



December  
Edition

# 木 THE 匠 CARPENTER

28th Edition, December 2022



*Adoration of the Shepherds by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo / Wikimedia Commons*

## FOREWORD

**A**s we transition into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world waits in hope for a tomorrow when the coronavirus crisis ends and life can return to normalcy. In these challenging times, when things seem fragile and uncertain, to speak about hope might seem presumptuous.

“We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.”

-Pope Paul VI

With each Nativity scene I see, I am reminded of the miraculous event that occurred many years ago. And the miracles that happen today, may we all have the eyes to see them not only during this season, but all year long.

Christmas comes but once a year, with lights and trees and gifts we choose. But do take the time to express our thoughts for a Blessed Christmas and I hope that the Lord will shower you and your family with lots of love.

Both Fr Peter and I wish each and every one of you a very holy and joyful Christmas; and all the best for the coming New Year.

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.”

-Pope Francis

Fr Christopher Lee  
Parish Priest



# ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRESBYTERATE

Friar Robin Toha OFM  
by **The Most Reverend William Goh**  
**Archbishop of Singapore**  
Tuesday, 21st June 2022 (4pm)  
Church of St Mary of the Angels  
Singapore



**F**riar Robin Toha was attached to St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah) on 5 Jan 2022 and what a beautiful experience it has been for us to have him with us during his journey to priesthood.

Friar Robin added a fresh perspective to the parish activities with his Franciscan grounding. In the midst of COVID, all in-person activities were restricted and programmes could only go online. Friar Robin facilitated the Lenten Journey series and together with the priests of the parish, led parishioners through the online reflections throughout the season of Lent. This culminated in the Holy Saturday prayers, a first at St Joseph's Church, and what a privilege to have the friars with us to share this blessed morning in prayer and meditation.

Parishioners enjoyed all the homilies by Friar Robin as he shared his life-stories and these experiences resonated well with many as they could relate to them in their own life experiences. We came to know Friar Robin's family well; and his strong bond with his mother reminded us to treasure our mothers too.

A special night of prayer was arranged on Wed 15 June as parishioners gathered to pray for Friar Robin as he prepared for his ordination.

Finally when the day of his ordination arrived, there was a strong turnout of SJCBT parishioners who were there to support Friar Robin and to witness this momentous occasion and share in his joy!

Parishioners were privileged to have Friar Robin celebrate his Thanksgiving Mass on Sat 25 June during the Sunset Mass. This was followed by a dinner reception in the Parish Community Hall which was attended by Friar Robin's family, his brother friars and religious, and SJCBT parishioners.

A book of well-wishes containing messages from his family and friends was prepared to commemorate the occasion and to encourage Friar Robin as he commences his priestly duties.

On 1 Jan 2023, Friar Robin will take up his new appointment as Assistant Priest at St Mary of the Angels. We wish him every success knowing that God will guide him in all that he does.

We leave you with a quote from Friar Robin:  
**The Lord can never be outdone in generosity. I pray I may always be like the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.**



*Friar Robin and his family members at his ordination*

*Friar Robin and the SJC altar servers at the dinner reception*

木 THE 匠 CARPENTER

*The Carpenter*

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Please send correspondence to: sjcpastoral@outlook.com

**Spiritual Directors:**  
Fr Christopher Lee  
Fr Peter Zhang

**Editorial Team:**  
Cecilia Lee  
Claudia Ng  
Evelyn Lau  
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Thomas Audi Tan  
Wendy Chan

**Guest Editor:**  
Peter Ling

**Photography:**  
SJC Media Group

**Printer:**  
MontPrint Creative Services

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# The Archdiocesan Assembly

**S**t Joseph's Church (SJC) was privileged to be the venue for the 2022 Archdiocesan Assembly on 10 and 11 June, along with the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary. Being one of the earliest churches in Singapore, and a missionary ground, it was inspiring that the Singapore Church should gather here to be led by the Holy Spirit to discern our mission and path ahead for the Catholic Church in Singapore and the world.

Attending to the needs of 500 delegates who flocked to our parish was no easy task, but the church and our parishioner volunteers rose to the occasion, along with Archdiocesan staff, and countless other helpers.

From planning the program to facilitating sessions, from directing vehicular and human traffic to meal provision and various other logistical arrangements, it took a village of diverse talents to pull off this significant event. Big thanks to everyone who was involved!

## Preparation for the Archdiocesan Assembly at St Joseph's

As part of the Synodal process, SJC parishioners participated in small group synodal conversations. These consisted of gatherings either face-to-face

or online over Zoom to reflect and share on the fundamental theme:

"A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together".

How is this "journeying together" happening today in our particular Church?

What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?"

In total, about 70 conversations took place in our parish involving around 300 parishioners, from upper primary-aged children to senior citizens. From the responses, it can be clearly seen that parishioners are especially concerned about forming communities and nurturing a greater sense of belonging in the parish; as well as strengthening their own faith.

A team comprising parishioners who attended the Archdiocesan Assembly has subsequently been set up to collectively discern and propose ways to help our parish carry out its mission "to nourish faith in a loving community", so as to grow closer to our parish vision of "a vibrant, evangelistic and missionary parish under the patronage of St Joseph".

Stay tuned for more details.



# comes to St Joseph's Church

## More about the Archdiocesan Assembly from the catholic.sg website

“The 2022 Archdiocesan Assembly was part of the synodal process which invited the Church to practice synodality (the journey of walking together) in our diocese, to involve the people of God in all aspects of our mission.

The theme for this year's assembly was “Journeying, Growing and Witnessing Together”. This Assembly will pave the way for more of such assemblies to enable collective discernment so that we can truly be a vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church in Singapore.”

## What happened at the 2022 Archdiocesan Assembly?

This was a two-day gathering of a representative group of Catholics in Singapore to listen, speak and co-discern the will of God for our local Church. This is a necessary process as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.

The group included clergy, religious and laypersons from 32 parishes and over 200 organisations, institutes or offices in the Archdiocese.

## Why is it important?

“The People of God through the Delegates of the Archdiocesan Assembly are called to contribute to shaping the pastoral vision of the Church to be vibrant, evangelising, and missionary.

Through this event, we share the responsibility with the Archbishop and with each other by living our baptismal promises and call to be Priests, Prophets and Kings. (Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, n. 28; cf. Conciliar Decree Presbyterorum Ordinis, nn. 2 and 7).”

## What's next?

An Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) will be formed to follow up on the local concerns and pastoral needs arising from the Synodal conversation which led to the Archdiocesan Assembly, by formulating a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese.

**Scan the QR code to view the 2022 Archdiocesan Assembly Highlights**



# 10 Years of Thanksgiving

**Bro Dominic Hoh, CDD**

**O**n 20 August 2022 (Saturday), Rev Fr Joseph Zhang, CDD celebrated his 10th Sacerdotal Anniversary in St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah). The main church hall was packed with hundreds of who came from various parts of Singapore.

The celebration that day started with a Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration at 10 am, followed by a lunch reception in the parish hall. In his homily, Fr Joseph shared that he "did not really feel worthy" of God's call to the ordained priesthood, "yet because of God's grace", he received so much of "care and love" from the people of God.

Fr Joseph is a priest belonging to the Congregation of the Disciples of the Lord (CDD). Founded in 1927 by Servant of God, Celso Cardinal Costantini, the congregation has a special mission of ministering to the Chinese both in China and overseas through inculturation of the faith.

Ordained to the ministerial priesthood on Aug 2012, Fr Joseph's first posting was at the Church of the Holy Trinity where he served as an assistant parish priest for three years. Subsequently, he went to Rome to further his studies in biblical theology.

Upon successful completion of his studies, Fr Joseph returned to Singapore in Oct 2021. Since then, he has taken up the role of a formator for CDD and also as a lecturer in the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore.

In his thanksgiving speech at the end of the Mass, Fr Joseph shared that he was grateful to three different 'families' for accompanying and supporting him throughout his years as a priest. The first he described as his 'biological family' who raised and nurtured him.

The second is the 'family of his religious congregation' who supported him throughout his life as a priest and religious. The third is the 'family of God' who are made up of parishioners, friends and the lay faithful whom he had served and ministered to over the years.

Reflecting on his priesthood over the decade, Fr Joseph also shared that ten years did not seem like such a long time as it flew by really quickly. He also remarked that "without God I am nothing". Let us pray for Fr. Joseph as he continues to carry out his priestly ministry and that the Lord will touch the hearts of more young people to answer the call to priesthood and the religious life.



*Fr Joseph Zhang with fellow priests*



*Fr Joseph Zhang with parishioners and well-wishers*



# LAUDATO SI'

*'On care for our common home'*

**L**audato Si' is the second encyclical of Pope Francis entitled 'On care of our Common Home' written in 2015. Subsequently in 2021, Pope Francis launched the Laudato Si' Action Platform that equips the Church to achieve real and lasting solutions to the ecological crisis that we are currently facing. The Platform supports all participants to develop action plans to accomplish one purpose: Concrete actions to protect our common home.

In response to this, the Laudato Si' Community in St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah) was set up in May 2022 to encourage our parish community to embrace this call from Pope Francis' encyclical. The community's mission is to apply some of the elements of the Laudato Si' action platform to take small but important steps in protecting the environment and to listen to the cry of the poor. With the initial group of volunteers, we started our first activity in July, where we held a roadshow with information and activities to educate on the importance of recycling and collected recyclable trash that included plastics, paper, glass and electronic waste.

In August, we embarked on a pilot programme to promote the use of pre-loved items amongst our parish community. This was done in partnership with the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) where some of the items from the SSVP thrift shop were brought into our church and a sale of these items was held on the weekend of 20 August. It was very well received by the parishioners and all proceeds went to helping the poor and needy in SSVP.

In November, we collected pre-loved items from our parishioners, redistributed some of these to the poor and needy in our community, and the rest will be up for sale, where all proceeds will be channelled to SSVP. We hope that such activities will create a

small circular movement within our parish, reduce overconsumption that harms the environment and help the needy at the same time.

As we move into the next year, we are planning to embark onto some new projects based on the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Some examples of these include conducting seminars on sustainability, as well as promoting sustainable food consumption through edible gardens and plant-based foods. This will certainly require more resources and manpower and we are looking to create a ministry that can be better organised to support such activities. We are very grateful to those who have stepped up to join this community and we look forward to having more volunteers with the skills and expertise to lead such activities that can make a difference to the Laudato Si' objectives.

## Our Mission

To grow a vibrant community that takes action towards the caring of our common home for the wellbeing of all, including for our future generations.

## Our Goals

1. To spread awareness and mission of Laudato Si.
2. To engage our community with regular activities and projects with the aim of achieving eco-conversion in our community.
3. To discover God in the beauty of creation and to care for God's creation.

# Christmas Day and Purgatory Souls

**Peter Ling**

**C**hristmas has various meanings. In some cultures, Christmas is about the joy of giving or receiving gifts. For Christians, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ as Saviour of the world. For many souls in Purgatory, Christmas is about the gift of heaven.

St Alphonsus Liguori and St Teresa of Avila, according to author Susan Tassone, revealed that many souls are released from Purgatory on Christmas Day!

If you are as surprised as I was, let me share with you my layman research on Purgatory. My views, which are based on books and online sources, may differ from those of theological or academic researchers.

## **Purgatory existence**

Various sources describe Purgatory differently. Pope Benedict XVI, citing the Treatise on Purgatory authored by St Catherine of Genoa, wrote that Purgatory is a purification journey before entering heaven.

A portal of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore, under the title of Purgatory: The final gift of a merciful God, says that Purgatory is God's way of giving sinful souls a chance for purification before entering heaven. It is a 'dressing room' instead of a 'torture chamber'.

St Frances of Rome, as described by priest and author Fr Joseph M. Esper, had a vision of three levels

in Purgatory: the lowest level of a burning sea, the middle unpleasant-but-less-rigorous level and the highest level of souls about to be released but still suffering the pain of not being with God.

## **Purgatory sentences**

How long is a sentence in Purgatory? St Louis de Monfort, in his classic book *The Secret of the Rosary*, wrote that a woman named Alexandre appeared to St Dominic and sought prayers to reduce her long Purgatory sentence of 700 years. She was in Purgatory because she sinned and led others to sin through her worldly living. She implored St Dominic and his Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary to pray for her soul.

Two weeks later, a radiant Alexandre appeared to St Dominic to say that she would soon be released from Purgatory. She also said that other remaining souls sought continuous rosary prayers and that, once they entered Heaven, they would reward those who prayed for them.

Other stories revealed different durations for release from Purgatory. In an article on *The Saints in Purgatory*, Charlie McKinney wrote about the experiences of two saints. St Elizabeth of Portugal offered Masses for a year for her deceased daughter Constance to be delivered from Purgatory. St Louis Bertrand only had a vision of his deceased father in Heaven after eight years of prayer offerings.

## Purgatory encounters

Many other saints had encountered Purgatory souls but let me share stories from four authors.

Fr Roland Guilmain in a Catholic Digest article revealed that St John Vianney had met a woman who was worried that her suicided husband would be in hell. Enlightened by God, St Vianney told the woman that her husband was in Purgatory and needed her prayers. Her husband had made an act of contrition immediately after he had jumped from the bridge.

Author Maura Roan McKeegan wrote in Catholic Exchange that a Purgatory soul had appeared to Padre Pio one night, saying that God had given him permission to approach the Padre to say Mass to release his soul from Purgatory. Padre Pio also had many other visits from Purgatory souls requesting Masses to reduce their purification time.

Writer Larry Peterson wrote about St Nicholas, an Augustinian priest in the 13th century, who had heard a voice from a deceased friar who needed the saint to offer the Holy Eucharist and to pray for souls in Purgatory. After seven days of Masses and prayers, the deceased friar told St Nicholas that many souls had been released to Heaven.

The Divine Mercy portal, writing about St Faustina and the suffering souls, narrated how the saint followed her Guardian Angel to visit Purgatory. St Faustina described the 'full fire' of Purgatory, with the 'greatest torment' of longing for God. St Faustina also saw Our Lady, Star of the Sea, visiting and comforting the Purgatory souls.

Since that experience, St Faustina had closer communion with Purgatory souls. One of the souls was a religious sister who appeared with a painful distorted face. Despite St Faustina doubling her prayers, the departed sister appeared again looking more horrible. St Faustina persevered with more prayers and the Purgatory soul appeared on another occasion, this time with radiant face and joyful beaming eyes. The soul said that she would leave Purgatory soon and urged St Faustina to continue praying for Purgatory souls.

## Purgatory release

The stories of saintly encounters above suggest that Purgatory souls are released at different times of the year.

In addition, researcher Gloria Falcao Dodd wrote that Mary as Queen of Purgatory also brings souls to heaven on the Feast of the Assumption and on Saturdays dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Purgatory offerings

Award-winning author Susan Tassone is considered a champion for Purgatory souls and has written 13 books on the topic. Some of her book titles indicate her suggested type of offerings for the Purgatory souls, such as St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Holy Souls; Prayers, Promises, and Devotions for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; Prayers of Intercessions for the Holy Souls; The Way of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; Praying With the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; Thirty-Day Devotions for the Holy Souls; The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; and Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

One offering really intrigued me, as described by writer Mary O'Regan. St Catherine of Siena, who had visions of hell and Purgatory, saved her dying father from Purgatory by experiencing the purification process for him during her lifetime on earth. Having pleaded with God to let her suffer instead, she patiently endured searing pain in her body until her own death.

## Conclusion

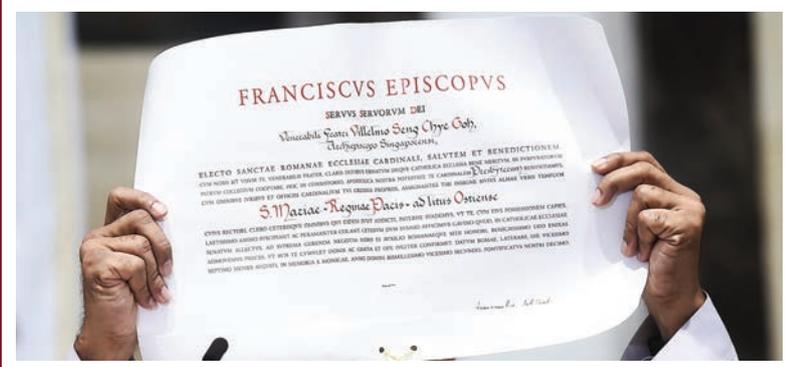
Since we love God and our neighbours, let us not forget our departed neighbours, including those who had committed suicide and could be in Purgatory through God's mercy. Instead of remembering the departed only on All Souls Day, why not make it Christmas Day every day of the year for Purgatory souls? Offer them daily gifts of Holy Mass, Divine Mercy prayers, rosary intercessions – perhaps even your own sufferings.

*Peter Ling is with the Lector Ministry*

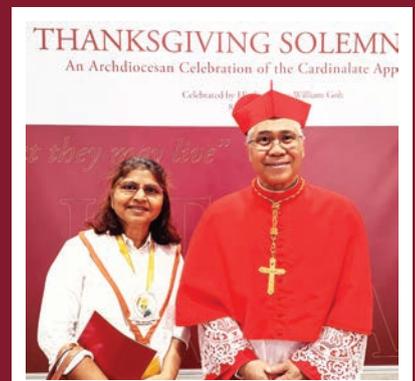
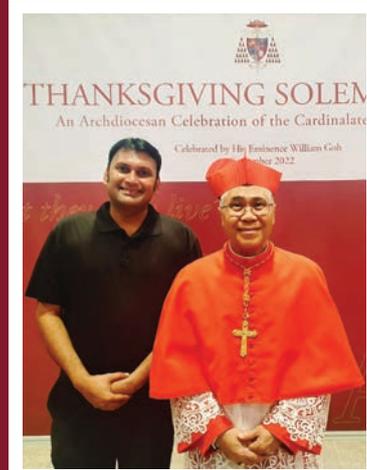
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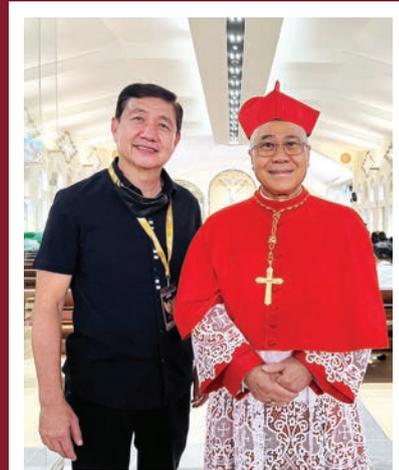
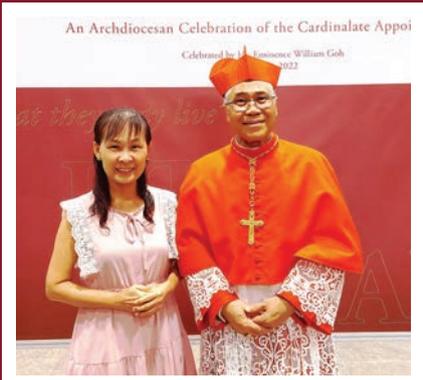
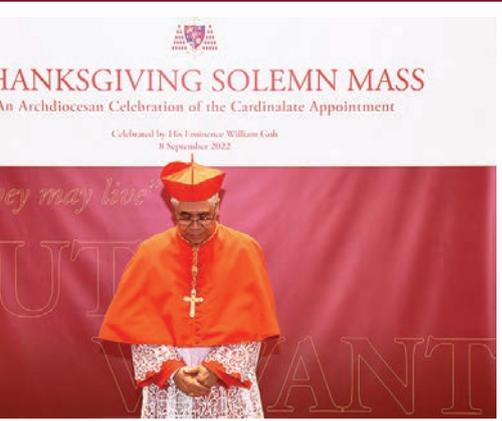
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Thanksgiving Solemn Mass  
 celebrated by  
 His Eminence  
**WILLIAM  
 CARDINAL GOH**  
 8 September 2022









# Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary



The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was celebrated on Friday, 7 October 2022, with an evening mass and a candlelight procession. The rainy weather in the earlier part of the week and the incessant rain throughout that day, only led to a great number of ‘prayer bouquets’ to Mother Mary for the rain to stop. Indeed, it did – just in time, prior to the start of the candlelight procession.

The Eucharistic celebration began at 7.30 pm with a very good number of parishioners in attendance. Mass was celebrated by Fr Peter Zhang, Fr Joseph Zhang and Friar Corrado.

Candles were distributed to parishioners as they streamed into the church. After the prayer after Communion, the candlelight procession commenced. Altar servers led the procession while candles were lit for all in the congregation. The Legion of Mary ministry members, (Mary of the Way, Mother of Perpetual Succour and Chinese LOM) in teams of four and with the help of the wardens from the Hospitality ministry, carried the statue of Our Lady around the compound of the church.

The Glorious mysteries were reflected with the rosary recitation (in English and Mandarin) as the procession proceeded from the right wing of the church, around the Stations of the Cross, towards Our Lady of Fatima grotto and back to the church. Marian hymns in English and Mandarin were sung by the respective choirs at the end of each decade of the Rosary.

The ‘Salve Regina’, led by the choir, was sung and this was followed by the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Peter then led the congregation in reciting the Act of Consecration. The celebration came to an end with the congregation singing another Marian hymn ‘I Hear the Bells’. It was a beautiful celebration and a memorable one – we overcame the woes of the pandemic and left with hearts filled with gratitude for Mother Mary’s constant intercession.

“Mary, our Mother, sustain us in moments of darkness, difficulty and apparent defeat.”

- Pope Francis



# The Spirituality of Communion

**Peter Ling**

**S**pirituality in a Christian community can only be sustained when committed stakeholders share responsibility to manage challenges during the long faith journey.

This was my key takeaway from the Day of Recollection retreat organised by St Joseph's Church Bukit Timah (SJCBT) on 24 October 2022 during the Deepavali public holiday. The retreat master was Fr Henry Siew, parish priest of the Church of the Holy Cross, who spoke on the Spirituality of Communion (SOC) and The Imperfect Community.

## Speaker Credentials



SJCBT parish priest Fr Christopher Lee introduced Fr Henry as 'Professor of Philosophy'. This was very apt because of Fr Henry's academic background and publications.

Fr Henry studied philosophy in Rome between 1996-1998, completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Taiwan's Fu Jen Catholic University between 1998-2000, and lectured at the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary in Singapore between 2000-2004.

His books include *The Smart Way of Loving*, which deals with loving smart to love well among couples; *Follow Christ and be a Catholic*, which presents a Christ-centred teaching of the Catholic faith; and *Pitfalls of Christianity*, which identifies misconceptions and misunderstandings of who God really is.



## Spirituality of Communion (SOC) Concept

Some retreat participants initially associated SOC with Eucharistic Communion. From a broader perspective, spiritual or Christian communion is about close relationships with people who are united by the same beliefs to share their feelings or thoughts. From a faith perspective, the Holy Trinity is a communion which exists among the three Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Fr Henry defined spirituality as 'a disposition, an attitude and a mentality with spiritual motive'. Hence, SOC for me is like united spirituality in groups.

## SOC Journey

Fr Henry's SOC journey started in the 1980s during his young adulthood and seminary days. He saw the Church as the body of Christ, with the need for community participation, collaboration and co-responsibility. He believed in the Church involving everyone; tapping the time, talent and treasure of God's people; and sharing the good and bad times during the faith journey.

Several people had inspired his spiritual vocation. Bishop Fulton Sheen's books helped him to see life as a treasure by the grace of God. St Therese of Lisieux's autobiography touched him because of her simple and profound spirituality.

Ordained as a priest on 14 April 1991, Fr Henry developed further spirituality insights through inspiring mentors such as the late Fr Paul Tay, who had championed the Parish Renewal Experience at the Holy Trinity Church, and the late Fr Louis Amiotte, who had dedicated his time across neighbourhood communities at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Fr Henry developed a greater desire for spiritual Christian communities when he was involved in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the Commission for the Apostolate of Mandarin-Speaking Community in 2000. He also observed the practice of SOC in communities such as AsIPA (Asian Integral Pastoral Approach), which stresses on co-responsibility of the laity; the Neo-Catechumenal Way, whose mission is to form Christian communities; and Couples for Christ, a Catholic movement to strengthen family life.

### Church on SOC

SOC gained more prominence in January 2001, when Pope John Paul II promoted it in his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (At the beginning of the new millennium). He wrote that SOC helps us to contemplate on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, to see other people positively as a gift from God, to empathise with God's children and to share genuine friendships with them.

The Pope stressed that the Church has to spread SOC as the 'guiding principle of education' in every situation, thus making the Church 'the home and the school of communion'. Structures could then facilitate the experiencing of communion in the home and the growing of spirituality in the school.

### Building Spiritual Communities

Naturally, Fr Henry was more interested in the spirituality of groups, rather than the structures which may vary across place and time. Integrating his cognitive knowledge of SOC and his emotional-spiritual desire to actualise SOC in daily life, Fr Henry looked for ways to collaborate with open-minded people.

He was able to do this through working with the Office for the New Evangelisation – which the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore had set up in 2013 to achieve a vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church – first as a parish priest of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and now of the Church of the Holy Cross.

A book on *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell, co-founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute, also inspired Fr Henry to form communities of intentional disciples as part of the New Evangelisation.

In 2015, he pioneered the 'Nativity Community of Intentional Disciples' (NCID) with 30 parishioners from various parish ministries. The participants were rooted in prayer and being Christ-like to be in communion with other intentional disciples. The success of NCID led to a second programme in 2016, with facilitators emerging from the pioneer group. Neighbourhood Christian Communities also sprung up in the Nativity Church.

### Parish Mission

As parish priest of the Church of the Holy Cross, Fr Henry built on the SOC legacy of his predecessors, Fr Nicholas Chia and Fr Richards Ambrose. He introduced the parish mission statement in 2017: "To be a communion of communities with intentional disciples, centred on Jesus Christ, commissioned to evangelise and to serve."

His comprehensive 134-page parish booklet on *Mystery, Communion, Mission* contains rich information for small faith-sharing groups who share the same mission of spiritual growth. These faith-sharing groups benefit in many ways, such as fostering enduring Christian friendships, sharing God's work in their lives, praying openly for each other, learning actively together, encouraging each other to be accountable in their journey with God and developing facilitators to sustain active participation.

Interestingly, the booklet stressed that facilitators need not be expert theologians. Since the role of facilitators is to focus on faith sharing, they are advised to avoid discussions on anxiety or depression in the groups and escalate such matters to the parish priest.

The parish booklet includes a how-to section with suggestions for faith-sharing, promoting diversity of group members, convenient meeting times and

an agenda structure for meetings. The booklet also touched on respecting each person, honest sharing of personal experiences, confidentiality within the group, silent reflection, avoiding individual domination and encouraging the quiet person to speak.

## SOC Challenges

Fr Henry admits that there are challenges facing SOC because of our imperfect community. Many people are individualistic, value privacy, fear sharing vulnerable thoughts or feelings, have negative experiences in communities and favour certain members in groups.

Despite these challenges, he reminded parishioners that it is God's plan for us to form communities as He had created man in his image, a Trinitarian God who thrives in communion. Fr Henry emphasised that every community member is a gift and not a preference. For example, we do not choose our parents or siblings. If we reject or resent God's gifts, we end up unhappy, where we complain and find faults.

He also highlighted that Christ had formed the community of apostles with people of diverse backgrounds and characters. They had weaknesses, rivalries, and conflicts (for example between the apostles Paul and Peter) but they worked together through a Christ-centred mission.

However, a Christian community is not a social club that caters to personal needs. SOC is about God, me and us. Since there are group dynamics in a Christian community, there is an inherent need for understanding, adaptation and adjustment to sustain the community as it goes through stages of attraction, disillusion, restoration and growth.

Fr Henry reiterated that members in genuine Christian communities need to embrace diverse members, accept limitations, focus on complementarity, anticipate problems, manage disagreements, build mutual respect and value forgiveness to uphold SOC. Effective SOC communities must exercise the stewardship of giving to share faith, love and evangelisation.

## Reactions to SOC

What did some of the SJCBT parishioners think of SOC and its challenges? Ian Wong said that our attitudes towards Christian community members would improve once we see them as gifts of God. Imbert Theodore felt that members need to bring back

spirituality to groups through prayer and penance. Alicia Quek liked the collaborative and co-responsible nature of group spiritual growth.

## Building Spiritual Communion

If you already belong to a spiritual community, are your stakeholders taking co-responsibility to ensure that you resolve challenges based on a Christ-centred approach? If you have left a group or are thinking of leaving one, why not serve the Lord in a new community and pray to the Holy Spirit to help you and your members to manage differences? If you are not yet in a spiritual community, why not start a small group with members who share the same mission of building and sustaining spirituality for the love of God?

*Peter Ling is with the Lector Ministry*



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# All Souls Day

All Souls Day, a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed, is dedicated to prayer and remembrance.

## Cleaning of the Columbarium (Sat 15 Oct)

This year, families were invited to come and spring-clean the columbarium to prepare for All Souls Day.

For the old niches, metallic flower holders were installed to be consistent with the new niches. To ensure overall cleanliness and safety, families have been advised to not to attach any additional fixtures (eg tealights / "ledges" etc) on the niches as these will be removed.

A trough has been placed for visitors to burn tea lights for the departed souls.



**Their Lives Change But Do Not End**  
In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Departed  
1 November 2021 - 31 October 2022

<p><b>NOVEMBER 2021</b></p> <p>† SANNY TJANDRA † SIN MOON LOONG † DIANE LEONG TOH YING † JOSPHINE CHO LAU YEE</p>	<p><b>MARCH 2022</b></p> <p>† BIBIANA KEE HOON ANG @ CHUA AH ENG † AGATHA LEE LONG ONN † HENRY CHIA THIANG LAI † PAUL THAN KIA CHUAN † FRANCIS LEE TEE † MARIA CHAN KIM CHUE</p>	<p><b>JUNE 2022</b></p> <p>† THEODORA LIM</p> <p><b>JULY 2022</b></p> <p>† DAVID NG CHIN HOCK † JANE JACKLYN LAM KAM PEK † MARIA SAW SIEW LIAN</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 2021</b></p> <p>† ANDREW PANG YEW KIM</p>	<p><b>APRIL 2022</b></p> <p>† JOSEPH GOH † TOH SUOY CHYE † SANDY SEAH SEW YOKE † ANNA LOH LENG KIAU</p>	<p><b>AUGUST 2022</b></p> <p>† TOMMY KOH HOCK BENG † GRACE VICTOR † JENNY LEE † MARYANN HO YOKE CHENG</p>
<p><b>JANUARY 2022</b></p> <p>† CHUA HUNG YONG † MARGARET GOH NANG TIN † ANGELA LEE AH MOEY † SUSY LAMIRAN</p>	<p><b>MAY 2022</b></p> <p>† PETER LEE HOCK LAI † MARIA CHAN AH BUAY † MARY LEE AH TING † BETSY SIM AH MOEY</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b></p> <p>† GERALD ONG CHONG JIN † ANNE ONG CHENG KIT</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 2022</b></p> <p>† PAULINE LIM CHIN HONG † LIAH CAROLINE A.M.</p>		<p><b>OCTOBER 2022</b></p> <p>† PAUL VALERIAN CHOO PENG KUEN</p>



*"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen."*

## All Souls Day

Special Mass Intentions were raised for the souls of our dearly departed and also to pray for the souls in purgatory. Parishioners who passed away during the past year (1 Nov 2021 to 31 Oct 2022) were remembered. The columbarium was blessed after all Masses.

## Blessing of Graves

On the morning of 2 Nov, five priests (Fr Christopher Lee, Fr Edward Seah, Fr Ignatius Yeo, Fr Joseph Zhang and Fr Peter Zhang) prayed the prayer of blessing and sprinkled holy water over the graves at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery as well as the niches at the Mandai columbarium. They were accompanied by three seminarians from SFX Major Seminary and volunteers from SJCBT.



# Children's Masses

After a break of three years, the Children's Masses have finally resumed. This will be held on every third Saturday of the month at the 5.30 pm Mass during the school term period.

This is an opportunity for the children to play an active role to serve during the Masses. The children's choir, the Little Praisers, will sing during the Mass; the children will also serve as lectors and wardens.



*Our Little Praisers*



*Our Junior Wardens*



*Our Junior Lectors*

# Golden Living Active Disciples (GLAD)

Finally with the easing of COVID restrictions, plans were underway in August to revive the GLAD activities for our seniors. A survey was carried on 13 and 14 August to ascertain the types of activities that our seniors were interested in. Highest on the list was to resume exercise activities, followed by talks.

## Rolling Good Times

Rolling Good Times was a 6-week programme held twice a week from 19 Sep till 3 Nov. The objective of this exercise programme was to teach seniors how to minimize the impact of falls. A total of 23 seniors were eligible for the programme. The camaraderie was great and the programme was well-received by our seniors.

I have benefited from the regime of exercise – it strengthens my

core and makes me mindful of my balance and movement.

- Yeoh May

I've learnt that rolling to 'fall' correctly can improve my range of movement and flexibility.

- Theresa P



*Rolling Good Times Graduates*

## Zumba Gold

With the completion of the Rolling Good Times, GLAD resumed the Zumba Gold exercise programme. This is held on Thursday mornings from Nov 2022 to Jan 2023. All are welcome.

## Faith Sharing Sessions

We have also been privileged to invite Sister Josephine Ng to facilitate our Faith Sharing Sessions. This is held on every third Wed of the month from Sep to Dec. It is refreshing to hear Sister Josephine touch on the Saints of the month and share about the intentions of the Pope.



*Sister Josephine Ng*

More programmes will be planned for 2023. Call the Parish Office at 6769 1608 to find out more about the upcoming activities.



## Infant Baptism Preparation

**D**id you know we have a Family Formation Ministry team? The team was assembled back in 2016 and one of the tasks undertaken by the team is to conduct infant baptism preparations for parents and godparents. Our parish conducts infant baptisms every quarter and parents and godparents are invited to attend two preparation sessions prior to the baptism to reflect on the meaning of their own baptism and that of their child. Baptism is a sacrament of initiation which is the first step in Christian formation.

The preparation sessions give parents guidance and essential information for choosing godparents. Many past participants have given feedback that the pointers and discussions were useful in helping them to discern how to choose the appropriate godparents for their child. In the sessions, a paraliturgy on the Light of Baptism helps the parents to ponder on the Light they had received at their own baptisms and to look at their own faith journey and the faith they wish to share with their child.

Parents are the first catechists of their child, hence parents and godparents play an important role in the faith formation of their child and godchild in modelling

a Christian lifestyle. This starts when the child is born which is much earlier than when the formal catechesis starts when the child is seven years old. The session also discusses the role of parents as the first catechists on how to help their child come to know and love God and His Church. The second session discusses the signs, symbols, gestures and prayers used in the Rite of Baptism. A Sacrament is an outward sign of an inward grace. When we understand the signs, symbols and gestures in the rite of baptism, we come to understand the love language of God.

Lastly, resources are shared at the end of the two sessions to support the continued faith formation of the parents and godparents. As parents and godparents, we cannot give what we don't possess and we need to constantly return to the Source of Love to sustain our family life. From 2023, our sessions will be conducted in a hybrid fashion with the first session online via Zoom with breakout sessions for sharing with parents and godparents; and the second session will be a face-to-face session.

If you feel called to journey with families to share your faith journey and outreach to parents, please contact Ms Diana Ho at [dianahsc74@yahoo.com](mailto:dianahsc74@yahoo.com).

# Upkeeping of Our Church

A common remark when someone visits St Joseph's Church, Bukit Timah for the first time is "Wow, this parish is large." The next question that often comes to mind is "how do you guys maintain it".

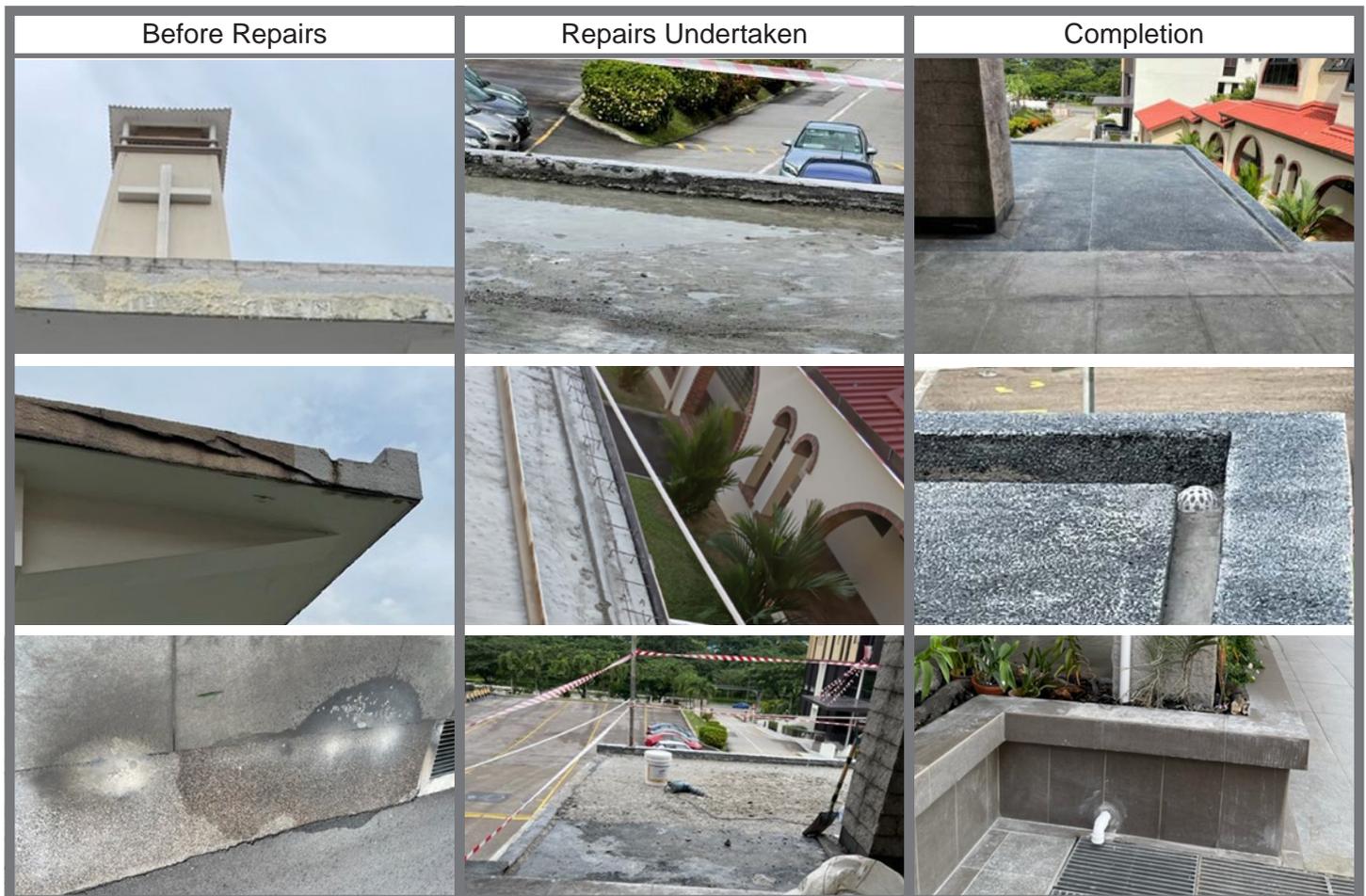
Well, there is definitely a lot of work and the scope is indeed tedious and extensive. All this hard work is undertaken by our Estate Maintenance Committee (a group of parish volunteers) and our contracted live-in workers. Such works include meeting regulatory requirements ranging from building, safety and hygiene inspections, to maintaining cleanliness and keeping sewage and sanitary systems working, to beautifying our landscape, and much more. Other than these regular tasks, there are also rectification

works such as replacing wirings, lightings, defective equipment etc and the repair of leakages, cracks and repainting. These are constantly and consistently carried out to ensure that conditions are kept proper so that we can worship with a peace of mind.

Our Estate Maintenance Committee welcomes all those who have the right technical expertise to render your services. Alternatively, do contribute generously to our second collection for upkeeping of the Parish so that sufficient funding is available to sustain a well-maintained premise.

Some of the major projects undertaken during the year include:

## Waterproofing for Front Porch Roof Leakage



Front Porch Roof Repairs Completed



Repairs to Sacristy and Columbarium Corridor Concrete Roof



Replacement of Church Glass Doors



### Maintenance and Upgrading Works at Stations of the Cross



The old concrete slab walkway was widened and replaced with pebble-wash walkways. Boundary walls and iron grills were also repainted.

### Waterproofing of Linkway Ceiling



### Rosary Garden Walkways



Cracks at walkways repaired and installation of water drainage holes

### Repairs to Underground Pipe Leakages



14 June 2022



14 June 2022



02 September 2022



# “若我的妻子是忠信的，为何我要把她送走？”

## — 圣若瑟的内心剖白

主徒会士 张思谦神父

### 若瑟曾否怀疑玛利亚

**新**加坡武吉知马的圣若瑟堂的门面上，刻着一条醒目的金字：VIR JUSTUS ET FILIUS DAVID。这是在2012年圣堂翻新装修时加上去的拉丁文。你注意到了吗？翻译成中文，意思是：义德之人/达味之子。这句话究竟有什么重要性，竟然会被放在这么显要的地方？你是否曾经默想过这些文字对我们的意义呢？

本文从圣经、习俗、伦理、灵修几方面着手，分析若瑟面对妻子意外怀孕之事的一系列想法与举措，从而帮助读者们了解这位圣人面对人生风暴的心境，进而让我们更好地理解“义德之人/达味之子”这两个称号的意义，以期向这位圣人学习。

#### 1. 圣经选读

“义德之人/达味之子”这两个称号，分别来自玛窦福音第一章的第19和第20节。为了帮助读者了解圣经原意，有必要把整段圣经相关章节摘录下来。

耶稣基督的诞生是这样的：祂的母亲玛利亚许

配于若瑟后，在同居前，她因圣神有孕的事已显示出来。她的丈夫若瑟，因是义人，不愿公开羞辱她，有意暗暗地休退她。当他在思虑这事时，看，在梦中上主的天使显现给他说：“达味之子若瑟，不要怕娶你的妻子玛利亚，因为那在她内受生的，是出于圣神。她要生一个儿子，你要给祂起名叫耶稣，因为祂要把自己的民族，由他们的罪恶中拯救出来。”这一切事的发生，是为应验上主藉先知所说的话：“看，一位贞女，将怀孕生子，人将称祂的名字为厄玛奴耳，”意思是：天主与我们同在。若瑟从睡梦中醒来，就照上主的天使所嘱咐的办了，娶了他的妻子；若瑟虽然没有认识她，她就生了一个儿子，给祂起名叫耶稣。（玛1:18-25）

#### 2. 犹太婚俗

若要了解若瑟的心境，就必须先认识犹太人的婚姻习俗。当时犹太人的婚俗和我们现代婚姻程序有所不同。

犹太人的婚姻，分为两个阶段：第一个阶段是订婚/许配（betrothal），第二个阶段是完婚（nuptials）。

订婚阶段需要注意的是：

- (1) 一旦订婚，双方便成为合法夫妻。这种夫妻关具有法律效力；若是离异，需要经过法律上的程序。
- (2) 订婚后的夫妻，暂不同居，也不应发生两性关系。
- (3) 订婚期一般会持续数月，甚至一年时间。

订婚期结束，便需要完婚。新郎把新娘迎娶回家，在两位证人的见证下，举行完婚典礼。之后便开始同一屋檐下的夫妻生活。

了解了犹太人的婚俗，让我们再看看若瑟的尴尬处境。当若瑟意识到玛利亚怀孕的时刻，正是在已订婚但尚未同居的等待期。若瑟很清楚，按照律法这个阶段男女双方不可以发生两性关系；他更清楚，玛利亚所怀的孩子，不是他的亲生骨肉。因此若瑟一定觉得非常茫然：妻子怎么会怀有身孕呢？到底是谁的孩子呢！

若瑟是否曾怀疑玛利亚有不忠于婚姻许诺的出轨行为呢？很多信徒认为若瑟曾经对圣母的贞洁与忠信有所怀疑。真的会有这种可能吗？不会的！为什么不会？让我们看看下文。

### 3. 全心相信

身为人妻的玛利亚，面对自己的丈夫，有本分把天使报喜及因圣神受孕的真相（参路1:24-36）一五一十地告诉他，使其了解原委。

因圣神受孕听起来很荒诞离奇。若瑟会相信吗？答案是肯定的。从客观和主观上分析若瑟的状况，他一定会相信玛利亚的说法。

#### (1) 从客观上看

若瑟认为天主有能力让他的妻子由圣神受孕。

身为天主选民，若瑟和玛利亚笃信并期盼天主在旧约时就曾作出的许诺：“看，有位贞女要怀孕生子，给祂起名叫厄玛奴耳。”（依7:14）

若瑟相信，“在天主前没有不能的事”（参路1:37）。

祂既然可以从无中创造万有，可以带领选民徒步走过红海，当然祂也有能力让贞女怀孕，使救主降世。

#### (2) 从主观上看

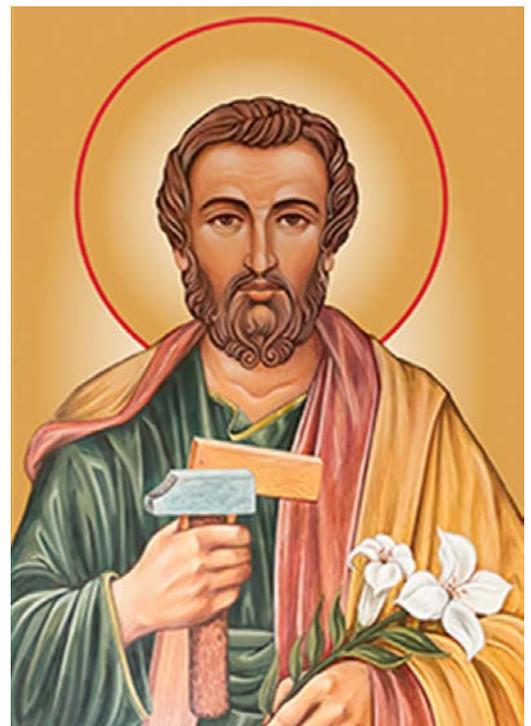
若瑟相信虔诚的玛利亚拥有纯洁的心灵。他信任妻子，既不会与其他男人有出轨行为，更不会编造故事来欺骗他。

正像金口圣若望所赞叹的：“啊！对玛利亚不可估量的敬意！若瑟相信她的贞洁多于相信她的子宫，相信恩典多于相信自然。虽然他肉眼看到怀孕，但绝不怀疑是淫乱所致。他宁愿相信一个女人会在没有男人的情况下受孕，也不会相信玛利亚会去犯罪。”

因此，若瑟会全心相信玛利亚的贞洁和天主拣选她的特恩。

让我们反思：我如何在与主与人的关系上，积极努力建立信赖呢？

现在让我们回归到本文的主题：既然若瑟相信玛利亚是天主特选的贞洁福女，为什么还要远离玛利亚，“暗暗地休退她”呢？



## 若瑟为何改变想法

从本文的上篇“若瑟曾否怀疑玛利亚”中，我们认识到若瑟从未怀疑过玛利亚对他诉说的天使报喜和因圣神受孕这一事实。既然若瑟相信妻子是天主特选的贞洁福女，为什么还要远离玛利亚，“暗暗地休退她”呢？简单来说，因为若瑟在天主面前是个义人，他才作出这个艰难的选择。

### 1. 义德之人

“义德”作为四枢德中的一种，意思是“给予天主和近人所应得到的”（教理1807）。对方越是尊贵，给予他的就应该相应地越多。

#### (1) 敬神义举

天主至高无上，且施恩予我们，因此祂应享有至高的尊崇，理当受到我们无条件的敬畏朝拜！对天主，义德又称为“虔敬的德行”（教理1807）。

若瑟意识到玛利亚是天主特选的圣子之母。既然天主选中了玛利亚，就应该让她完完全全地属于天主。即使若瑟非常倾心爱慕自己尚未同居的妻子，但是，为了天主，他宁愿忍痛割爱。

虽然若瑟计划离开玛利亚和其圣子，但是作为一个敬神爱人的义人，我们相信他一定会继续关怀并全力资助母子两人的日常所需。

#### (2) 谦卑自己

若瑟拥有谦卑之心，他意识到自己是个罪人，认为自己不配与至贞特选的圣母以夫妻的关系朝夕相处，不可玷污默西亚的母亲。

这仿佛是当年伯多禄见证了耶稣授命捕鱼的奇迹后，跪伏在耶稣膝前说：“主，请祢离开我！因为我是个罪人。”（路5:8）

当年百夫长也曾阻挡要前往他家的耶稣说：“主！我不堪当祢到舍下来，祢只要说一句话，我的仆人就会好的。”（玛8:8）

依撒伯尔也曾以谦卑之心，向前来探访的圣母呼喊：“吾主的母亲驾临我这里，这是我哪里得来的呢？”（路1:43）

这些人不是不愿意与圣善之人在一起，而是以谦卑的精神检视自身以后，觉得自己不配。

### (3) 保护圣母

若瑟选择的方法是“暗暗地休退”妻子玛利亚，而不是公开地处理此事，为的是避免旁人非议，从而对玛利亚不利。

若是公开处理，当局定会询问玛利亚“非法”怀孕的原委。若瑟不得不坦承：玛利亚腹中的胎儿不是自己的亲骨肉。

即使玛利亚坦诚说出因圣神受孕的事实，大众也应该不会接受：犹太选民错误地认为默西亚将诞生于名门望族，以便有权势赶走罗马殖民者，复兴以色列国。同时，玛利亚会坚称自己没有遭受恶人强暴。那么人们一定会怀疑她隐瞒奸情。按照旧约犹太律法，若有夫之妇遭人强暴，她本人是无辜的，不必自责；若是已婚妇女犯奸淫罪，就应当众用石头砸死（参申22:23-27）。

若瑟不希望爱妻被人怀疑，遭受侮辱，甚至被定死罪，因此决定暗暗将她送走，宁愿自己背上这个完婚前缺少节制的黑锅。

作出离开玛利亚的艰难选择，凸显出若瑟这位“义德之人”在主前的虔敬，在人前的谦逊，和对近人的关爱。对若瑟的这种心理分析，在教会里也称为圣若瑟“敬畏论”（the reverence theory）。

让我们反思：我如何活出若瑟拥有的义德？如何在思、言、行为上敬畏天主且关爱近人呢？

### 2. 达味之子

紧接着，让我们看看“达味之子”这一称号的重要性。天使如何用“达味之子”的称号，改

变了若瑟的计划，使他承担起圣家之长的责任。

玛窦福音及路加福音所记载的两套耶稣族谱（玛1:1-17；路3:23-38），都指出若瑟是达味的后裔。

当若瑟决定把玛利亚暗暗送走后，天使在睡梦中点醒了他的身份和使命：“达味之子若瑟，不要怕娶你的妻子玛利亚”！（玛1:20）

若瑟知道，旧约先知曾经预言，默西亚应该是出自达味家族的后裔（参撒下7:12-13）。现在他顿然大悟：天主子将通过他，被称为“人[的]儿子”，“达味的后裔”。虽然耶稣和自己没有血缘关系，但是作为自己的养子，耶稣也可称为达味的后裔。若是自己离开了圣母和耶稣，没有父亲的孩子，就没有了家谱，旧约的预言就不会实现。

因此，若瑟以全心全意的“是”，让天主预言得以实现。教宗本笃十六世在2010年7月5日以圣若瑟命名梵蒂冈花园的新水泉的演讲词中，非常精准地指出：“若瑟和玛利亚的婚姻，意义非凡。若瑟是达味皇族的后代，因着他与玛利亚的婚姻，童贞女的儿子—天主之子—也就有了合法的称号‘达味之子’，因此成全了[旧约]预言。”

“达味之子”这个称号，给予若瑟肯定与信心，让他意识到身为平民的自己其实是皇族的后代，在救恩史上责任重大。

其实，“达味之子”的称号，本来特指默西亚。新约中耶稣先后十七次被称为“达味之子”。除了耶稣外，若瑟是新约中唯一被冠以此称号的人物。

若瑟听从了天主在梦中对他的启示，立即采取行动：

(1) 娶了妻子玛利亚，尽好一家之长的责任：保护、赡养、陪伴圣母和耶稣。

(2) 意识到玛利亚特别属于天主，义人若瑟在一

辈子的夫妻生活中，都时刻尊重并保护了玛利亚的童贞。

圣教宗若望保禄二世在《救主的监护人》劝谕中的话语，写得非常贴切精彩：“藉著他的彻底自我牺牲，若瑟对天主之母体现了其慷慨的爱，将丈夫的‘舍己之爱’给予了对方。虽然若瑟因着不要干预天主在玛利亚身上的计划而已经决意隐退，但是他服从了天使的清楚吩咐，把玛利亚娶到家中，同时敬重她完全只属于天主的事实。”

让我们反思：为了成全基督为“达味之子”的预言，若瑟娶了玛利亚，并在夫妻生活中保护了玛利亚的童贞。天主赏了我何种恩宠，使我为其天国所用呢？

### 3. 结论

大圣若瑟，达味之子，通过他的敬畏、他的谦卑、他的爱心，实在不愧被称为“义德之人”。他以忘我精神来敬主爱人，是我们学习的榜样。

圣若瑟的哪个美德，对你有所启发呢？下次你经过武吉知马的圣若瑟像前面，看到醒目的“VIR JUSTUS ET FILIUS DAVID”镶金题字，你会作出怎样的祈祷呢？

大圣若瑟，义德之人/达味之子，为我等祈！



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# 参与慕道课有感

林翠群

## 一、上慕道班

我出生于中国广东。小时候偶尔跟着父母拜祖先，也不知道父母的宗教信仰是什么。出了社会后，就无任何宗教信仰。

我嫁来新加坡已10年，先生的家人是信奉天主教的。刚结婚时，家婆有叫我学要理课，还给我准备了3条玫瑰念珠和一本圣经。当时对我来说，圣经的内容既深奥又枯燥，一个人读得好乏味，加上先生无法帮我，身边也没有天主教的朋友，这事就不了了之了！

去年中开始，我在一所基督教的幼儿园当华文老师，园所里经常给幼儿讲圣经故事和唱圣歌，从那里我才对耶稣有了多一点的认识。

今年我的三女儿要上小学了，先生为她们报读了离家较远的圣婴女校，还为她们选择了天主教的课程。这些都是我意料之外的事，自我认识我的先生以来，都不曾看他去教堂参加弥撒，或许在他的内心深处还是深深地认可天主教的。我认识主的旅程也就因为女儿们的对主的渴望而开始了！

在慕道班，我深深地被张神父和服务人员的无私行动所感动。藉此感谢他们：

1. 团长每天发给我一些学习资料，有圣言祈祷、福音、弥撒等。
2. 来参加慕道课时，有专人帮我看顾孩子，
3. 为我们准备免费可口的食物；
4. 每一位讲课的兄弟和修士修女，

5. 服务人员的每次提醒和协助学习等。

经过两个多月的学习，我也深深地被主耶稣的事迹和祂的大爱所感动，我慢慢地思考和探索人生的意义，学习为人处事的道理。现在我非常肯定的一点，就是跟随主耶稣的步伐一直坚持走下去，决对不会错！

感谢主为我指引人生道路的方向！

## 二、收录礼

接到团长的通知，10月23日早上7点半要到教堂参加收录礼的弥撒。说实在的，我懵懵懂懂的参加了慕道班，这两个多月来，我自认是个不怎么用功学习的人；我整天忙于工作、孩子、家务，说实话，我连玫瑰念珠怎么用都不会，我也不会祈祷，那收录礼是什么呢？

一大早我来到教堂，服务人员已经提前到位，他们忙碌地为慕道者安排一切，确保一切有序无误地进行。我非常佩服他们任劳任怨，不知疲惫的精神。

收录礼弥撒在大家的共同合作下顺利进行，我涨知识了，原来成为一名天主教徒并非一件容易的事，但是绝无强迫性，我们慕道者是有绝对的选择权的。所以收录礼的安排是让我们决定我们慕道者是否要继续跟随主的脚步，继续学习主的大爱。教会为我们准备好了学习所需要的一切硬备条件，并鼓励我们用心学习。我不禁感叹，这么好的团体，这

么用心的服务，我能不被打动吗？并且这一切都是实实在在地对我们个人和团体有意义的事。

## 三、小朝圣

11月12日是个非常有意义的日子，张神父和慕道团体带着我们慕道者绕着新加坡进行一日朝圣，我们参观了新加坡有名的教堂、隐修院、教会博物馆以及博爱村。

经过这一天的游玩，我又涨知识了，各个教堂的建筑各有特色，堂内的布置也各有春秋。其中让我赞叹不已的是“博爱村”，单单是听到这个名字就已经让我热血沸腾。我不禁感叹自己见识少，目光短线。原来天主教在小小的新加坡居然有自己的社会服务机构，并且不分种族、宗教和国籍，为有需要的人提供服务。这不正是新加坡政府所提倡的吗？种族和谐，团结一致。这我不禁想起了前一段时间，天主教吴诚才总主教擢升枢机的感恩弥撒，我们的总理李显龙先生都前来祝贺，可见天主教为国家和社会团体所做出的贡献。

刚刚接触天主教时，我很好奇，为什么这里的服务人员总是这么热情，我们俗人总认为：别人对我们好，是想从我们身上得到什么好处。现在我开始醒悟，原来天主教的教友们这么热情，这么乐于助人，都是源于爱，因为他们爱天主，他们跟随天主，并要帮助天主找回我们这些迷失了的羊，感谢天主！