



Dear friends,

November brings us the feast of **All Saints** and the remembrance of ALL Souls. It is a time for celebrating our unity with the living and the dead. The 'Communion' that we belong to extends far beyond time and space and the numerous saints who are not in our calendar are our close companions still.

Besides the liturgical feasts that we celebrate each year there are a number of events and gatherings which may be of interest to us. We include in this issue of enews a **calendar of 'days' for 2008**. If you know of other days that are important we would love to hear about it and produce a more complete list.

ONLINE FORUM

You may also have heard already about our online forum. We hope you will register and create a lively conversation on things that matter to us.

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE also is a **photo gallery**. Photos of our SCC Day and Graduations can be found there at present.

In the next issue of enews we hope to put our calendar or pastoral courses and workshops for the year. The **Biblical Courses for 2008** are already available on our website and at our office. You can register online.

We hope you will attend the **talks by Fr Kenan Osborne** who is an exceptional speaker and teacher. His topics are of interest to all of us even if we are not in the RCIA or SCCs. ALL ARE WELCOME.
Yours in Christ
Wendy Louis

NOVEMBER – ENDINGS & NEW BEGINNINGS

Congratulations to the 34 participants of the CLASS OF 2007 DIPLOMA OF ADULT FAITH FORMATION who graduated on October 25th after a two year journey. 2008 will be a deepening year for all those who have done the Diploma in previous years. The two year faith formation diploma will be offered again in 2009.

Congratulations also to the 85 participants in the Foundations in Ministry Certificate Programme (FMCP) who graduate on November 13 2007.

We wish all a joyful and fruitful time of service and ministry. FMCP 2008 is open for registration. Apply Now!

What's happening in Nov?

Fr Kenan Osborne, ofm



Back in Singapore for 2 talks!

The RCIA in the 3rd millennium

What is the RCIA and what is it not? Who is it for? Come find out... Come explore these issues...

19 Nov 2007 (Monday)

55 Waterloo Street 8th Floor, 8pm

Love offering.

SCC & their mission and ministry

How do SCCs participate in Christ's saving work? What is their importance for the rest of the church? Why are they effective and relevant for ministry & mission in our time? Come find out...

21 Nov 2007 (Wednesday)

55 Waterloo Street 8th Floor, 8pm

Love offering.



Building Bridges with your Teenagers

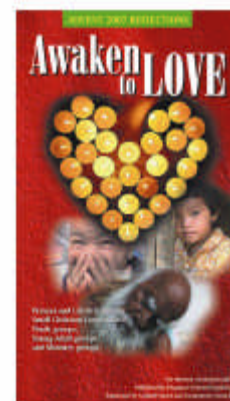
Are you trying to communicate better with your teenager? Are you trying to understand what goes on in your teenager's mind? Come to this talk by Alice Lee, author of the book "Building Bridges with your teenagers" to get tips and insights to parenting teenagers.

10 Nov 2007 (Saturday)

2 Highland Road, 2pm – 5pm

\$30

Advent booklet arriving in your parishes. SCCs should plan to meet before the first Sunday of Advent.



CALENDAR of "DAYS" 2008

January	1st	World Day of Prayer for Peace Feast of Mary Mother of God
	13th	Catechetical Sunday The Baptism of our Lord. Theme: Encountering the Living Christ
	18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Theme: Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5: (12a) 13b-18) (Preparatory material from USA – meeting held in Graymoor, Garrison, USA)
February	11	World Day of the Sick - 150 th Anniversary of Lourdes Apparition.
March	8th	International Women's Day
May	30th	World Day of Prayer for priests
June	20th	World Refugee Day marked by the UN
June		49th International Eucharistic Congress. It is scheduled to take place in Quebec, Canada.
June	28 2008 - 29 2009,	A special jubilee year to the Apostle Paul.
July	15 to 20	World Youth Day , Sydney, Australia. Theme: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).
September	21	World Day of Peace marked by UN.
October	5 to 26	Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Theme: "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church."
October	16	World Food Day – FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN United Nations organizes this day to raise awareness of world hunger.
October	17	World Day to end extreme poverty and to implement the millennium development goals.

Feast of Christ the King – 25th November 2007

Extract from "The Summit" Journal of the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne Issue August 2007 Vol 34 No 3

Gospel

Luke 23: 35-43 – Jesus promises the kingdom to the good thief

Questions for reflection:

What do you think and feel when you contemplate the image of Christ Crucified? Have you ever been punished when you did nothing wrong? How did you feel?

Did you know?

Crucifixes often have the letters INRI inscribed on them. These are the Latin initials for *Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Judeorum* which means Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. These are the words that Pilate had written on the cross above Jesus.

All four gospels tell that Jesus was crucified between two thieves but Luke's is the only one that recounts this story of one of the thieves recognizing and believing in Jesus. This is consistent with Luke's theme of God's grace being granted to the lowly and the outcast. Today is the final Sunday of the Church liturgical year. Next week is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new Church year, during which the Gospel of Matthew will be read.

Prayer at Home

The plea of the penitent thief makes a fine prayer this week:

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Meditation for All Saints

God calls us to do many things on our earthly journey. But in the great picture of salvation, there is only one function for everyone; **unity with God and God's people**. The more we are able to realize unity with God and God's people, the more we will know ourselves as members of the Communion of Saints – the living, the dead, and the saints in heaven. Meditate on the Communion of Saints by using the following visualization in which you meet members of the Body of Christ, living and dead, and talk personally with God.

Meditation:

Quiet yourself and enter into a peaceful calm so that God can speak to you more clearly. Close your eyes, relax, settle into your chair, and think of a scene where the rain has cleared the air and there is a cool breeze. Breathe in the coolness. Feel the air cool your heated brow.

Recall family members, friends, people you have known, or ancestors you have only heard of who have left this earth of space and time to be part of a great glory. Let their memory perhaps even their faces, come before you. Bless them, wish them well, and, with a prayer to God who loves them, let them go into God's glory. Ask God to receive them into the full peace and joy of heaven, with all the saints who are there. Thank God for taking care of them.

Remember some saints and heroes who appeal to you, and ask them to pray for your loved ones. Ask them to pray for you and to help you on your earthly journey, so that it may be a happy journey, with many moments of knowing God's love, God's goodness, and God's presence in your life.

Remember also the people you love in this life. See their faces in your mind and bless them. Ask God to bless them and take care of them and you. Thank God for giving you these companions and friends – people with whom you can share love, joy, problems, accomplishments, ideas, happy moments, and sad moments. Gove thanks in your heart for being part of God's great family on earth, and beyond, a great community in heaven. Thank God that you are never alone. Listen to God tell you how much you are loved in this great family.

Now talk to God about your own life. Tell God about what troubles you lately or simply rest in God's peace. Return gently to the cool breeze that touches your face and moves your spirit. Return to your surroundings with gratitude and joy.

Happy Feast Day!

1 November 2007

Feast of All Saints

Archdiocesan SCC Day

13 Oct 2007



SCC Day was first a celebration of our faith in Christ around whom we gathered. In the name of Jesus we agreed that we had to be a community that witnessed to the love and mercy that was reflected in his life, work, death and resurrection. Msgr Sebastian Francis vicar general from Melaka-Johor Diocese who also runs two parishes, shared his earnest conviction that the Church of today and the church of tomorrow has to be communion of communities. In the early days our reasons for starting could have been organizational or parochial but now we know that our reason for being SCCs is rooted in the very life of the Trinity – God who is a community. We are even more convinced that we have to push on, keep working and persevering even when we get tired and discouraged. This from a man who has been working since 1976 on this area of church life.



Fr Tom Michel brought us the dimension of 'Dialogue' and 'Hospitality'. The open heart and the open door. The way to relate to people of faith or no faith was simply to share life in the every day ways to start with and to make friends.

The exhibits gave a sense of celebration and reminded us that we were a week away from World Mission Sunday and our SCCs are communities with a mission rooted in the mission of Christ. The parish posters put faces and journeys together showing a gathering strength in the archdiocese. We ate together and shared our experiences of starting a new adventure into community or long years of living in community. We listened to each other and returned home convinced that we could certainly do something, however small and slow the steps may be.
Wendy Louis

"It was a wonderful day when people of the same faith from all over Singapore got together, to discover as one how they can be the beacon of Light and Love in their neighbourhood and people around them, wherever they are. That was more important than working out all the "rules and regulations" and the proper way of doing SCCs. The talks by the two invited speakers were great, ; they were encouraging, they spoke of perseverance, and also that inter-religious dialogue (which is what SCCs are also about) can be carried out in small simple ways. Giving a smile and a greeting to somebody you may not know, may not like, is the start of great things, of discipleship."
Baillyne Sung

