



# SPOTLIGHT TEAM

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Rev. Anthony Hutjes

## CHIEF EDITOR

David Woon

## EDITOR

Jenny Mok

## WRITERS

Andrew Juniper Lee

Thomas Ng

Patricia Ang

## LAYOUT ARTIST

Lynn Tessa Tay

## ARTISTS

Anastasia Tania

Karen Goh

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Ian Carnegie

## WEB ADMINISTRATORS

Charmaine Misquitta

Albert Shurgalla

## PRODUCTION

Joseph Low

Jeffrey Teo

Carol Teo

Marian Yeo

Martha Lim

Mary Ang

Rose Khoo

Katherine Tan

Elizabeth Lye

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Email your articles to: [spotlight@bsc.org.sg](mailto: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

~ SEP 2007 ~

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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

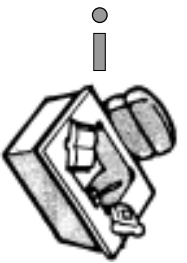
As the parish-community of the Blessed Sacrament, we want to be a living expression of the Holy Eucharist, by trying to become both a sign and an instrument of Christ's life-giving and self-sacrificial love in the world of today.

Rev. Anthony Hutjes (priest-in-charge)

Rev. Suvono Gerardus (assistant priest)

Rev. Remi Liando (assistant priest)





## FROM DAVID'S DESK

*City of Possibilities; Home for All* - For those of you who watched the National Day rally speech on 19 Aug, I am sure you felt a strong sense of pride for our nation, awe for the intricate policies, excitement for the challenges ahead and hope for our future.



Perhaps our parish should consider such an approach to rally our parishioners... perhaps our Parish Priest or Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council or any eloquent church leader could make such a rousing speech during our feastday... *Parish of Possibilities; Haven for All* - let's fire up our imagination for God!

### 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.*

*David Moon*

## PARISH HAPPENINGS



### Housebound Mass

*by Bertrand Leong*

A special mass for the housebound was conducted on National Day 9 Aug at 11am at Blessed Sacrament Church (BSC).

The Mass was celebrated by parish priest - Fr. Anthony Hutjes and concelebrated by fellow SS,CC. priests - Frs. Fabian van Lieshout, Suyono Gerardus and Remi Liando. Over 40 elderly people came (30 in wheelchairs). 140 people were catered for but nearly 200 people turned up. It was heart-warming to see many elderly parishioners coming with their family and caregivers.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was helpful in providing wheelchairs. Several parishioners volunteered to ferry the elderly, and the youth and members of the Catholic Neighbourhood Group helped out with the hall decorations, logistics and food.

Mass was made all the more sacred, beautiful and meaningful with the laying of hands over the sick and elderly followed by the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Several parishioners were moved to tears and many requested to have more of such Masses.

Towards the end of the Mass, Fr. Anthony engaged the sick & elderly by appealing for their intercessions, "You are powerhouses of prayer! Pray for us, for our parish, the parish mission and for the priests- you who are sick. Your prayers are valuable. For in your sufferings, you are united with the sufferings of Christ."

After Mass, parishioners were invited to a short performance and lunch reception at the new Fr. Damien Centre. Items included Chinese and Thai dance performances by the charming ladies of BSC, catechism children dancing to tune of "freaky frog" and a harmonica performance to the nostalgic tunes of "Moon River" and "Can't help falling in love with you" by Mr Gabriel Klyne.

Finally, at the end of the session near 2pm, the elderly were presented with hampers of basic foodstuffs and necessities as well as personalized postcards with photographs taken during the Mass. Everyone went home with full stomachs, warm memories and happy hearts. It was truly a National Day well spent - Christ was indeed present in the hearts of those who came and in those who helped out. Praise God for this memorable day. **S**

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

*The Alpha Team would like to express their sincere and grateful thanks to all those individuals and Church Organisations who helped out at the Mass for our dear housebound parishioners held on Thursday 9th August. Without all your help it would not have been such a success. It was really heartwarming to see everyone working together as one big family. May God bless you all!*

*"Teach us to give and not to count the cost."*

*- Saint Ignatius of Loyola*



## YOUR SAY

*\*Please include your full name & contact details (will not be printed out in Spotlight) if you like your views to be published.*

When a parishioner phoned me two months ago, inviting me for a special Mass for the housebound parishioners on National Day in BSC, I immediately said Yes! I was very excited.

Finally 9th of August arrived with morning showers - to me they were showers of blessings for Singapore. I knew instantly it would be a wonderful day.

The parishioner fetched me and my maid at 10.30am. When we arrived, it was lovely to see so many helping hands. All the sick, elderly and wheel-chair bound parishioners received a corsage and a name tag. This gesture made me feel very special.

Mass then commenced at 11am. It was a very solemn, emotional heart-warming experience. When Father Anthony placed his hands on my head, I was overwhelmed with warmth. I even shed tears of joy. I felt the same emotions when Father Suyono anointed my palms. It was a very uplifting experience.



After the wonderful service, we all adjourned to the new Damien Hall where the President of the Damien Hall Fund Raising Committee, Mr. Oscar Oliveira gave a welcome speech. We

were served lunch and treated to a concert by our brothers and sisters young and old. Father Remi sang an old favourite "Banggawan Solo" followed by a sing-along session.

I felt there was a bonding element in this event and we were each given a hamper. What a lovely surprise! I give my utmost congratulations to Oscar and his team. I hope this becomes a regular feature in the church calendar.

I was extremely happy that I said yes to this event, because I met old friends Jean and Oscar, and also made new friends.

God Bless all the Fathers, the organizers and helpers!

*Victoria Valberg (BSC Commonwealth Crescent Zone)*



## PARISH HAPPENINGS

**BSC Pastoral Worker -**

**Andrew Neo**  
by Patricia Ang

At the invitation of Fr Anthony, Mr Andrew Neo joined BSC as our new pastoral worker on 1 July 2007. His main responsibilities are to promote the life of the church especially with regard to the youth, young adults, Family Life, CNG and religious instructions of the youth.



Andrew has been with this parish since he was baptised in 1984. Andrew will be celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> year wedding anniversary this December. He is married to Molly and they have a son Gerard who is 23 years old. Andrew was in the Singapore Armed Forces for 37 years. His hobbies range from listening to music, reading and going to the Zoo with his family

Andrew and Molly started off as Catechists for the post-confirmation class in 1988/1989. Then they were asked to be the first parent couple for Antioch, a youth-to-youth ministry from 1994 to 2003. They have also organised Youth Campaign for the Poor for a number of years and also organised several Maundy Thursday overnight vigils for the youth. The couple are currently still Catechists.

Andrew and his wife are also involved in the Faith and Light Community since its inception in 2002. Faith and Light Community is a support group for special-needs people and their caregivers. Andrew has been involved in Legion of Mary since 1987. "The Legion helps me to stay rooted in my faith as it is a very prayerful ministry," said Andrew.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself."* (Luke 10: 27). This is one verse that constantly reminds Andrew to love God first and foremost and to love his fellow man as himself.

Another inspirational Bible verse for Andrew is Matthew 6:25-34. "It is inspirational to me as it teaches me to depend on God for everything and if we let Him into our lives, He will always provide for all our needs. God has worked miracles in my life and in my family. They may not be large and spectacular miracles, but there have been many occasions when I cannot explain the good things that come my way," concluded Andrew. **S**



## HAPPENINGS

### Alpha Monthly Gathering - August by Judith Chia

For the month of August, the Alpha Monthly Gathering was held on Sat 11th Aug from 7 pm to 9.45pm. Well, I almost missed this month's gathering, if not for my dear friend Jeanette who reminded me. As it turned out, I truly had a great time: catching up with old friends and meeting new faces. Thank God for friends! And may God bless all those wonderful Alphas who, month after month, sacrifice their time, effort and money to get us together to bond in the true spirit of Christian Fellowship. There were about 50 of us who attended this month's session.

Here is the best part: After a wonderful meal, we sat down to watch a video talk given by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosia entitled: *The Power of the Eucharist - Getting more out of the Mass*. The points brought up by the presenter, are really worth pondering and great 'food for thought'.

Here are some of the points suggested in the video talk:

1. Read the Sunday readings before Mass. Maybe at home, or a day earlier, and if possible, the commentaries too.
2. Get to church early. If driving to church, try to quieten down. Cut out the music and the noise.
3. Have more reverence for the holiness of the Eucharist.
4. Be attentive and join in the singing and responses with enthusiasm.
5. Have your own prayer before communion and after communion.

After the video talk, we had a short break before we got into groups for discussion. From the discussion, the following are some of the suggestions recommended by the various groups:

1. Make a point to 'dress up' for Mass. Remember the expression with regards to dressing 'Your Sunday Best'
2. Attend a 'different' Mass once in a while. Do not attend the same Mass throughout the whole year or even sit at the same pew week in week out.



3. It is also a good idea to attend Mass at a different parish once in a while to get a different perspective and perhaps appreciate our parish better.

There was a lively discussion regarding young children attending Mass especially when some of their parents are not too keen in 'training' them in proper behaviour when attending Mass in church. There were a variety of responses. Before we ended the evening, we were reminded of the point emphasized by the video presenter: *'If you do not get anything out of the Mass, you yourself are to be blamed. You are responsible.'*

I hope you all enjoyed reading this 'report' and God bless. I am praying for 'full house' for our September Gathering. Hope to see many of you there! **S**

### ALPHA MONTHLY GATHERING - SEPTEMBER

Date: Sat 8th September 2007

Time: 7.15 pm

Place: St. James Rooms (Level 3 New Building)

Highlight: Video Talk on The Power of the Eucharist - Eucharistic Adoration  
Potluck Fellowship Meal: Please bring along some food to share. Your friends and relations are most welcome to join us.

### COMING IN OCTOBER!

The Post Alpha Group will be showing a movie entitled: MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on Sat 13th October immediately after the candle light procession. Food will be on sale.

All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. Look out for more details in the next issue of Spotlight & Posters around the church grounds.

### *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 **7th Sep 2007**. 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**

**7  
SEP**





## IN RETROSPECT

### A Journey Towards Eternity by *Thomas Ng*

When Catholics talk to Buddhists regarding Eternity, most of them will conclude with the idea of Nirvana, that is, the end to suffering, and attaining complete enlightenment into the state of bliss. Here is a story of a Buddhist who wanted to know Eternity in our view.

The late aunt of my wife Jenny, Madam Ho, was a Buddhist vegetarian. She often asked me about meditation, moral conduct and eternal life. In comparison, I quoted a Buddhist teaching and Christ's golden rule: "*Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would feel hurt.*" (*Udana-Varga 5:18*) "*In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.*" (*Matt 7:12*). I further explained to her that good Catholics achieving Eternity is just like devoted Buddhists attaining Nirvana. I also touched on some similar teachings of Buddha and Christ. She agreed with all my points.

Madam Ho was very sick last year. On 24 March 2007, Jenny sent her to the Singapore General Hospital. Coincidentally, the consultant taking care of her was our parishioner, Dr Colleen Thomas, who informed me later that Madam Ho was diagnosed with the terminal stage of Lymphoma cancer. After some treatment, Madam Ho requested for transfer to Bright Vision Hospital where her Buddhist friends could easily visit her. Jenny and I consoled her that Heaven (God) would heal her.

From mid April, Madam Ho suffered much pain. I encouraged her to use her meditative concentration to endure her suffering. Reminding her on the Buddhist Nirvana and Catholic Eternity, I strengthened her courage by emphasizing that suffering would come to an end, and it was 'in dying that we are born to eternal life.' After hearing that, she was much comforted. She even asked me if we Catholics could pray for her in our own way. I assured her with a positive answer.

On 30 April 2007, Bright Vision Hospital informed us that Madam Ho passed away peacefully. My wife and I rushed down to pay her our last tribute in the 'respect room'. I consoled Jenny and asked her to join my prayer for her. Madam Ho's 88 years of earthly life was over. Her suffering came to an end, and she began her road to Nirvana. May merciful God, the Creator of all mankind bless her with a peaceful journey towards eternity. Amen! **S**

**Youth Section  
Vibes (see hardcopy)**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BSC Celebration**

BSC will be celebrating our 44th Parish Anniversary and the Opening of our new Fr-Damien Centre and Kindergarten on 22 Sep 2007 (Sat). It will also mark the official start of our Parish Mission.

**CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS**

6:00pm - High Mass, conducted by Msgr Eugene Vaz  
7:30pm - The official opening ceremony of the new building  
8:00pm - Dinner in the new Damien Hall

**‘Parenting with Grace’ Talk by Joyful Parenting**

Calling all New Parents & Parents to be! Come and join us and learn about God’s Plan for the Family. Topics include *Gentle Birth*, *Biology of Baby*, *Breastfeeding in Church/Public*, *Natural Child Spacing*, *Bringing up Children in the Catholic Faith*, *Christ-Centred Parenting*.

Date: 9th September 2007  
Time: 1pm to 5pm  
Venue: A2-01 (St. Joseph room), Church of the Holy Spirit  
Registration is free! Contact Pamela for registration at: 92713335



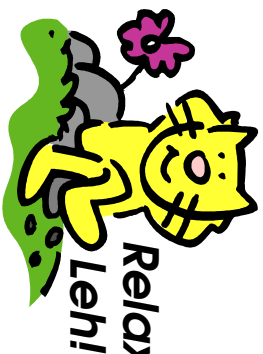
**WEST DISTRICT EXAM RALLY**

JOIN THE REST OF THE STUDENTS IN THE WEST DISTRICT IN PRAYER FOR THE UPCOMING EXAMS!!

WHEN? 15TH SEPTEMBER 2007

WHERE? ST MARY OF THE ANGELS - ST CLARES HALL

TIME? 7.00PM - 9.30PM



Congratulations to Michelle Dapito, Clarence Tan, Jacinta Faustina Francis! You are our winners for last month’s Relax Spotlight contest! To win exciting prizes, unscramble the words below and complete the verse, and send in your entries by 9 Sep 07.  
*(For children 12 years & below; not for Spotlight members & family members)*

**(see hardcopy)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_