

Reflection: Ways to make Christ the centre of family life include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, and so forth, all done together as a family unit. In addition to cultivating positive actions, the Church understands that various actions and behaviours contrary to God's Divine plan for the family should be avoided: abortion, contraception, same-sex marriage, polygamy, embryonic stem-cell research, divorce, spousal abuse, child abuse, and co-habitation. Let's look at the life of our families: how can we improve our domestic relationships &



Entrance: 327 Once in Royal David's City (SATB)

Entrance Ant.: *The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

Gospel Acc.: *At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.*

Offertory: 325 God of Eve and God of Mary (SATB)

Communion Ant.: *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

Communion: 591 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Recessional: 304 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

Conductor:
Cantor:
Organist:
On Leave:
Pre-Mass Chorale:
- Let Earth Receive Her King
- 303 Joy to the World
- In Love He Came

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December 2017
Year B

Sts. Peter & Paul Choir

LITURGY BITS

REFLECTIONS

MASS PLANNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Message from the Music Director

What is Advent to you?

While I was preparing the program notes for my Choral Conducting exam, I learnt that the word "Advent" comes from the Latin: "adveni". It consists of "ad" (meaning "to") and "veni" (meaning "come"). Hence Advent translates to "to come". We all know that Christ is "to come". But in our lives, we are also fixated on the plans we have "to come". We experience life in the present, no doubt, but we also project our lives into the future with our plans and goals. I am just wondering, if we each also make room to plan for sainthood?

I am far from it – and I am very sure I am further from this state of being as compared to so many of you who lead prayerful and devout lives. And each of you inspire me for it. Just as I make plans for the growth and development of the choir, and hope to nurture in each of you a love for music and musicianship – I realize, we encourage and inspire each other: you, with your efforts to learn and keep up; and myself with your dedication and commitment.

Soon, it shall be Christmas, and another year gone. We have come quite far this year. We have had many new members join us, and new friendships blossomed. Our choir's abilities are developing well, and interest and enthusiasm is sustained. As for me, I have had the experience of taking 3 exams this quarter to improve myself for the choir's sake.

Next year's plans are already on the table: a big wedding in January, our service in the parish throughout the Liturgical Year, the possibility of experiencing a choral exchange in Kuala Lumpur, choir retreats, workshops, national conventions, performance opportunities etc. And these form the advent of deepening a meaningful experience for the choir.

As we constantly make preparations for the "advents" in our lives, I'd like to wish each of you a meaningful Christmastide, and a promising New Year. May your heart's desire meet with the favour of God and bear fruit – especially for your well being.

Announcements

1. "Spread the Love" Christmas @ Assisi Hospice

We're heading to Assisi Hospice for Carolling this Christmas.

Date: **Friday, 22 December 2017**

Time: Carolling starts 7pm (gathering time to be informed)

Address: 832 Thomson Road, S(574627)

2. Carolling for the SVDP Friends-In-Need (FINs)

As with last year, we'll be carolling for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's "Friends In Need" Christmas Lunch Party at Royal Queen Hotel. We will also be rostering ourselves to visit the homes of FINs during the weekly home-visits by the SVDP members.

Date: **10 December, Sunday**

Time: Carolling for Lunch 12pm; Carolling for Home visits 19th Dec (Tues), 7pm

Address: - Christmas Lunch @ SPP Church

- Home visits at Chinatown Area

3. Mary Mother of God (Vigil), 31 December 2017

As with last year, we'll be singing the Te Deum at the Mass for 31st December 2017. Fellowship as a choir will follow after the Mass at the parish dinner..



Saturday, 2nd December: 1st Sunday of Advent

Reflection: Our life is a long vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in all his glory. We wait with longing and with "joyful hope", for his Spirit is with us, and we know that God is faithful to his promises. To usher in the season of Advent, as we progress and prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus at Christmas, we are reminded to constantly stay awake and be alert all the time.



Entrance: 278 On Jordan's Bank (SATB)

Entrance Ant.: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Gospel Acc.: *Let us see O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

Offertory: 646 Be Thou My Vision (SATB)

Communion Ant.: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield his increase.*

Communion: 841 Beautiful Saviour (SATB)
Recessional: 638 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (SATB)

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Sectionals:

Saturday, 9th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reflection: Today we celebrate the Good News of God's incredible love for all his people. The Good news that for God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son. To help prepare his people, John the Baptist was the one to prepare the way and make his paths straight. Can we also be like John the Baptist? Let us mend our hearts first. Then when ready, let us reach out to our brothers and sisters, and help prepare them too, for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Entrance: 278 On Jordan's Bank (SATB)

Entrance Ant.: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *Let us see, O lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

Gospel Acc.: *Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.*

Offertory: 646 Be Thou My Vision (SATB)

Communion Ant.: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Communion: 841 Beautiful Saviour (SATB)
Recessional: 638 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (SATB)

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

Conductor:

Animator:
Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

New Songs:
 590 Sing Praise to God
 Who Reigns Above

Christus Vincit, Christus
 Regnat
 (Chant)

Saturday, 16th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday.

Reflection: The first verses from today's gospel – "He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." I think these few phrases serve as good reminder to ourselves, not just during this season of Advent, but on every day that we live out our Christian lives. We know what the good news (testimony) is. We know what or who the 'light' refers to. The challenge is, are we ready to testify to the light?



Entrance: 274 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (SATB)

Entrance Ant.: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

Gospel Acc.: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

Offertory: 296 Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (SATB)

Communion Ant.: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

Communion: 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord (SATB)
Recessional: 279 Come Divine Messiah (SATB)

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave: Ken

New Songs:
 590 Sing Praise to God
 Who Reigns Above

Christus Vincit, Christus
 Regnat
 (Chant)

Saturday, 23rd December: 4th Sunday of Advent

Reflection: Blessings from the Lord are sometimes mysteries which are not for us to reason but simply to accept. They may or may not be what we desire but if we remember deep down in our hearts, that it is the will of the Lord, then we have to put our trust and hope in Him. As humans, the unknown mystery of the Lord's will might bring us fear or sadness. We should thus pray for His strength and guidance to accept His will. Faith is not only about praying for what we desire but also for the trust and strength to do something that might be against our will. Remember, the Lord is with you



Entrance: 274 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (SATB)

Entrance Ant.: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.*

Offertory: 296 Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (SATB)

Communion Ant.: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

Communion: 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord (SATB)
Recessional: 279 Come Divine Messiah (SATB)

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater (Chant)

Conductor: Chris

Cantor: Helen
Organist: Ken & Jacq

On Leave:

New Songs:
 Christus Vincit, Christus
 Regnat
 (Chant)