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Email your articles to:
spotlight@bsc.org.sg

Please include your name, contact number and address. The editorial team reserves the right to edit any letters or articles for publication.

Special Highlights

~ JAN 2008 ~

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使命宣言

我们，圣体堂区共融团体，愿成为基督圣体活的标记，尽力担当主基督祂舍己牺牲生命，为今日世界所付出的爱之标志与媒介。

MISSION STATEMENT

As the parish-community of the Blessed Sacrament, we want to be a living expression of the Holy Eucharist, by trying to become both a sign and an instrument of Christ's life-giving and self-sacrificial love in the world of today.

Rev. Anthony Hutjes (priest-in-charge)

Rev. Suyono Gerardus (assistant priest)

Rev. Remi Liando (assistant priest)





FROM DAVID'S DESK

On behalf of the Spotlight Team, I would like to thank you our dear readers for your support and all contributors for your inspiring articles and valuable feedback. I would like to request for your prayers as we journey together in faith through Spotlight

in the year 2008. Have a great year ahead!



David Woon

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Spotlight is to help create a closer communion of parishioners and to support faith formation through inspired articles and drawings via the Spotlight newsletter and the BSC Website.

Damien Hall funding update
(see hardcopy)

PARISH HAPPENINGS



INVITATION TO THE BSC PARISH ASSEMBLY

(20 JANUARY 2008)

Dear Parishioners,

The Parish Assembly is held annually so that everyone has the chance to have a say in how the spiritual needs of the parish can be met. It is an opportunity to work together with our Parish Priests and religious, pastoral workers, and church organizations to realize the parish mission of becoming a living expression of the Holy Eucharist; becoming both a sign and instrument of Christ's love to people around us.

During the Assembly, reports will be presented on activities that were planned and run in 2007, as a result of your input in the previous Parish Assembly, notably the Redemptorist mission. We will discuss about how we can continue to build on their work, and how each of us can contribute with our time and abilities.

The Parish Assembly will be held on Sunday, 20 January 2008 at 1pm in the Damien Centre Hall.

As the Assembly participation has to be representative of all parishioners, all church organizations are requested to send 2 representatives. All PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) and Exco (Executive Committee of the PPC) members are warmly invited so are all parishioners who are not in any organizations at all. You may register for the assembly in one of the following ways:

Call the Organizing Committee:

Anthony Thng [Tel: 97870566]; Steven Lum [Tel: 97503998]

Rosaline Thaver [Tel: 98978123]; Adleine Pathrose [Tel: 96830837]

Or send an *Email* to: parishassembly2008@bsc.org.sg leaving your name, contact number and email address. The deadline for registration is 11 January 2008. Look forward to seeing you there!

Anthony Thng
Chairperson, PPC



INSPIRATION

His Loving Presence by Patricia Ang

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod. He was born in a manger. He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. God chose to come in humility to show His loving kindness and power to those who are humble of heart and ready to receive Him. Does the Lord find an eager welcome in your heart and home?

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The joy of Christmas is a great joy, one that cannot be taken away from us because it is God becoming man to be among us and who has come to redeem us, in Jesus himself. Scripture says *"He became poor so that we might become rich"* (2 Cor 8:9) – rich not in material things which will pass away but rich in the things that last – eternal life and happiness with the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How do we experience our Lord's loving presence in present times?

"Be still and know I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10)

When we spend time with our Lord, we learn to hear His voice. When we acknowledge Him, He directs our paths. God created the body of Christ with different abilities, strengths and desires to reach out to people in many different ways. Jesus came so that we might *"have and enjoy life and have it in abundance"* (John 10:10).

God is somehow dwelling in each one of us – we meet God in every human being in our daily lives. The way we love one another is the way we love God. God is born in us today. He picks us up when we fall. He forgives us when we sin.

When we pray for others, we become less self-centered and we are thankful for the many blessings that He has showered on us. When we take the time to be the physically present to the people that we love and care for, we realize how often we forget to thank, affirm and acknowledge their presence.

And regardless of the situation in which you and I may be facing at this moment, God is there for us because He has promised, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). Proverbs 3:6 states: *"In all your ways know, recognize and acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths."* So let's have faith and trust in our Lord who is always there in His Loving Presence in the midst of trials and sufferings even when we don't understand His perfect plans for us.

This Christmas I wish all of you love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. **S**

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."

Charles Schulz (1922-2000)
Creator of the Peanuts comic strip

Vigil In Honour Of The Sacred Hearts

Our monthly vigil in honour of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be held on the first Friday of the next month, on **4th Jan 2008**. It starts at 9pm on Friday and ends at 6am the next day. Mass will be held in church at **10:30pm** followed by the vigil. You are most welcome to attend part of it, even if you cannot join the whole vigil. Hope to see you there!

**First
Friday**

4

JAN



HAPPENINGS

Alpha Monthly Gathering (Dec)

by Mary Kurian

"Advent – Awaiting the Messiah"

The monthly Post Alpha Gathering was held on 8 Dec 07 at St James Room. The room was filled with Alphians, their family members, relatives and friends. It was indeed a very good turnout. Everybody was very happy sharing their experiences and having fellowship while enjoying the great variety of pot-luck food.

A lot of the Alphan ladies made great effort to prepare their dishes with great culinary skills. They shared special dishes prepared with secret family recipes. Of course the men wisely took the easy way out, they just loaded on the table a great variety of fruits and desserts.

As we are in the Advent period, our dear and witty Bro Richard took the opportunity to explained the significance of the Advent wreath. He showed the people how they could make their own Advent wreath. He also explained the significance of the lighting and colour of the candles.

After the 2nd week in Advent readings were read out, we were called to reflect on the readings and ponder on the questions provided in the Advent booklet.

The participants were informed of some recommended things that they could do during this Advent period::

1. Visit or call an old friend.
2. Attend one or more weekday masses.
3. Try to fast for 1 meal or twice a week.
4. Forgive someone who has offended or hurt you.

After that, the gathering was called to share very simple

things that they could do during Advent. These are some of the suggestions:

1. Say "I love you" to your spouse, your child, your parents.
2. Smile and greet people you meet, especially in church.
3. Don't criticise. Speak less. Listen more.

Everyone was reminded that they too could make a list of things that they could do, keeping in mind, that we want to adopt the priorities of Jesus by doing something in line with the Gospel's command to love. Yes, it is still not too late to make your own list!

One Alphan shared the true meaning of Christmas in relation to the popular Christmas Tree and all the decorations on it (Everyone was presented with a beautiful coloured printout of this Christmas Tree). Explanations were given on: The Fir Tree, The Star, The Candle, The Wreath, The Santa ornament on the Christmas tree, The Holly leaf, The Gifts we receive, The Candy Cane, The Angel and The Bell. It was very educational as many of us did not know the significance of these Christmas items.

We thank and praise God for a lovely evening (without rain), and to be able to enjoy the fellowship outdoors on the balcony with all the stars above glittering away through the night. We pray that more Alphians and their family and friends would make an attempt to join us at the next gathering, to celebrate the presence of Jesus with all of us as one big happy family. **S**

ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING - JAN 2008

Day/Date: Sat 12th January 2008

Time: 7.15 pm

Place: Damien Hall

HIGHLIGHT : JESUS WILL BE WITH US !

Potluck Fellowship Meal. Kindly bring some food to share.

Invite your relations and friends to join us.

Better still, bring them along with you !



Jesus & Galilee

Thomas Ng

Galilee is the place where Jesus did most of His ministry. This place was a despised region in the eyes of the more cultured people of Judea. Galilean speech, compared to others in the surrounding vicinity, was crude and rude. The Galileans were considered backward, uncivilised, barbaric and unholy just because Galilee itself was far away from the throne and temple, from the political and religious power. Furthermore, Galileans were not well-versed in the Torah, and could not follow the law properly. So, this place was sometimes called the Galilee of the Gentiles and its people called “the people who lived in darkness, those who lived in the shadow of death”.

Historically, Galilee had nothing outstanding. Politically, it had no important role to play. However, Galilee was very important in Jesus’ life, particularly for His mission and ministry. Jesus was conceived and brought up in Galilee. He began his teaching and preaching in this despised land (Luke 4:14-15; Matt 4:23-25). For thirty years, Jesus spent most of His life in Galilee. Only his infancy and passion, death and resurrection took place in or near Jerusalem.

Another striking point is that all the apostles of Jesus were from Galilee. Only Judas Iscariot was a non-Galilean and he was the one who let Jesus down. The first miracle Jesus performed was at Cana (a village in Galilee). It was at Mount Tabor (in Lower Galilee) that the Transfiguration of Jesus took place. We also find Sea of Galilee and Capernaum (on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee) - the town of Peter which later became the second home of Jesus. Other places in Galilee mentioned in the Bible include Bethsaida, Corozain, and the Mount of Beatitudes which is the place of the multiplication of the loaves and the conferral of the Primacy of Peter. There is also Tiberius, the famous city along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and of course, the town of Nazareth (in Lower Galilee).

Jesus was even called a Galilean, which was synonymous with being called a Gentile or barbarian. Undoubtedly, Galilee seems to be a symbol of powerlessness. Yet the Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world, does not choose the Royal Palace or parents of noble origin to fulfill his mission but chooses this humble place! Let us then reflect and model the humility of our Lord in our lives. **S**



A Filipino couple with a 8-month-old daughter is looking for a whole unit at BSC locality. Interested owner who wants to rent out their house may contact Lilian Teoh at 9766 5485.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Results of Parish Carnival
2007 Donation Draw
held on 9 December 2007

PRIZE	PRIZE VALUE	WINNING TICKET NO.
1 st	\$1,000 cash	0280
2 nd	\$500 cash	4994
3 rd	\$300 cash	6446
4 th	\$200 cash	1290
5 th	\$100 cash	2161
6 th	\$50 cash	4513
7 th	\$50 cash	0595
8 th	\$50 cash	4793
9 th	\$50 cash	0281
10 th	\$50 cash	7195

CLAIMING OF PRIZES

Prize winners will be contacted by telephone to collect their prizes. Prize winners must produce their winning tickets & identification card for verification. Any prizes not claimed by Sunday 10 February 2008 will be donated to charity.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR 2008

The Opening Mass for all children attending catechism classes and their parents will be held on Sat 19th Jan 2008 at 3.30 p.m in Damien Hall. Formal classes begin on Sat 26th Jan 2008. Please hand in your form to the catechists when you come for class. You may use the form printed on the opposite page.

CLASS DETAILS

3.30 p.m to 4.45 p.m

Sec. 1	Level 4	St. Simon Room
Sec. 1	Level 4	St. Matthias Room
Sec. 2	Level 4	St. Jude Room
Sec. 2	Level 4	St. Andrew Room
Special 1	Level 4	St. Thomas Room

(For non-baptised youths 12 - 16 years old)



(see hardcopy for form)

4.45 p.m to 6.00 p.m

K 2	Level 3	St. James Room (Alphaeus)
Pr. 1	Level 3	St. Peter Room
Pr. 2	Level 3	St. John Room
Pr. 3	Level 3	St. James Room (Zebedee)
Pr. 4	Level 4	St. Andrew Room
Pr. 5	Level 4	St. Jude Room
Pr. 6	Level 4	St. Matthew Room

* Kindly note that there will be NO CLASSES on Public Holidays and during the School Holidays.