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**True Love,  
True Magic**

Feast of the Most Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
29 Dec 2019

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Col 3:12-21  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

With all the consumeristic fanfare associated with this season, it would have been easy to view this season merely in a superficial and hedonistic way. Eating to our hearts' content, "retail therapy" and partying simply for the sake of "having a good time".

But did all this bring lasting Peace, fulfilling Joy, and pure Love to us and our families? Was Christmas as "magical" as we hoped it would be or was it just another mundane yearly affair - ritualistic, "un-magical", perhaps even something to be endured.

If the litmus for a good Christmas is comfort, food and consumeristic delights, then the Holy Family ostensibly had a "terrible" Christmas compared to many of us. In that first Christmas, the Holy Family had no room to lay their weary heads after their travels, the Blessed Virgin even gave birth to Christ in a cold, dirty, and forgotten manger.

The seasonal pleasures associated with our modern celebration of Christmas was not only absent in that very first Christmas, but the birth of Jesus also put the Holy Family in grave danger, causing them to become enemies of the state and political refugees



*"True Christmas Magic is found in Jesus who is the very personification, embodiment and incarnation of God, who is LOVE"*

(Mt 2:13-15). They now had to endure the disconcertion of being uprooted and flung into a foreign land in order to protect the Christ Child.

Despite this, we do not once hear a word of complaint from Mary nor Joseph, instead we see their utter trust and conformity to the will of God. For there to have been "magic", the Holy Family did not need good food, good company, nor consumerist delights for they already had the True Magic with them - Jesus who is the very personification, embodiment and incarnation of God, who is LOVE; the ultimate source of all Peace and Joy in creation (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*).

The presence of God's incarnate Love is further strengthened by the love they each have for each other, love that no amount of money, food nor company can ever replace (Pope Francis, *Admirabile Signum*). We thus see why the Holy Family was determined to follow the will of God, even forgoing their own fears and sacrificing their own will to protect Jesus. In their Godfearing wisdom, Joseph and Mary knew they had the ultimate treasure dwelling in their midst and were prepared to risk everything to protect, preserve and indeed dwell in its presence (Ps 128: 1-5).

The Christmas "magic" we often think of, therefore, is very different from The Christmas Magic experienced and possessed by the Holy Family. Theirs was a Magic which brought Peace, theirs was a Magic which engendered Joy, theirs was a Magic which flowed from Love; possessing Love, dwelling in the presence of Love, sharing this Love with each other and preserving this Love (St John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*). This magic is not something fleeting, which comes only in December.

This Magic is Christ, Christ who is God Incarnate, the source of all Love and all things good. If we desire to experience this Magic then we must strive to have Christ dwell within us and our homes throughout the year; that we, like the Holy Family may experience, dwell with and bask in the presence of Christ throughout the year (Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange OP, *The Three Ages of the Interior Life*). As we begin a new year, let us thus resolve to make our hearts and indeed our homes true dwelling places of Christ, the foundation of all that is Magical, the source of all joy and peace and happiness, consummate delight and perfect bliss (St Thomas Aquinas).

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours as follows:

**Tue 31 Dec** - 9am to 12 noon  
**Wed 1 Jan** - Closed

### HOLY HOUR

Begin your New Year with Jesus and join us for Holy Hour, on **Thu 2 Jan, 8.30pm** in the **Main Church**. All are welcome!

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: ENHANCE AND DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP!

Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen and refine your relationship, sign up for one of the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends.

**Dates:** 3-5 Jan; 6-8 Mar; 20-22 Mar (Mandarin) & 1-3 May  
**Register:** [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com)  
or contact 9670 5390 (David/Clara)

### CANA: RAISE THE PRAISE

Let's get together to RAISE THE PRAISE to our God who will lead us into the new year. Join Fr Kamelus Kamus CICM, Fr Edward Lim OCD, Fr Derrick Yap OFM as well as renowned musicians and composers Jesse Manibusan and ValLimar Jansen for an evening of music and song.

**Date:** Fri 10 Jan 2020 (Church of St Bernadette)/ Sat 11 Jan 2020 (Church of St Ignatius)  
**Time:** 7.45pm (doors open 7.30pm)  
**Contribution:** \$25  
**Email:** [canaevents2019@gmail.com](mailto:canaevents2019@gmail.com) or 6338 4080/6906 8447/9176 8909

### ACMI SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS AT AGAPE VILLAGE

Last chance to register for English Language, Haircutting, Cooking, Computer and Guitar. Download the course schedule at [bit.ly/33hi2Tv](http://bit.ly/33hi2Tv). To register, call 8600 3583 (Jan/Theresa) or visit **Agape Village** (Level 3 on 30 Dec, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 Jan from 10am - 5pm). **Registration will close on 12 Jan!**

### Blessed Sacerdotal Anniversaries TO FR JUDE (6TH) & FR VINU (5TH)!

We thank God for the gift of these two young priests, and their love and sacrifice for Christ and his people. We ask for blessings upon them, that they may continue to deepen their faith and grow as shepherds after Christ's heart. Grant them the virtue of humility, as well as love, kindness, passion and zeal for their priestly ministry centred on Christ always.



### NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Tue, 31 Dec**

6.30am, 6.30pm, 10.30pm

**Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God** - 10pm

Join us for a time of reflection for 2019 as a parish community in the Main Church. This will be followed by the Countdown Mass where we give thanks for the past year, and offer up the new year to God. There will be light refreshments and fellowship outside the Kindergarten after mass, all are welcome!

**New Year's Day**

**(Wed, 1 Jan): 8.30am only**



### NO ACCESS TO COLUMBARIUM

As we have not obtained the Temporary Occupation Permit, our columbarium remains closed until end January 2020. For safety reasons, nobody should enter the columbarium and the construction site, unless authorised. The Church will not be responsible for injuries sustained arising from unauthorised entry. We seek your cooperation and thank you for your understanding and patience.

### RENOVATION UPDATE: CHANGE IN MASS VENUE AND TIMING (6 JAN - 1MAR)

The Main Church will be handed over to the contractors for renovation works on **Mon 6 Jan 2020**. In the interim, from **11 Jan - 1 Mar**, weekday masses will be held on the second level of the Parish Centre, while weekend masses will be held at CHIJ - Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) school hall.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES (NO CHANGE IN TIMING)

**Venue:** St Matthew, St Mark and St Luke rooms (Parish Centre, Level 2)

**Time:** 6.30am, 6.30pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES (TAKE NOTE OF CHANGES IN TIMINGS!)

**Venue:** OLGC School Hall (2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)

**Time:**

**Sat:** 5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)

**Sun:** 7am, 9am, **11.30am (instead of 11am)**

There will be **no 5.30pm mass on Sunday** to facilitate timely hand over of the school hall.

#### Parking

Drop-offs are allowed but there will be no parking within the school premises. All cars should be parked in the church car park except for self-driven handicapped driver and cars with handicap labels.



## *SiGN Myanmar Mission Trip*

Members of SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) recently visited Nazareth Bush School (NBS) in Myaungmya, Myanmar from 13 to 18 Dec. We took the children to Ngwe Saung Beach, a 90-minute drive away, with two buses ferrying over 70 children. We also shared on the genealogy of Christ and planned activities to help the children better understand the messages from Scripture – that all of us are part of God's family and despite our imperfections, he always loves us and keeps his promises. All the children and teachers put their thumbprint on a specially painted picture of a tree trunk. The completed drawing, a beautiful symbol of the NBS Family Tree, was presented at mass as an offering from the children.

"What struck me the most was how the children treasured everything we gave them, especially when we explained about how they were all part of God's plan. It's amazing to see their face light up when they understood our explanations."

**- Audrey Wee**



"For most of the children in NBS (some in their late teens), it was the first time in their lives seeing a beach with their own eyes. The expression on their faces when they stepped into the ocean for the very first time is a memory I will treasure deeply in my heart. Child-like joy, simplicity and gratitude; I realise that I always learn more from these children than what I bring to them, each time I visit."

**- Anne Claudine Tan**



"When all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family and friends. One of my greatest blessings is getting to know Fr Ben and the children from NBS. It's always amazing how they end up teaching us so much more about God, faith, love and life even though we are supposed to be on mission to help them."

**- Jonathan Ong**

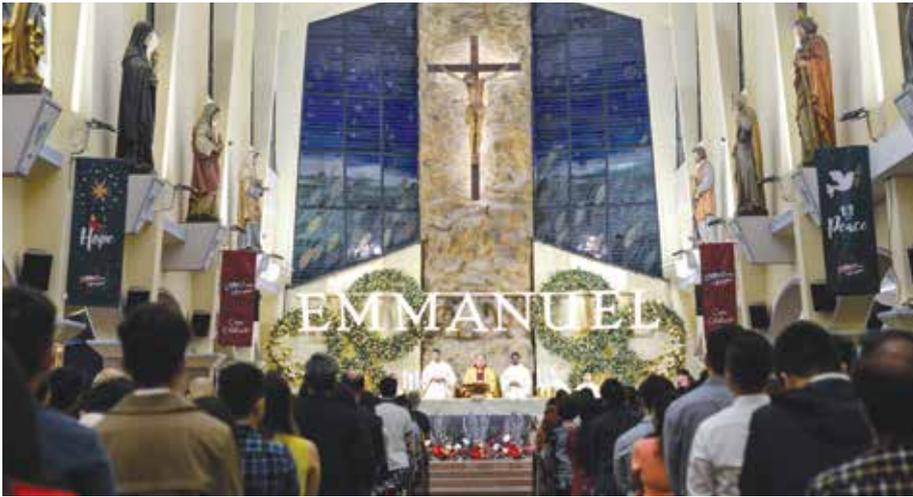
"The time I spent in NBS has been fruitful and many memories will remain for a long time. The joy that the NBS family gives touches me greatly and I would like to go back every year, God willing. Like what my grandma says, 'time is precious, don't waste it and help others when you can.'" **- Justin Quah**





Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

# Christmas Midnight Mass



## Mass Timings

### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)  
**Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm  
*Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass*

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Mon - Fri:**  
6.30am & 6.30pm  
**Sat:** 6.30am

### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

### HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month except PH

## Opening Hours

### PARISH OFFICE

**Mon - Fri:**  
9am - 9pm  
**Sat:** 9am - 7pm  
**Sun:** 8am - 1pm

### ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

### LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

### COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

### CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

## INFANT BAPTISM



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please check with the Parish Office.

## FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact the Parish Office.

## MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

## MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office and Church. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

Do check out SFX Facebook page for more pictures

## VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)