



MONTFORT ADAGE

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Joyous Easter Greetings from the Brothers of St Gabriel

Bro John Albert Arul Devanesan fsg, District Superior



I am glad to pen a few thoughts to all our Donors, Benefactors and Friends of Montfort Centre.

Faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now. He walks beside us daily, in every situation we are experiencing, in every trial we have to endure, in our deepest hopes and dreams. He opens new doors when we least expect it, he urges us not to indulge in nostalgia or cynicism about the present. Even if we feel that all is lost, let us remain open to amazement at the newness Jesus brings: He is a God of Surprises!

Going to Galilee also means going to the peripheries. Galilee was an outpost: the people living in that diverse and disparate region were those farthest from the ritual purity of Jerusalem. Yet that is where Jesus began his mission. There he brought his message to those struggling to live from day to day, proclaiming this message to the excluded, the vulnerable and the poor. There he brought the face and presence of God, who tirelessly seeks out those who are discouraged or lost, who goes to the very peripheries of existence, since in his eyes no one is least, no one is excluded.

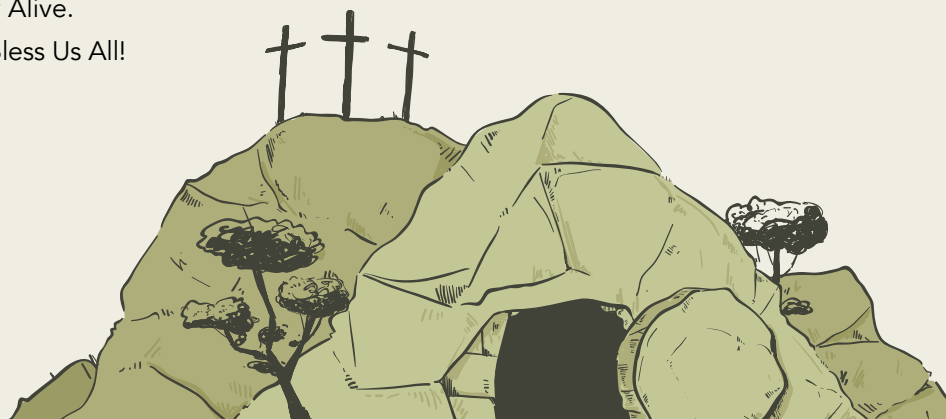
The Risen Lord continues to ask his disciples to go there even today. He asks us to go to Galilee, to this "real Galilee". It is the settings of daily life, the streets we travel every day, the corners of our cities. There, the Lord goes ahead of us and makes himself present in the lives of those around us, those who share in our daily activities, in our difficulties and hopes, at home and at work. Easter gives hope in our 'darkest hour,' despite fear. Let us invite the Risen Lord into our lives. He awaits all of us with open arms. Sometimes our tears are the lenses we need to see Jesus. Easter Faith gives a Way forward for the Church. Arise from our slumber and let His Light Shine through us.

My sincere gratitude to all those who continue to support the cause of making Montfort Centre a sacred place and space to encounter the Lord Jesus who is truly Alive.

God Bless Us All!

JESUS IS ALIVE!

*O glorious Queen of heaven,
May your loving heart
No longer be sad,
Let it leap for joy,
Jesus is risen!
O most blessed truth!
Let us all sing ALLELUIA!
And then, Ave Maria!*



Montfortian Experience Retreat: Wisdom is the Cross

Mayvia Toh, Retreat Participant

This retreat helped me to enter more deeply into the mystery of the cross. Indeed, Wisdom is the Cross, and the Cross is Wisdom.



Montfort Centre's beautiful surroundings enabled me to enter into solitude and make space for prayer, to 'listen with the ear of my heart' to the soft promptings of the Holy Spirit. I contemplated the beauty of the cross and found strength to carry it. I was invited to "be still and know that He is God" (Psalm 46:10).

This weekend led me to experience a deeper meaning of my relationship with my cross and to carry it with the strength and grace from God. In the stillness of my heart, I heard God said that He will never let go of my hand. In the midst of the tensions in life, I need to silence my heart to hear Him. At the cross, God's love is revealed to me.

I invited the Holy Spirit to walk with me in the labyrinth and I experienced Him guiding my eyes to see the beauty of nature, seeing "God in all things and all things in God." I thank and praise God for this spirit filled weekend.



Friends of the Cross: A Lenten Retreat for Schools



With the desire to have our school children rekindle and renew their relationship with God this season of Lent, Montfort Centre conducted a Lenten Retreat for a group of some 40 upper primary students in CHIJ Kellock Primary on 10 March 2023. The theme for the retreat was "Abba God: Our Merciful and Loving Father" and the students were invited to reflect on their relationship with God the Father and the Father's love for them. Many creatively

expressed their relationship through drawing images of who God is for them as a Father. A similar Lenten retreat was also conducted for a group of some 50 students in Maris Stella High (Primary) on 24 March 2023.

"Friends of the Cross" is the name of our Lenten Retreats conducted in the Montfortian Way. It is adapted and inspired from St. Louis Marie de Montfort's personal letter to an association of Catholics - called The Friends of the Cross - who were struggling with their own vices but wanted to repent and return to the Lord.

Welcoming our Brothers and Sisters from the Region



Montfort Centre had the honour of hosting 11 brothers (8 school principals, 2 provincials and 1 coordinator) from India from 20-24 March 2023, who were here on a study visit to the various Montfortian Gabrielite institutions in Singapore. Their programme began with some crucial conversations on Organisation Strategic Direction with Mr. Andrew Sng, followed by a series of learning journeys to the respective institutions over the next few days. We had the privilege of presenting and sharing the School Pastoral Programmes in our Montfortian Gabrielite Education Institutions. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and we look forward to a study visit to the various Montfortian Gabrielite Institutions in India!



Learning Journey of Students

32 students and 3 staff from Assumption College, Samutprakan, and Montfort College, Chiangmai, visited Singapore from 28 March to 2 April 2023 for a learning journey. One of the key highlights was participating in the International Friendship Day at Assumption English School on 30 March 2023. Montfort Centre hosted them during their stay and gave them a tour of Montfort Centre. We hope for more of such opportunities where we can connect, interact and learn at a regional level as one Montfortian Gabrielite family.

Congratulations!

On 14 January 2023, our Executive Director, Zerah married his long time sweetheart Nikki at Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was well attended by the Montfortian family; both staff and associates, as well as friends and relatives. The celebrant was Fr. Adrian Danker. After the mass, a sumptuous lunch reception was held in the hall. We wish them both a steadfast love for each other with God's abundant blessings.



Upcoming Events @ Montfort Centre

CELEBRATING THE 350TH JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ST. LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
|  | 3-5 MAR 2023 | Wisdom is the Cross <i>Montfortian Preached Retreat (stay-in)</i> |
| | MAR-APR 2023 | Friends of the Cross <i>Customised retreats for school children in the season of Lent</i> |
| | 20 MAY 2023 | The Heart of Living <i>Montfortian Spirituality Symposium</i> |
| | 26-28 MAY 2023 | Via Maria <i>Montfortian Preached Retreat (stay-in)</i> |
| | JUN-JUL 2023 | Montfortian Pilgrimage in Our Schools (MPIOs) <i>In the footsteps of Montfort (Singapore)</i> |
| | 24-27 AUG 2023 | Montfortian Formation Programme <i>Montfortian Spirituality Retreat (stay-in)</i> |
|  | 8-10 SEP 2023 | Blessed Are Those Who Mourn <i>Montfortian Preached Retreat (stay-in)</i> |
| | OCT-NOV 2023 | Cesson Bridge Experience <i>Transitions programme for school children in the Montfortian Way</i> |
| | NOV-DEC 2023 | Open Your Heart to God <i>Customised retreats for school children in the season of Advent</i> |
| | LAST WED OF THE MONTH | Evening of Prayer with Montfort <i>8pm at Montfort Centre Chapel</i> |
| | 1-4 JUN 29 JUN-2 JUL | Individual Guided Retreat (IGR) <i>An individually guided retreat in the Montfortian Way</i> |
| | JUN 2023- MAR 2024 | Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary <i>Preparation based on Montfort's 33 days preparation</i> |

 **MONTFORT CENTRE**
ALL FOR GOD ALONE



Scan to register for events



Who we are?

Montfort Centre is a spirituality centre established with the aim of promoting the spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

We conduct sessions in the Montfortian dynamism to those who are interested or associated with St. Montfort.



montfortcentre.
org/donate

We appeal to your generosity to help support Montfort Centre's Operations & Programmes. Make a donation today!

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."

(Luke 6:38)

