

Welcome! Whether you are a visitor, long-time parishioner or new to the Parish, we welcome you to our Community, our parish family.

<p>Priests of our Parish Rev Fr. Paul Ngo, (Parish Priest) paul.ngo@ihm.sg Rev.Fr. Luke Fong luke.fong@ihm.sg Rev Fr Joseph Kace joseph.kace@ihm.sg</p>	<p>Mass Schedule (wef January 2023) Monday to Friday: 7:30am & 6:15pm Saturday: 7am (followed by Novena Devotion), 4pm (Mandarin – Anticipatory Mass) <i>5.30pm (Anticipatory Mass)</i> Sunday: <i>6.45am, 8.30am, 11.30am</i> & 5.00pm</p>	<p>Walk-in Confession at Priest's office: (except on public holidays) Monday: 9am to 11am Tuesday: 9am to 11am Thursday: 4pm to 6pm Friday: 4pm to 6pm</p>
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First Sunday of Lent - 18 February 2024

**20th Sacerdotal
ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY**

**of Rev. Fr. Paul Ngo, MEP
Parish Priest,
Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary**

THANKSGIVING MASS

Sat 2nd Mar 2024, at 5.30pm
(Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary)

DINNER (after mass)
Venue: St. Gregory Hall
Charges: \$450 per table

Registration Link
<https://tinyurl.com/FrPaul20th>



**Sale of Dinner Tables
(Outside Admin Office):**
24 Feb (Sat) : 5pm
25 Feb (Sun): 9.30am onwards

Pope Francis offers his prayer intention for the month of **February**:
FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL - Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Booking of Niches at IHM Columbarium is for IMMEDIATE USE AND for baptised catholics only. Compulsory documents: Baptism Certificate/s of the intended user/s and Death Certificate/s.

CHURCH WEDDING BOOKINGS are to be made 12 months in advance. **Application is to be made only by the bride or the groom.** Booking forms and guidelines are available from the parish office. Please call or email to enquire for availability.

Adoration Room
is opened daily 9am to 9pm. Please observe silence and reverence in the presence of our Lord.

Parish Office
Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri : 9am to *7pm (*subject to changes)
Wednesday : 9am to 5pm
Saturdays & Sundays : 9am to 12pm
Closed on public holidays

Canteen	This Sunday	18 Feb	No Canteen – CNY break
	Next Sunday	25 Feb	EMHC



A Pastoral Letter for the season of Lent - February 2024

Dear parishioners,

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are invited to “Repent and believe the Good News”. These two invitations are intrinsically linked. Repentance starts with the attitude by which we are sorry for our sins and then leads to the process of conversion by which we change our old sinful habits into virtuous ones. But this process of conversion is not possible by mere willpower, for we are both weak and lack focus. Therefore we need the Good News. But what does that mean? The Good News is more than merely a message of hope. The essence of the Good News is Jesus himself.

In the book of Exodus we read how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on two stone tablets. These 10 rules were a command from God of how the people of God were to live in the Promised Land. And indeed if we would all perfectly keep the Ten Commandments we would experience heaven on earth. Just imagine a world in which no one would lie, steal, envy, cheat or murder; and where everyone would worship God, that indeed would be paradise. The Ten Commandments are absolutely fantastic, they are great rules to live by, and they still apply to us.

The only issue with them is that they were written on stone tablets. Meaning they are rules that were written as an exterior billboard for us to look at. And perhaps the ‘stone’ tablets are a metaphor for the state of our hearts. Due to sin our hearts have been hardened and thus we find it difficult to keep the Law. Due to this struggle the prophet Ezekiel gave us this beautiful prophecy:

*“I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes.” (Ezk 36:26-27)*

This prophecy of Ezekiel brings us to the heart of the Good News and why the Good News is a Person. Jesus showed us that keeping the Law is possible. Therefore the journey of conversion is possible, because Jesus has given us his Spirit. The law is no longer merely an exterior billboard telling us what to do, it has become an inner desire engraved in our hearts. And our hearts have become flesh again, full of desire to do what is good and empowered to live virtuously. By his Spirit living in us, we can now embark on the journey of conversion, and that is good news.

In order to experience the transformation of our hearts and to prepare ourselves well for the celebration of Easter, the parish has organised the following activities during this season of Lent:

- Stations of the Cross on 16 & 23 Feb after the 6.15pm Mass.
- On Friday 1, 8, 15 & 22 March:
 - Stations of the cross at 7pm
 - Mass at 7.40pm with a longer homily by Fr. Emmanuel Noël, OCD on the theme of **Discipleship: A conversion of the heart**
- The Penitential Service at IHM will be held in the church Thu 21 March from 8pm to 10pm

We hope you join us for the Friday Masses, Stations of the Cross and for the Penitential Service so that together we will prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Wishing you all a blessed season of Lent,

Fr. Paul, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Luke, Deacon Dexter, the PPC ExCo and the staff of the parish.