



# St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah)

Weekly Parish Bulletin • 05 Jan 2025 • Epiphany (Year C)

620 Upper Bukit Timah Road  
Singapore 678116

Gate Opening Hours:  
8.00am to 9.00pm

[stjoseph-bt.org.sg/](http://stjoseph-bt.org.sg/)

[facebook.com/sjcbt/](https://facebook.com/sjcbt/)

## PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Christopher Lee  
Tel: 6760 0052

## ASST PARISH PRIEST

Rev Msgr Peter Zhang  
[peter.zhang@catholic.org.sg](mailto:peter.zhang@catholic.org.sg)

## ASST PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Lourdusamy Prasanna  
[lourdusamy.prasanna@catholic.org.sg](mailto:lourdusamy.prasanna@catholic.org.sg)

## SECRETARIAT

Maggie Chia Tel: 6769 1666  
[sjcbt.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:sjcbt.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

## ADMINISTRATION

Evelyn Lau Tel: 6769 1608  
[sjcbt.admin@catholic.org.sg](mailto:sjcbt.admin@catholic.org.sg)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKDAY MASSES (Chapel of St Joseph)

Mon – Fri : 6.30am, 6.30pm  
Sat : 6.30am

### WEEKEND MASSES

Sat : 5.30pm (Sunset)  
Sun : 7.30am (Mandarin),  
9.30am, 11.30am and 5.30pm

### CONFESSIONS

15 mins before all weekend Masses in  
the Reconciliation Rooms in Church.

## OTHER SERVICES

### ADORATION ROOM

Mon – Fri : 8.00am to 9.00pm  
Sat : 9.30am to 7.00pm  
Sun : 8.00am to 7.00pm  
Public Holidays : 8.00am to 4.00pm

### COLUMBARIUM / ROSARY GARDEN / STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mon – Sun : 8.00am to 8.00pm

### MEDIA CENTRE (BOOKSHOP)

Sat : 4.30pm to 7.00pm  
Sun : 8.30am to 1.00pm  
Every 2nd Sunday : 8.30am to 1.00pm,  
5.30pm to 7.00pm

### DEVOTIONS

**Holy Hour** : First Friday @ 8.00pm  
in Main Church (unless otherwise stated)

**Mass in Honour of St Joseph** :  
First Wednesday @ 8.00pm  
in Main Church

### Divine Mercy :

Every Friday @ 8.00pm (except First Fri)  
in the Chapel of St Joseph

### Garden Rosary :

First Saturday after the 5.30pm Mass

**Grotto Rosary** : Every 13th of the month  
after 6.30pm Mass (weekdays only)

### Holy Hour for Vocations :

Every Third Thursday of the month in  
the Chapel of St Joseph @ 8.00pm

### Blessing of Expectant Mothers:

Every Fourth Sunday of the month

## From the Desk of the Parish Priest

### The Epiphany of the Lord

On 5 Jan, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany, the biblical event where the Magi, also called the Three Wise Men or Three Kings, travelled from the East to pay homage to the newborn King, Jesus Christ. The Magi's coming to Jerusalem acknowledges the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. They sought the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations.



The Magi bring with them gold, incense and myrrh. The offer of gold is to proclaim Christ's Kingship, incense is to adore His Godhead, and myrrh is to acknowledge His mortality. Let us also come in humble adoration to worship our newborn King. Hallelujah!

## Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

### Description of Jubilee Logo



The logo for Jubilee Year 2025 shows four united embracing figures representing the four corners of the earth. At the front is the Cross, the sign of faith and the source of hope. Under the four figures are waves symbolising the difficult challenges we encounter. Below the Cross is an anchor, a symbol of hope. Hope steadies us when life is rocky and uncertain.

### Jubilee 2025

In 2025, the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope. The theme **"Pilgrims of Hope"**, was inspired by Romans 5:5 – *"Hope does not disappoint"*. In his papal bull announcing the Jubilee, Pope Francis shares his hopes that the Jubilee will *"be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' (cf. Jn 10:7,9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as 'our hope' (1 Tim 1:1)."*

### Tough early environment

Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP) and St Joseph's Church in Kranji and Bukit Timah (SJCBT) faced many challenges in their early history in Singapore.

MEP evangelised in an era of the Protestant Dutch, the Anglican British and regional Catholic missions. When MEP claimed jurisdiction to represent the Catholic Church in Singapore in 1832, the Portuguese Mission objected. A Spanish priest from Goa also claimed jurisdiction. The Portuguese and the French Catholic missions argued their cases for a few years through newspaper letters until a papal decree re-confirmed that the MEP Apostolate Vicar of Siam had jurisdiction over Singapore. The Portuguese Mission then started St Joseph's Church in Victoria St in 1853.

Mission life was always tough for our parish founder Fr Anatole Mauduit. Chinese secret societies, losing revenue from memberships, opium, prostitution and gambling when workers became Catholics, killed a Chinese Christian and burnt his plantation in 1849. When Fr Mauduit was in Paris seeking medical treatment in 1851, anti-Catholic riots started in many parts of the island with secret societies pillaging Chinese Christian plantations and killing many Catholics. Fr Marie-Francois Issaly, who managed the parish in Fr Mauduit's absence, escaped the riots when he attended to a sick woman elsewhere and safely returned to town by boat.

Fr Mauduit's health suffered from rural hardships over the years. He often sacrificed his own meagre rice portion for his poor parishioners. When he vomited several times on Wednesday of Holy Week in 1858, Fr Jean-Marie Beurel from the MEP Mission gave him the Last Rites. Fr Mauduit died on Holy Thursday 1 April 1858 at the age of 41. He was buried in SJCBT on Good Friday.

Chinese migrants in the jungle always lived in fear of snakes and tigers. Fr Augustin Perie once killed a cobra with his gun and a huge python with both his gun and a stick! With tigers killing people almost daily, the Chief of Police wanted to use a dead coolie as bait to capture a tiger, whose skin was worth one hundred dollars, but Fr Perie defied the order and had parishioners bring the corpse to the church for a funeral vigil. In 1862, Fr Perie also faced threats from

the secret societies, who tried to poison him and placed a \$1000 reward for anyone who killed him! When typhoid fever hit around 1862 and the infected Fr Perie could not get more medical assistance to treat parishioners, his Portuguese friend working in The Singapore Gazette wrote an article on 'The plague at Bukit Timah'. This resulted in the Governor sending doctors and medical supplies to stop the disease.

The harsh conditions in the 19<sup>th</sup> century also affected the health of the few MEP priests who were overstretched. Fr Beurel, who was deeply involved in the churches and schools, including the dispute with the Portuguese Mission, had a stroke in 1868 and died in Paris in 1872 at the age of 59. Fr Marie-Francois Issaly assisted Fr Beurel to manage the Chinese Christians; was Chaplain at the General Hospital; supported Fr Mauduit between 1847-1853; was parish priest of SJCBT over two terms while also looking after the Aukang parish; helped Fr Pierre Paris to build the Church of Saints Peter & Paul in 1870; and died aged 51 while seeking medical treatment in Hong Kong in 1874. Fr Pierre Paris looked after parishes in Bukit Timah and Aukang; served prisoners in the Bras Basah jail, which had beriberi outbreaks; and died in Singapore in 1883 at the age of 61.

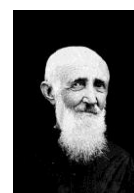
Fr Jean-Marie Belliot faced various problems in his 60 years as a missionary. In 1888, he survived four gunshots to his chest and knife wounds to his limbs when he confronted ten thieves in his parish house. Known as the 'Sharpshooter Priest', he once sent a message to a gangland leader not to mess with him by shooting down a coconut from a tree with a single gunshot! His health declined from 1917 and he died in 1934 aged 86.

By God's grace and St Joseph's protection, our parish survived the tough early environment.

*By Peter Ling*



Fr Augustin Perie, a threat to secret societies.



Fr Jean-Marie Belliot, the 'Sharpshooter Priest'

# AROUND THE PARISH

## Couplets for Chinese New Year (Sun 12 Jan)

To usher in the Chinese New Year, Miss Anne Choy Ping, a graduate student in international calligraphy, will be demonstrating her art by preparing couplets and bookmarks for parishioners. Do come by the St Joachim Road to pick up one of her couplets and share in the festive spirit!

Date : Sun 12 Jan  
Time : After 7.30 am Mass  
Venue : St Joachim's Room



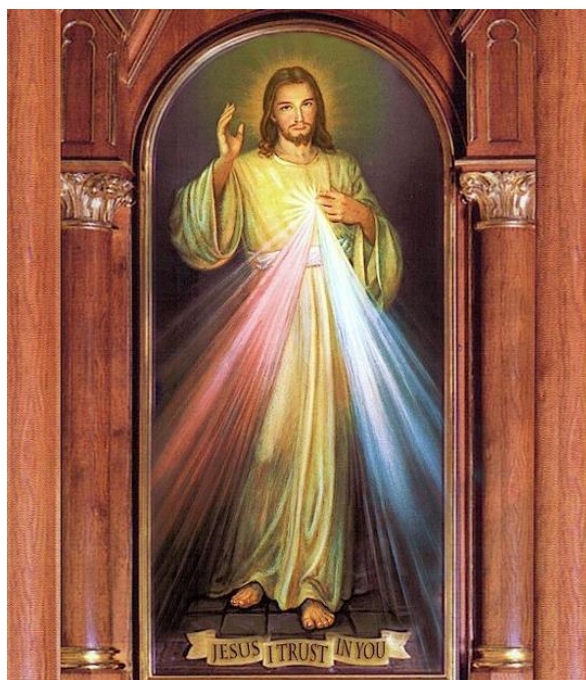
## Holy Hour for Vocations (Thu 16 Jan 2025 @ 8 pm)

Holy Hour for Vocations  
Thu 16 Jan 2025  
Time : 8 pm  
Venue : Chapel of St Joseph

The seminarians from St Francis Xavier Major Seminary will be leading the Holy Hour every third Thursday of the month to pray for Vocations.  
Please come and join them to pray for vocations to the priesthood!



## Divine Mercy Anniversary (Fri 17 Jan 2025)



***DIVINE MERCY  
PRAYER GROUP***

***23rd Anniversary  
Eucharistic Celebration  
and Thanksgiving  
7:30pm  
17 January 2025***

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be prayed at 7.00 pm.  
Please note that there will be no 6.30 pm Mass in the Chapel of St Joseph.



Art & Faith Talk on the Nativity (Sat 18 Jan @ 3 pm)

An  
Art&Faith  
Talk



Art of The Nativity

Sat 18th Jan  
3.00-5.00pm  
St Joseph AVA  
Room (L2)

Speaker:  
Patricia Tan

Artists have depicted the Nativity, Adoration of the Shepherds and of the Magi in stunning beauty. Seeing with the eyes of faith, we can find spiritual value beyond the paintings’ aesthetics. See and fall in love with the art that reminds us of the great love of God who became one of us.

Join Patricia Tan in her Art & Faith series as she shares her insights on the paintings depicting the Nativity.

Thriving Families Thriving Children (Sat 18 Jan @ 3.45 pm)

Thriving Families  
Thriving children

18 Jan 2025 (Sat), 3.45 – 5.15 p.m.  
Venue: Parish Community Hall



For all parents with children attending Pri Catechesis

This workshop is designed to make parenting feel less overwhelming and more fulfilling, focusing on what truly matters. With rich and relatable anecdotes, you will learn effective ways to overcome the everyday struggles of raising resilient, confident kids.

- ✓ Dealing with emotional outbursts
- ✓ Balancing connection and independence
- ✓ Building confidence amid peer pressure
- ✓ Creating nurturing home environment

Speaker: Delphine Ang



Delphine is a certified Youth Mentor Coach and Brain Health Coach (Amen Clinic, USA). Formerly the host of "A Mama's Journey" on Catholic SG Radio, she is an author of children's books and the Creator of My Feelings R My Friends cards. Delphine is passionate about promoting emotional confidence. She is a proud mother of four.



AROUND THE PARISH

Prayer thru Music (Fri 24 Jan @ 8 pm)



**Prayer thru Music®**  
(brought to you by SAHOP)



**JUBILEE 2025**  
Pilgrims of Hope in Community



- ❖ Praise & Worship
- ❖ Spiritual Talk
- ❖ Community Bonding

**Mr Zerah Goh**  
Executive Director (Montfort Centre)



**“What is the best way to Pray”**

**24 January 2025 (Friday) 8PM**  
**@ Level 3, St Mary, AVA Room**  
**Parish Community Hall**

e-mail:sahop.sjcbt@gmail.com



Pongal Celebration (Sat 25 Jan from 7 pm)

All are Invited for

# Pongal Celebration

May this harvest festival bring peace, happiness and prosperity in your life.

Saturday 25th January 2025  
@ 7pm  
Parish Community Hall

Join us to dance, sing, play games, enjoy yummy food and to have fun.

St Joseph's Church Bukit Timah

Scan QR code to Register

Venue : St.Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah)  
620 Upper Bukit Timah Road  
Singapore - 678116

Chinese New Year Mass Timings


Chinese New Year Mass Timings			
	CNY Eve	CNY	Public Holiday
Date	Tue 28 Jan 2025	Wed 29 Jan 2025	Thu 30 Jan 2025
Time	4.30 pm  NB : There will still be the 6.30 am Mass in the Chapel of St Joseph.	8.00 am (M) 9.30 am 11.00 am Distribution of Oranges at all Masses	8.00 am
Venue	Main Church		



Commencement of Catechism for 2025

Commencement for Catechism 2025		
	Primary Catechesis	Secondary Catechesis
Commencement date	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Sun 09 Feb 2025
Time	3.00pm	9.30 am
First Day Assembly	Parish Community Hall	Parish Community Hall
Parents Briefing (Compulsory)	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 3.00 pm to 5.15 pm Parish Community Hall	Sun 02 Feb 2025 9.30 am to 11.30 am Parish Community Hall

Scripture Series : The Book of Judith (Commencing Thu 6 Feb)




*Ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 133)*

Scripture Series : Part VIII – Book of Judith  
By Fr Ambrose Vaz

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Time : 9 am to 10.45 am  
Venue : St Joseph AVA Room  
St Joseph’s Church (BT)  
Dates : 06 / 13 / 20 / 27 Feb  
06 / 13 / 20 Mar  
(7 sessions)

No registration required. All are welcome.  
Do bring along your bibles.





The Fruits of Meditation (Wed 15 Jan 2025)



World Community for  
Christian Meditation  
SINGAPORE

A NEW YEAR COMMUNITY EVENT

*Peace & Joy*

THE FRUITS OF MEDITATION


**Peter Ng | Fr Eugene Vaz**

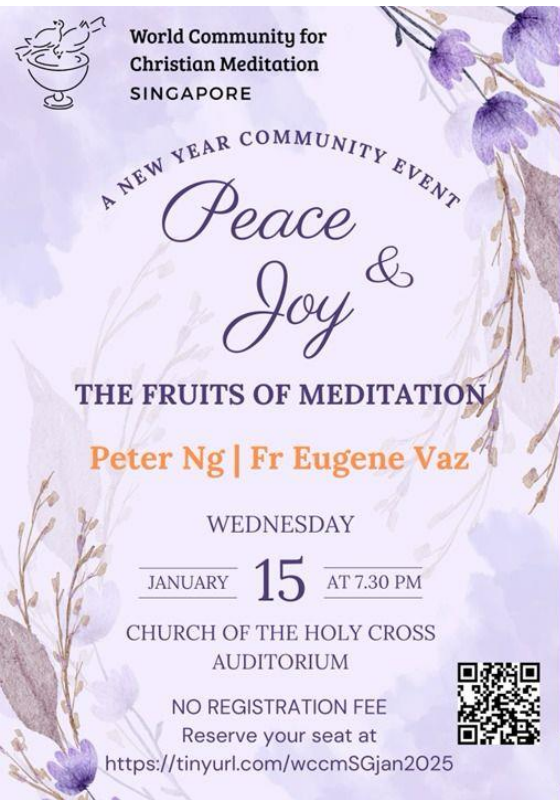
WEDNESDAY

JANUARY **15** AT 7.30 PM

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS  
AUDITORIUM

NO REGISTRATION FEE  
Reserve your seat at  
<https://tinyurl.com/wccmSGjan2025>





## A New Year Community Event

organised by **WCCM Singapore**

Date: 15 January, 2025 (Wednesday)  
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
Venue: Church of the Holy Cross Auditorium

NO  
REGISTRATION  
FEE

Scan QR code to  
reserve your seat



Enquiries: [wccmsingaporenews@gmail.com](mailto:wccmsingaporenews@gmail.com)

Encounter (Sat 18 Jan 2025)

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”*


Overseas Humanitarian Foundation Course


# ENCOUNTER


## Living As Missionary Disciples


Are you called to be a Catholic Missionary Disciple?


Are you called to support our overseas brothers and sisters in need or interested in mission trips abroad? Join us and discover “what”, “why”, and “where” your calling may be, to be open and have a courageous heart in becoming a missionary disciple.




 **Saturday, 18 Jan 2025**

 **9AM – 4PM**

 **Church of Divine Mercy**

 **Love Offering of S\$10  
(Lunch is Provided)**

**Find out more:**



[bit.ly/  
CHARISOHFC-5](https://bit.ly/CHARISOHFC-5)



The Overseas Humanitarian Foundation Course is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their lives’ faith journeys and answer the call to be living missionary disciples. The course features speakers like Fr. David Garcia, O.P., Khoo Peng Beng, and Christopher Chan. It will be held on 18th January 2025, from 9am to 4pm at Church of Divine Mercy.

FRIENDSGIVING: Praying Our Friendships (21 – 23 Feb)



Friendship is a sacrament of God’s love and a gift. In this uniquely crafted retreat, you are to bring a friend (could be a family member, a colleague, etc) and celebrate this gift together. You will also discover how Jesus continues to draw you into a deeper friendship with Him.

Register early using QR code

Quieting The Soul (7 – 9 Mar)

Take some time out with the Lord as He invites you to "come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." [Mark 6:31]

This is a 3-day silent retreat suitable for beginners and busy people.

Register early using QR code.







# Career Counselling for PME

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Mt 7:7*

- ✓ CAREER EXPLORATION
- ✓ WORKPLACE WELL-BEING
- ✓ CAREER TRANSITION
- ✓ JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES

Sessions conducted via Zoom



Scan the QR Code to Register

*There will be a nominal charge of \$10 to cover administrative costs. All PMEs are welcome*