

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

<p><b>Priests of our Parish</b> Rev Fr. Paul Ngo, (Parish Priest) <a href="mailto:paul.ngo@ihm.sg">paul.ngo@ihm.sg</a> Rev.Fr. Luke Fong <a href="mailto:luke.fong@ihm.sg">luke.fong@ihm.sg</a> Rev Fr Joseph Kace <a href="mailto:joseph.kace@ihm.sg">joseph.kace@ihm.sg</a></p>	<p><b>Mass Schedule (<i>wef January 2023</i>)</b> Monday to Friday: 7:30am &amp; 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> &amp; 5.00pm</p>	<p><b>Walk-in Confession at Priest's office:</b> <b>(except on public holidays)</b> <b>Monday: 9am to 11am</b> <b>Tuesday: 9am to 11am</b> <b>Thursday: 4pm to 6pm</b> <b>Friday: 4pm to 6pm</b></p>
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## First Sunday of Advent 3 December 2023



## Advent 2023 PASTORAL LETTER

Dear parishioners,

As we enter into the season of Advent, we are invited to make space for Christ. This is something that may not always happen automatically. When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem for the census and Mary gave birth to Jesus, she “laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7) And in Matthew 2, we read how Herod wanted to kill the baby Jesus and how Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt as refugees. Jesus was literally born into a world that did not know him (cf. John 1:10), did not welcome him or blatantly was hostile to him.

On the other hand, God gave Jesus two persons to care for him, they are our role models of discipleship: Mary and Joseph. They show us how to make space for him. Mary made space for him within herself, when she gave her ‘fiat’ to the plan of God. Joseph took care of the external space, by finding the stable and by protecting him on the road to Egypt, until they could return safely to the Promised Land, where they settled in Nazareth.

During advent we too should make space for Christ. We do this externally when we clean the house and decorate it with a stable and Christmas decorations, and by preparing food for the Christmas celebrations. This external space should serve us as a reminder of an even more important space that we should prepare: the internal space. Through prayer and the Sacraments we should prepare the inner space of our heart for Christ. We should cleanse our soul through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that we can deepen our relationship with Jesus.

In order to prepare our heart well for the celebration of Christmas and to make space for Him, the parish has organised an Advent Triduum and a Penitential Service.

In line with our year theme on “Becoming a parish of intentional, missionary disciples” the Advent Triduum will focus on “**Called to be missionary disciples**”. The Masses will be celebrated by Fr. Emmanuel Noël, OCD:

Mon 11 Dec, 7.30pm, Mass. Sub-theme: **Carrying friends to Jesus**

Tue 12 Dec, 7.30pm, Mass. Sub-theme: **Seeking the lost**

Wed 13 Dec, 7.30pm, Mass. Sub-theme: **Carrying the yoke of Christ**

The Penitential Service at IHM will be held in the church on Tue 19 Dec from 8pm to 10pm.

We hope you join us for the Advent Triduum and for the Penitential Service so that together we will prepare our heart for the coming of Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed season of Advent,

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

## ADVENT TREE PLEDGE CARD

You are invited to write name(s) of a non-baptised friend or family member on the cards provided as your pledge to pray for their conversion. You can hang the pledge cards on the Advent Tree.

### Next Infant Baptism 6 Jan 2024 at 2pm

Compulsory briefing for all parents & godparents will be on 30 Dec 2023 at 2pm. Registration forms are available at the entrance of the parish office till 24 Dec 2023.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Come pray with us,  
*Hour of Grace  
& Benediction*

Friday 8 December  
12 noon  
IHM Church

~ All are welcome ~  
A light lunch will be provided.



### Children's Advent Workshop by LOWC

For children age 3 to 10 years old

Date: 10 December 2023

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Venue: to be advised upon  
registration

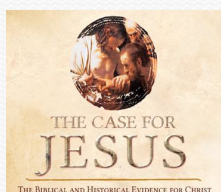
(children below age 5 need to be  
accompanied by an adult)

#### Registration and Enquiries:

Sharon 81800762

Cherie 98227281

## LECTIO: THE CASE FOR JESUS



Scan ↓ to register



Register for this 9-session community learning video program from the Augustine Institute, featuring Dr. Brant Pitre.

Come and strengthen your faith and stand firm to profess that Jesus is truly "the Christ, the Son of the living God".

Starts on 9 Dec till 3 Feb. Registration & other details can be found on the Notice Board poster and other IHM media channels.

Pope Francis offers his prayer intention for the month of **December**:

#### FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

#### 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/Thur/Fri : 9am to \*7pm  
(\*subject to changes)  
Wednesday : 9am to 5pm  
Saturdays & Sundays : 9am to 12pm  
Closed on public holidays

**From 26 Nov 2023 to 14 Jan 2024, canteen will operate every Sunday – 8.30am to 11.00am**

To access FORMED via IHM's login → PARISH NAME – **IHM** / PARISH CODE - **36d538**