



**What do I want for Christmas and the New Year?
What present would make me really happy?**

After being in this world for 38 years, living as a Catholic for 21 years and serving in the parish for 2 years, I find that what is most important in life is peace in relationships.

What gives me most joy is to see relationships working well and all parties trying their utmost to maintain, if not improve, communications and to be honest with their feelings. And when the opposite happens... well... it can be quite heart-breaking for me.

Be it in our families, or among friends, or within our church communities, relationships have their ups and downs. We are all different and unique and sometimes our personalities or ideas just don't fit together nicely. And that's very challenging indeed.

The Christ child came amidst tensions between the Jews and their Roman conquerors; tensions between different Jewish sects; tensions between the rich and the poor. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace because he comes to reconcile. Reconcile man to God, reconcile between man and man, reconcile between man and creation. But peace and reconciliation is easier said than done. It takes hard work and heart-work; it takes commitment and prayer.

How can we begin this heart-work? I look to the Christ Child in the crib, born on Christmas Day (25 Dec), born within a family – the Holy Family (whose feast we celebrated on 30 Dec), born of a woman – Mary, Mother of God (whose feast we celebrate this weekend). This week is a week of feasts and commemorations. But the centre of these feasts is the Christ Child – innocent, humble and vulnerable.

Perhaps we are asked to be like the Christ Child - to be innocent and pure with no guile, no lies, no hidden agenda nor selfish intentions.

Perhaps we are asked to be humble – to put aside pride and arrogance, to put down our façade of superiority and righteousness, to be able to acknowledge that we have a part to play in the breakdown of communication, to be able to say sorry even though we think we are not the one at fault.

Perhaps we are asked to be vulnerable – to take risks in starting afresh with the possibility of failure and further hurts, to bare our souls in an attempt to be honest with one another, to acknowledge that sometimes we are not in control.

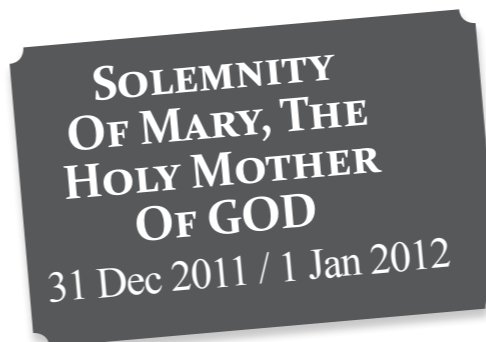
Mary was aware that she was not in control and pondered many things in her heart. But her faith in God assured that God is in control and she trusted in him completely, praising God every step of the way. Let us then entrust ourselves to God like Mary did, and following in the Christ Child's example, strive to build relationships through peace and reconciliation.

God's peace be always with you. That's the gift that would make all of us happy. Have a blessed 2012.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest Assistant Priest Assistant Priest Pastoral Minister	Friar John-Paul Tan , OFM jptan@stmary.sg Friar Derrick Yap , OFM johnderrick@stmary.sg Friar Joseph Lee , OFM joelee@stmary.sg Friar John Soh , OFM jsoh@stmary.sg	IT Officer Communications Executive Dir. Catechetical Office Dir. Youth&Young Adult Office NCC Secretariat Social Worker Columbarium Manager Sacristan Pastoral Assistant (Chinese)	Viji Suresh , B.E(IT), ITIL viji@stmary.sg Stanislaus Jude Chan jude@stmary.sg Agatha Cheong acheong@stmary.sg Ann Yeong Hon B.Sc.,M.A ann@stmary.sg Stephen Wong , B.Eng., PMP stephen@stmary.sg Neetha James , MSW neetha@stmary.sg Penny Lau franciscan.columbarium@gmail.com Sylvia Koh sacristy@stmary.sg Sr Josephine Ng joseng@stmary.sg
Admin Executive & Finance Admin Assistant Admin Assistant - part time Admin Assistant (Catechetics)	Octavia A Foy-os ofoyos@stmary.sg Teresa Pang parish@stmary.sg Peter Chua peter@stmary.sg Joan Smith joan@stmary.sg		

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AT A GLANCE

MONDAY 2 JAN
SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors, memorial

TUESDAY 3 JAN
The Most Holy Name of Jesus

WEDNESDAY 4 JAN
Weekday of Christmas Time

THURSDAY 5 JAN
 Divine Mercy Prayer Resume

FRIDAY 6 JAN
Weekday of Christmas Time

SATURDAY 7 JAN
Weekday of Christmas Time

SUNDAY 8 JAN
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 Patrician Meeting - an Open Forum by Our Lady Terror Demons Praesidium | 2.30-4.30pm | Classroom 6,7
 Canteen will resume Operation

Parish Event

Special Notice

† Liturgy Related

Outward Bound



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

MARY MOTHER OF GOD AND MY MOTHER

'I believe that the Virgin Mary must have asked herself this question several times: why did Jesus choose to be born of a simple, humble girl like me? And then, why did he want to come into the world in a stable and have his first visit from the shepherds of Bethlehem?

'Mary received her answer in full at the end, having laid in the tomb the Body of Jesus, dead and wrapped in a linen shroud. She must then have fully understood the mystery of the poverty of God. She understood that God made himself poor for our sake, to enrich us with his poverty full of love, to urge us to impede the insatiable greed that sparks conflicts and divisions, to invite us to moderate the mania to possess and thus to be open to reciprocal sharing and acceptance.'



Excerpts from a homily by Pope Benedict XVI, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year!

The friars and staff of St Mary of the Angels would like to wish you a very blessed 2012!

May the Lord continue to shower you with faith, hope and love in this new year. Pax et Bonum!

Sale of Chinese New Year Goodies!

Share the festive joy with your families and friends this Chinese New Year! Share the blessings of the season with homemade cookies and snacks.

Homemade goodies by friends and parishioners will be on sale at the piazza on 1 Jan; 7/8 Jan & 14/15 Jan.

See page 2 for more Highlights...



**INFANT BAPTISM:
Sun 5 Feb | 3pm**

Preparation Course:
Thur 2 Feb | 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 *Isa 60: 1-6*
R2 *Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6*
G *Mt 2: 1-12*



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

HIGHLIGHTS

Website Developer Needed (3-month Contract)

The parish is seeking a fulltime website developer to assist the IT office for 3 months in 2012. Interested applicants should be well versed in HTML, PHP and Drupal CMS. Knowledge in programming for iPhone apps will be an added advantage.

Send your applications to Viji ✉ viji@stmary.sg

NCC SECRETARIAT

Stephen Wong, Pastoral Assistant | stephen@stmary.sg

NCC MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon 2 Jan – Fri 6 Jan

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 4 Jan 10:15am
Mystical Rose NCC | Monica ☎ 9328-6862

Blk 203 Bt Batok St 21 | Wed 4 Jan 8pm
West Mall NCC | Raymond ☎ 9060-6050

Bukit Panjang Area

Blk 654 Senja Road | Thur 5 Jan 8:30pm
Bukit Batok NCC | Rey ☎ 9680-4761

Bukit Timah Area

Jalan Bangket, Mayfair Park | Wed 4 Jan 8pm
May Fair NCC | Timothy ☎ 9835-9798

Choa Chu Kang Area

Blk 681 Choa Chu Kang Crescent | Thur 5 Jan 8:30pm
Yew Tee Branch NCC | Gani ☎ 9154-8405

Blk 683A Choa Chu Kang Crescent | Fri 6 Jan 8pm
Mary's Soldiers NCC | Gina ☎ 9168-3047

Hilview Regency Area

Hillview Regency, Bt Batok East Ave 2 | Fri 6 Jan 8pm
Hillview Regency NCC | Richard ☎ 9128-3990

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

Canteen will resume operation on the Sun 8 Jan 2012.

Five Loaves will be closed from Sun 1 Jan 2012 and business as usual from Sat 11 Feb 2012

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

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。

华文上主慈悲敬礼与研读圣经组

天使之后堂华文上主慈悲敬礼与圣经班将在

2012年1月3日 (星期二) 早上九点继续回来

聚集祈祷与研读圣经, 地点在圣佳兰课室

B1-B2。

Christian Identity in Modern Culture

Wed 4 Jan | 8 - 10pm | CAEC, 2 Highland Road

by Dominic Doyle, assistant professor of systematic theology at the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) of Boston College, USA.

Organised by Singapore Pastoral Institute Prof Doyle will speak on Christian humanism as a way for Catholics to approach modern life, integrating insights from the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World and the writings of two Catholic thinkers, Nicholas Boyle and Charles Taylor.

Free. Due to limited seating registration is required.

✉ admin@catholicspi.org | ☎ 6858 3011 to leave a voice-message

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

天使驿站 (新春聚会)

日期: 2012年1月8日 (星期日)

时间: 下午5点到晚上8.30分

地点: 圣佳兰礼堂 (二楼电梯旁)

对像: 所有还不认识天主教信仰的人

我们提供丰富的晚餐、茶水和节目。

欲参加者清一定要向黄修女报名,

以方便我们准备足够的晚餐和茶水。

联络: 黄修女 9239-6226