am - 11.30am (or) 7.45pm – 9.45pm

Contribution: \$95 (Early bird registration: \$90)

(Register with payment before 20th December to enjoy the 'early bird' discount)

For register : ☎ 68583011 | ☎ admin@catholicspi.org

### The Contemplative Dimension of Faith

#### Sat 7 Jan - Sun 8 Sun | CJC

The aim of this Seminar is to further deepen the spirit of friendship and collaboration among the different faiths in Singapore. Common Ground will focus on the contemplative practice of religion and how the shared experience of silence in meditation can enhance interreligious dialogue.

Led by Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB with contributions from other religious leaders.

On Sat 7 ( 8.30am - 5pm ) and Sun 8 January 2012

( 9am - 5pm ) at CJC Performing Arts Center, Whitley Road. Cost: \$50. Registration required.

For enquiries/registration:

☎ commonground2012@gmail.com

☎ 84113130 / 63364815

## MANDARIN CORNER 堂区通

### 2012年华文成人慕道班开始招生了。

开课日期是1-2-2012 (星期三) 晚上8点。

招募活动将从20-11-2011至 11-12-2011 共4周

日在教堂外广场, 设有招募摊位, 欢迎前往询问。

### 圣诞节弥撒时间

圣诞前夕——24/12/11 (星期六)

晚上8点——儿童映像

晚上8.30分——儿童弥撒

晚上11.15分——报佳音

晚上12点——午夜弥撒

### A Seminar on The Contemplative Dimension of Faith

-by Laurence Freeman OSB, Director, The World Community for Christian Meditation

DATE / TIME: Sat 7 Jan | 8.30 am – 5.00 pm

Sun 8 Jan | 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Followed by Eucharistic Celebration 5.30 pm

VENUE: Catholic Junior College, Whitley Road, Performing Arts Centre

CONTRIBUTION: \$50 / participant

For any enquiries: ☎ commonground2012@gmail.com

☎ 84113130 | 63364815

Organized by IRED/WCCM

### GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

Come, explore the Franciscan worldview on Love & the Primacy of Christ, Creation & the Humility of God and The Dignity of the Human Person with Sr Pat Smith, OSF and Sr Ann David, OSF from the United States.

#### Fri 17 Feb 2012 - 8-10pm

Lecture @ St Clare Hall, St Mary.

#### Sat 18 Feb 2012 – 8:30am - 4:30pm

Seminar Day 1 @ FMM House of Prayer.

#### Sun 19 Feb 2012 – 8:30am - 6pm.

Seminar Day 2 @ FMM House of Prayer.

Contribution : Fri Night \$20; Seminar \$100 (includes Friday night)

For registration and enquiries,

☎ franciscanfamily@gmail.com

圣诞节当天——25 / 12 / 11 (星期日)

华语弥撒——早上7.30分

英语弥撒——早上9点, 10.45分, 中午12.30分

注意: 下午5.30分和晚上7.15分没有举行弥撒

### 华文上主慈悲敬礼组

天使之后堂华文上主慈悲敬礼组将从12月20日开始暂停聚会,

我们将在2012年1月3日(星期二)继续回来聚集祈祷。