

St Mary's News

Issue 14
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**Our Mission:
To glorify God together
in response to His grace
by making disciples
of Jesus Christ**



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

St Mary's Cathedral

Making disciples of Jesus Christ

For Private Circulation



St Mary's News is published three times a year for members of St Mary's Cathedral. It aims to help us encourage one another in our ministry together and to facilitate understanding and prayer across the diverse congregations and ministries of the Cathedral. It also plays a part in the evangelising, establishing, nurturing and training aspects of our mission strategy.

We are continuing in our series of "How to be a More Loving Community" in this edition of St Mary's News. Past editions focused on 'Children' in April 2017, 'Youth' in August 2017, and 'Good Works in the Community' in December 2017.

We warmly welcome your invaluable feedback on St Mary's News. Please submit your feedback via the following link:

<http://newsfeedback.stmarys.my/>

FRONT COVER:

Young adults from the BM service (L-R): Aldrin, Efney, Eyuda, Yunis, Gloria, and Willy

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Young adults are a transient group. Each generation of young adults is completely different from the previous one in terms of thought pattern, interest, exposure and issues, etc. This is usually the smallest group in the church. They are very active in society and very engaged in the fabrics of the nation. They have the boldness of a tiger, the strength of a bull and the agility of a horse. One thing they do not think they need, but they really need, is each to have a mentor. The mentor will complement their lack of experience and mature wisdom. As I look back, I give thanks to the number of leaders who have guided and encouraged me along the way. They may not have considered that they are my mentors but I have assumed they are. They have taught me some valuable lessons such as:

- To have a vision that glorifies God - This has helped me in my life goals
- To pace myself so that I can complete my race in the name of God - This helps me plan my course and know myself
- To focus on Jesus always irrespective of good and bad times - to trust only Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour
- To work as hard as I can and not regret when failures come but consider them as God's training and moulding
- To be 'wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove' - Fights and wars will only distract and impede me but peace will propel me ahead.

Amen.

Archbishop Ng Moon Hing

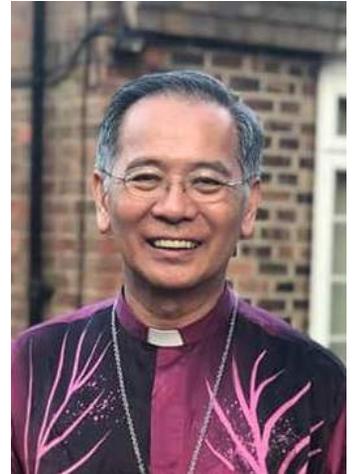
The Gospel message that Jesus died for sinners like us and rose again from the dead is of great relevance to all people. All of us can be forgiven of our sins and know God by trusting in Jesus. And all of us are called upon to live godly lives in response to God's grace. And that includes young adults.

In this edition of St Mary's News, we are focusing on young adults in our community. Many are at the point where the general direction of their adult lives is being set. Decisions are being made about work, relationships, and ministry. Here at St Mary's, we want to be a community that welcomes young adults, disciples them towards maturity in Christ as the truth is spoken in love, trains them for ministry, whether it be full-time or otherwise, and helps them put God and his Kingdom first as they make decisions that will affect them now and in the future.

Please pray that God will enable us to be such a community.

Your brother in Christ,

Andrew Cheah





YOUNG ADULTING TOGETHER, TO THE GLORY OF GOD

By Marianne Liaw

Just in case you were wondering - No, there is no typo (typing error) in the heading of this article! The term “adulting” is used by millennials to describe the practice of behaving like responsible and matured adults. This phrase is, of course, most often used on young adults between 18-35 years. There’s no denying that these are pivotal years of transition, change and growth in a person’s life. From pursuing further studies to entering the work force, to assuming new responsibilities in life and experiencing new phases of relationships, these years can be both exciting and terrifying for a young adult.

The first question that needs to be asked then is what role do young adults play in the life of the church? The Apostle Paul in writing to his young protégé Timothy who was in all sense, a young adult pastor in Ephesus, reminded this young church leader of his role a servant of Christ: *“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Timothy 6:12). A young adult who trusts in Christ is to set a Christ-like example for others in the church, even as he continues to grow in his knowledge and love of Jesus. Age is not a factor to taking up leadership amongst God’s people.

Timothy was not to be despised for his youth, but his foundation in the faith had to be firmly rooted in the truth. How? Well, Paul explained this to Timothy in his 2nd letter to him: *“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” -2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Timothy was told to continue to hold firmly to the Scriptures, which pointed him to the glorious, life-saving and life-giving Gospel of Christ. The Scriptures, which were God’s very words would continue to equip him to serve God and his people. And this is the same for every Christian young adult. Emphasis on careful and continued study of the Scriptures and living out its implications cannot be understated.

The next question then of course is, how do all of us as a church in St Mary’s build up and encourage our young adult brothers and sisters in Christ? How can we also be reaching out to other young adults in our community who need to hear the Gospel so that they can put their faith in Jesus?

Well, the answers will be highlighted in the following pages of this edition of our Cathedral’s Newsletter. As you read about the various young adults’ ministries which are taking place in the Cathedral, please do uphold them in prayer and look for ways to encourage and support these ministries. May we play our role in encouraging the young adults who are part of our family in Christ in this Cathedral to be a part of our mission to glorify God together, in response to his grace by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

YOUNG ADULTS LIVING FOR THE GOSPEL

By Melissa Raj



It is no secret that there is much value to be gained from reading the Bible, and so much more from reading the Bible with others for this is how God made us to be: living in community with one another as a church. Of the many groups in the Cathedral who meet weekly to read the Bible together are our groups meant specifically for young adults; the University College Fellowship (UCF) for college and university students, and the Young Adults' Group for ages 18 to 35.

There are currently two meetings for UCF - Saturday at 10am and Sunday at 2pm - to cater for students coming from various campuses 40 minutes to 1-hour drive away. Although there are two different groups, the heart of these meetings is the same: study God's Word and pray together. They have already completed studies on the book of Romans, Mark, and Habakkuk, and are currently studying Ephesians. These studies are written by the student leaders themselves under the oversight of a mentor.

The UCF slogan of "Faith. Fellowship. Fun, and Food" captures the spirit of these meetings too. The students often bring food, and go for lunch together before or after the meeting, play ice-breaker games, and sometimes sing, and do other things as well.



The highlight for most students is a camp, organised three times a year. These camps are topical and attract many students who do not attend UCF regularly. They also host Welcome Dinners to reach out to new students; socials; evangelistic events;

and attend events hosted by other groups including KVBC NextGen, a training conference for next generation leaders.

The Young Adults' Group, on the other hand, meets on Sunday at 3pm as this timing is most convenient for those who work late on weekdays, and those who work on Saturdays too. They study the entirety of Bible books through many weeks, and will soon complete Romans after completing Leviticus last year. Other than Bible studies, they also include practical programmes for dealing with issues in life, such as conflict resolution.

Although it is a group like any other, the targeted age range focuses on preparing young adults for journeying through phases in life, such as assuming leadership roles not just in church but in society too, and newlyweds learning how to be more Christ-like in marriage. The discussions and fellowship over meals outside their weekly meetings provide support for each other as they navigate through adulthood.

Those who make up both these groups are a small fraction of those who attend services in the Cathedral, but there is so much we can do for them. At the very least, as we do with



everyone who walks through our doors, we can make them feel welcomed and foster a sense of belonging across our wide range of age groups; we can befriend them, get to know them, invite them into our homes, read the Bible with them, pray for them, disciple them, and model the Christian life. We can also encourage them to serve in church by giving them opportunities, and by being patient as they refine their skills in so doing.

Brandon Chai, of the Young Adults' Group, recalls the impression left on him at his first Sunday Evensong here: "People are very genuinely friendly here" and he has been coming back week after week.

So let us continue being welcoming to all, including the young adults among us, knowing that our efforts can contribute to equipping them for a lifetime of ministry.

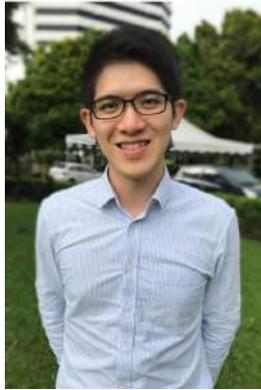
This article was written with contributions from Brandon Chai and Tim Nicholls.

COMMITTED AND NOW INTERNED

Our mission at the Cathedral is to ‘glorify God together in response to his grace by making disciples of Jesus Christ’. In line with this mission, we aim to train disciple-making leaders who will love and serve God’s people, and one of our avenues is the Ministry Internship Training (MiT) scheme. This scheme provides one to two years of on-the-job training and hands-on ministry opportunities to those identified as potential church leaders. We interviewed our current interns, Stephanie, Jef Fri, and Danielle, to find out more about them, what they are doing in MiT, and how they are getting on.



Stephanie Ong



Chiam Jef Fri



Danielle Cheng

What made you decide to join MiT?

Stephanie Ong, a graduate in Business Management: I decided to join MiT to test out my suitability for long-term paid ministry. MiT helps me to learn more about and develop the gifts God has given me, and would give me a better idea of what the life of a full time ministry worker is like. However, whether I end up in paid full/part time ministry or go back to secular work in the future, going through MiT will better train and equip me for a lifetime of gospel ministry.

Chiam Jef Fri, who practised as a corporate lawyer: God helped me to appreciate the great joy and satisfaction in learning His Word and seeing transformation of many lives as a result of deeper understanding and conviction of His Word. Also, with the encouragement of my wife, Lydia, and Rev Andy Ng, I saw MiT as a great platform for me to learn and serve.

Danielle Cheng, who worked as a research assistant and graduate tutor in local private universities: I decided to give it serious consideration when approached by pastoral team members to consider exploring and growing in word ministry. This period is a good time to work this decision out because I am still at a point where I am not too tied down by too many financial commitments, and can afford to make lifestyle adjustments that will not be too detrimental.

Describe your typical day at work

Stephanie: That depends on the day of the week; everyday looks quite different! There are several avenues where interns receive training for ministry, such as weekly pastoral team training & interns training. As an intern, I’m also assigned to a trainer who regularly meets up with me to guide, counsel, and equip me in handling God’s word better! Alongside that, I currently serve in various ministries such as Kids’ Church, Cathedral Women’s Bible Study, follow-up, and reading the Bible with other ladies (1-2-1); all of which seeks to grow other Christians in their knowledge & understanding of God and living a godly life.

Jef Fri: On weekdays, there are scheduled Bible study, team meeting, training and prayer meetings. Apart from the scheduled programmes, I work on my ministry assignments (i.e. sermon, growth group, Kids’ Church, etc) and meet up with others for one-on-one Bible study. I will also study for the relevant training courses which I have enrolled in (i.e. Tuesday Night Training (TNT), Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF) courses, and Centre for Expository Preaching (CEP) courses).

Danielle: I begin my Sunday by attending the 830am liturgical service, followed by Youth Fellowship. I may then have a few meetings in-between, before attending my primary congregation, SMACC2. On weekdays, I am involved in a mixture of ministry and administrative work. Apart from attending meetings to discuss pastoral matters and training, I am also involved in women’s ministry (e.g. one-to-one meetings, attending bible study).

COMMITTED AND NOW INTERNED

How has MiT helped you grow in knowledge of God and love for his people?

Stephanie: It's been wonderful to be trained and serve in word ministry, but I find myself often being tempted to look to my own efforts and ability to produce fruits in someone else's life. How humbling it has been to learn again and again, that it is God who gives the growth! His word has helped me to see that He is working to gather His people through the good news of Jesus Christ and growing His church - even when I cannot see it. He does not need us (me) to accomplish His purposes, but has graciously included us to be servants of His gospel.

Jef Fri: CCEF courses have also been instrumental in growing my love for people, switching my attitude to be more people-centered rather than task-orientated. MiT has provided me many opportunities to know and reach out to others. Knowing them better and seeing God's love and grace in their lives has encouraged me to love them even more.

Danielle: Being involved in ministries across the Cathedral has allowed me to meet many others from different congregations. I realised how 'sheltered' I have been, in a sense, and have been challenged to grow in understanding and showing love to people who come from different backgrounds. Despite the challenge, I have also been encouraged to see the various displays of sacrificial service shown by many in the Cathedral, which really reminds me that we can see Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12 in reality.

Do you have a favourite memory of your time in MiT?

Stephanie: Interns' Training! We go through different topics such as Wisdom in Leadership, Calvinism, Anglicanism, the Apostles/Nicene Creed, Gospel-Centredness, and I enjoy it as it is a place in which I get to ask any questions (Yes, ANY questions!) I have. I've found that to be really helpful in my growth as a Christian, and in serving others.

Jef Fri: Interns' Training with Dean Andrew Cheah for sure! It is a time for us to share our joys and struggles; a time where we learn about interesting yet difficult topics, doctrines and ministry skills.

Danielle: I don't think it's fair to have a favorite memory yet, since I've only just started! But I do have many encouraging memories already. For example,

I remember being warmly welcomed to the 10:30am newcomers lunch of the traditional liturgical services on the first Sunday I officially began my time as an intern. I was indeed feeling like a newcomer that day, as I was still getting used to many things happening in the Cathedral, and I am very thankful for the hospitality I received.

In your opinion, how can the church better love young adults?

Stephanie: By continually pointing us to God through His word because His word is still true, relevant, and applicable to all people of all ages, and encouraging us to keep looking to Christ as our only source of joy and hope and foundation!

Jef Fri: Young adults including myself would really appreciate deeper relationships with the older and wiser generations in our church. The sharing of lives, wisdom, and faith from the older role models will be a great encouragement to us.

Danielle: Try to ask beyond a "How are you?", which can at times feel impersonal; Ask intentional questions to help us process the busyness of our lifestyles; Invite into your lives, so that we get to observe and model what godliness and contentment in Christ can look like.

You can partner with us in this scheme by praying for the interns, and supporting the scheme financially. More info on our website at stmaryscathedral.org.my/ministries/mit

PARTNERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUNG ADULTS FROM SABAH AND SARAWAK

By Stanley Lee

The young adults in our Cathedral originate from many different parts of Malaysia. In particular, a significant number of the young adults who are attending the Bahasa Malaysia and Iban services are migrants from Sabah and Sarawak who have settled in Kuala Lumpur for work and study opportunities. A few from the Iban service are soldiers who are posted to army camps that are located in Peninsula Malaysia.

There are also a minority of Sabahans and Sarawakians in our Cathedral who attend English-speaking services. Ian Jenon Leslie and Alquin Frences Patres are young adults from Sarawak who are currently members of the SMACC 2 service. Ian had been living in Kuala Lumpur since 2007, where he studied Aerospace Engineering in Universiti Putra Malaysia whereas Alquin came to Kuala Lumpur in 2014 to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Education from University of Malaya. Both are currently full-time workers in Kuala Lumpur.



Being strangers in a new city that is far away from home, many of them often encounter various challenges in adapting to the fast-paced lifestyle in Kuala Lumpur. Language and culture are common obstacles: the majority of Sabahans and Sarawakian converse mainly in Bahasa Malaysia.

As such, they find it difficult to mingle with Christians in Peninsula Malaysia who are mainly English or Chinese-speaking. The lack of public transport at their accommodation and evening traffic jams make it difficult to get to church activities, especially on weekdays. Homesickness is also another struggle among them as many would only go back once or twice a year for Kaamatan, Hari Gawai, or Christmas. Living in a community who do not know Jesus, is also a struggle for them, as it is in stark contrast to the strong faith in Jesus among their families.

The Cathedral has been actively communicating with church leaders in Sabah and Sarawak to get connected and identify Christian young adults who are migrating to Kuala Lumpur. There are leadership courses and Bible classes that are organised in Bahasa

Malaysia and Iban to enable Sabahan and Sarawakian young adults to increase their Bible knowledge and have a better understanding of their identity as Christians. Prayer meetings and social activities are also held regularly in church to build relationship and fellowship among the community of Christian young adults from Sabah and Sarawak.

For Ian and Alquin, our Cathedral has been a supportive church family for them in Peninsula Malaysia. Ian shared about the many opportunities he had been given to serve in the services and he able to learn about the Bible from the sermons. Alquin also found her time in St Mary's to be an encouragement to her as she has received faithful preaching from the Bible and she felt welcomed by the members every Sunday.

There are many ways we can continue to be a supportive church family to our brothers and sisters from Sabah and Sarawak. We spoke to Gloria, Eyuda, Yunis, Efnay, Aldrin, and Willy from the BM service to find out more. We can provide transport for students coming to church; offer short-term accommodation while they settle into life in Kuala Lumpur; help financially by providing subsidies to church events; make them feel accepted and comfortable without language being a barrier between them and the English or Chinese-speaking communities.

Let us continue to be a loving and caring community in our Cathedral to our brothers and sisters from Sabah and Sarawak!

This article was written with the assistance of Gloria Ng, Carbella John, Alquin Frences and Ian Jenon.



PERKONGSIAN DAN PERSAUDARAAN DENGAN PEMUDA-PEMUDA DARI SABAH DAN SARAWAK

By Stanley Lee

Pemuda-pemuda di Katedral kami berasal dari pelbagai tempat di Malaysia. Khususnya, sejumlah besar golongan pemuda yang menghadiri pelayanan Bahasa Malaysia dan Iban adalah penghijrah Sabah dan Sarawak yang telah menetap di Kuala Lumpur untuk peluang pekerjaan dan pelajaran. Sejumlah pemuda-pemuda dari pelayanan Iban adalah askar-askar Sarawak yang ditempatkan di kem-kem tentera yang terletak di Semenanjung Malaysia.

Terdapat juga sejumlah kecil orang Sabah dan Sarawak di Katedral kami yang menghadiri pelayanan Bahasa Inggeris. Ian Jenon Leslie dan Alquin Frences Patres adalah pemuda-pemuda dari Sarawak yang menjadi ahli pelayanan SMACC 2. Ian telah menetap di Kuala Lumpur sejak tahun 2007, di mana dia belajar Kejuruteraan Aeroangkasa di Universiti Putra Malaysia manakala Alquin datang ke Kuala Lumpur pada tahun 2014 untuk melanjutkan pelajarannya di Universiti Malaya dalam bidang Ijazah Sarjana Muda Pendidikan. Kedua-dua mereka adalah pekerja penuh masa di Kuala Lumpur sekarang.



Sebagai orang asing di sebuah bandar baru yang jauh dari rumah, ramai pemuda-pemuda dari Sabah dan Sarawak sering menghadapi pelbagai cabaran dalam menyesuaikan diri

dengan gaya hidup yang pantas di Kuala Lumpur. Bahasa dan budaya adalah halangan yang biasa dilalui: Kebanyakan orang-orang Sabah dan Sarawak biasanya bertutur dalam Bahasa Malaysia. Oleh itu, ia adalah amat sukar bagi mereka untuk bergaul dengan orang-orang Kristian di Semenanjung Malaysia yang sering berbahasa Inggeris atau berbahasa Cina. Kekurangan pengangkutan awam di tempat tinggal mereka dan kesesakan lalu lintas pada waktu petang juga menambah kesusahan bagi mereka untuk menghadiri aktiviti-aktiviti gereja, terutamanya pada hari kerja. Kerinduan terhadap kampung halaman juga merupakan satu lagi cabaran di kalangan mereka kerana ramai antara mereka hanya akan kembali rumah satu atau dua kali setahun untuk Kaamatan, Hari Gawai atau Hari Krismas. Kehidupan dalam sebuah komuniti yang tidak mengenali Yesus juga adalah suatu cabaran bagi mereka kerana ia adalah amat berbeza dengan kepercayaan yang kuat dalam Yesus di kalangan keluarga mereka.

Katedral kami telah berhubung secara aktif dengan pemimpin gereja-gereja di Sabah dan Sarawak untuk

membuat hubungan dan mengenalpasti pemuda-pemuda Kristian yang berpindah ke Kuala Lumpur. Terdapat kursus-kursus kepimpinan dan kelas-kelas Alkitab yang dianjurkan dalam Bahasa Malaysia dan Iban untuk membolehkan pemuda-pemuda Sabah dan Sarawak untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan Alkitab dan mempunyai pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai identiti mereka sebagai orang Kristian. Pertemuan doa dan kegiatan sosial juga kerap diadakan di gereja untuk membina hubungan dan persaudaraan di kalangan masyarakat pemuda-pemuda Kristian dari Sabah dan Sarawak.

Bagi Ian dan Alquin, Katedral kami adalah suatu keluarga gereja yang memberi banyak sokongan kepada mereka di Semenanjung Malaysia. Ian berkongsi tentang pelbagai peluang yang diberikan kepadanya untuk berkhidmat di pelayanan-pelayanan dan dia dapat belajar tentang Alkitab melalui khutbah. Alquin juga mendapati masanya di St. Mary's sebagai suatu galakan kepadanya kerana dia dapat mendengar khutbah yang taat kepada Alkitab dan ahli-ahli Katedral kami juga menyambutnya dengan ramah pada setiap hari Ahad.

Terdapat banyak cara-cara yang kita boleh guna untuk menjadi keluarga gereja yang menyokong saudara-saudari kita dari Sabah dan Sarawak. Kami bercakap dengan Gloria, Eyuda, Yunis, Efney, Aldrin, dan Willy dari pelayanan Bahasa Malaysia untuk mendapat lebih maklumat lanjut: Kami boleh menyediakan pengangkutan untuk pelajar-pelajar yang datang ke gereja; menawarkan tempat tinggal jangka pendek semasa mereka menetap di Kuala Lumpur; membantu dalam segi kewangan dengan menyediakan subsidi bagi aktiviti gereja; membuat mereka berasa diterima dan selesa tanpa bahasa sebagai penghalang di antara mereka dan komuniti berbahasa Inggeris atau Cina.

Marilah kita di Katedral St. Mary meneruskan usaha untuk menjadi masyarakat yang penyayang dan mengambil berat terhadap saudara-saudari kita dari Sabah dan Sarawak!

Artikel ini ditulis dengan bantuan Gloria Ng, Carbella John, Alquin Frences dan Ian Jenon.



WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THESE YOUNG ADULTS?

By Cassandra Chung

The twenties and thirties are turbulent ages.

Some people in this age group may be single and re-evaluating the way they relate to friends of the opposite gender while some may already be married with children on the way. Then there are those who are figuring out the ropes of their first relationship and those struggling to recover from the pain of broken relationships.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. — 1 John 4:7-11 (ESV)

The experiences I go through may be vastly different from my married peers but John assures us that there is a greater truth that binds us all: Christ died to take away our sin (v10) and that His love is made manifest in all of us (v9) regardless of our relationship status!

How are we to respond to this great love shown to us? John instructs us to “love one another” (v7, v11). In fact, implicit in his writing is that loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is but a natural response to God’s love for us through Christ: he says, “whoever loves has been born of God and knows God” (v7).

At this point, it is worth asking ourselves the question “How am I to show love to my fellow brother/sister in Christ who is presently [insert relationship status here]?” Here are some pointers:-

1. “I can’t believe you’re not married!”



Whoever said “*sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me*” clearly has never been on the receiving end of hurtful comments. Often times, the words with which we address singles can accumulate much damage. When we tell our single brothers and sisters “*Who would say ‘no’ to you?*” or “*Aiyah, you shouldn’t have any problem finding a husband or wife!*”, we imply that relationships and marriage are for those who are worthy, who have their lives together, who are perhaps “less sinful” than the other ordinary person. Well-meaning as our words may be, they are hurtful and untrue.

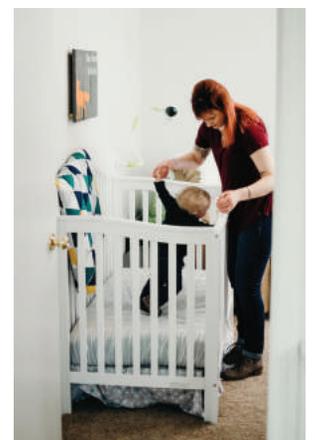
Ultimately, marriage points to the greater reality that is to come: the union between Christ and His church (Eph 5:25-32). Our relationship in Christ is premised on the notion of grace: we are sinners God saved through Christ (Eph 2:8-9). We were not saved because we had our lives together or because we were worthy. In fact, all of us were in the muck of our sin when God saved us through Christ (Rom 3:10-18, 5:6-8). If we really do believe these truths, our words must communicate just that.

Rather than say “*You’ll definitely find someone soon enough!*” to our lonely brother/sister, perhaps it would be more helpful to say “*I’m sorry you feel this way. I can’t do much to help but I can offer a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on and to remind you that Christ will always be enough.*”

Our words also reveal our assumptions about singleness: that one simply cannot be content and single at the same time. However, the apostle Paul speaks of singleness and marriage to be of equal worth in service to Christ (1 Cor 7:1-9). Rather than helping our single brothers and sisters hunt for their significant other, we could first start by encouraging their gifts and helping them grow in their season of singleness, regardless of how long it will or has lasted.

2. Faith & Deeds

The Bible very explicitly states that saving faith is a faith that is accompanied by deeds (Jas 2:14-17). Hence, our love should be accompanied by action. Especially for expecting couples or new parents, the to-do list is long but time is little! There are a great many things we can do for our married brothers and sisters who are expecting or



are still adjusting to parenthood. We could consider helping out and/or encouraging them in the following ways:-

Actively checking up on how they're doing on a regular basis (i.e. by dropping them a text)

Stepping in to temporarily replace them in their service rotas

Helping them run errands (i.e. preparing and delivering food to their home)

Providing a safe space for married couples to share their struggles and to ask for practical advice

3. Don't stop praying!

When there's practically nothing we can do, we can pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, like Paul did (Phil 1:3-11). What can we pray for, you ask? In Philippians, Paul starts by telling his recipients that he thanks God for them, specifically for the fact that they are united in Christ. Following that, he writes about serving Christ whether in life or death (Phil 1:19-20). Paul later speaks of contentment, likely to be referring to his ability to serve Christ no matter the circumstance (Phil 4:11-13).

The needs of the young adults in the church may vary but we can start by thanking God for them in our prayers and praying that no matter the season of life they are in, they will continue to serve and glorify Christ!



IDOLISING WORK OR BEING IDLE AT WORK?

By Gary Lee

2 Thessalonians 3 *“For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.”*

Back in the beginning of Creation (Genesis 1 – 3), God instituted work for man as a way to serve and reflect Him. We who are His creation have been made in His image and likeness that we may relate to Him and enjoy Him. When God created the Garden of Eden, He did everything necessary in order to sustain life that we may enjoy serving under His rule. However, since Genesis 3, we no longer relate to work as a form of service to God or others. Rather, we either idolise work or idle at work.

The first is when we start to love our jobs too much and seek to have identity through it. It is when we start to overwork and idolise our work. The second is when we hate our job because it is thankless, frustrating and pointless because we cannot see how it fits in with God's work in our lives. We begin to underwork and be apathetic about our work.

As a Church, we can be reminding each other to guard against both idolatry and idleness at work.

When Paul is writing to this young Thessalonian Church that he planted, he recognises that there are some within the Church who are not obedient to God's law. Namely, there is a certain mistaken belief that because Jesus is returning soon, there is no such need to invest in the here and now. They can just hang around and be idle, whilst waiting for Jesus's return. That is sometimes the temptation for us, that we become so heavenly-focused that we lose earthly value; We become so engrossed in minding the affairs of others or investing so much time in anticipating and worrying for the future coming of Jesus that we fail to lead a quiet life that does not interfere with others.

How can we as a Church not only remind each other to guard against idolatry and idleness, but also be a good example of being good workers for the Lord?

In verse 11 of 2 Thessalonians 3, Paul is noticing that some people in the Church are being busybodies rather than being busy at work. These people are becoming a nuisance by prying into people's lives and interfering. Paul's command is simple and practical.



He tells the young Thessalonian Christians to settle down at work and earn their living since there is no knowing when the Lord will return. It is no use figuring out continuously what the future is when we fail to settle down to what we need to do today and now.

We also learn in verse 13 that workers in the Church besides being called not to be idle, ought to also be seeing ways in which to serve and encourage those who are struggling at work. This is especially true, as Christians who may perhaps tire of doing good and find it hard to be distinct at work because doing what is right can be hard work. When the environment in Thessaloniki could be one of idleness, we could so easily be discouraged. Like the Thessalonian Christians, we can be loving by reminding each other that we have all turned from idols to serve the living God and awaiting for His son from heaven (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Therefore, as a Church, we are to keep reminding each other of our status as Christians, waiting for the Lord Jesus return, striving in obedience to Him and being a good witness to the world.

Are we being idle as we wait in the arena of work? Or are we waiting in active service and living for mission? As Christians at work, we are a corporate witness to the world and we can harm our own witness by willfully ignoring God's Word to settle down and earn our living. Each and every one of our work circumstances are different and challenging in its own right. But if we seek to wait well for our Lord Jesus to return, we ought to let our lives be shaped by God's Word. For some, it could be that our lives be put to use by God through good witness at work, such as serving others.

For some, it is to be growing in godliness and dependence on God through difficult circumstances at work facing tough colleagues and bosses. For others, it is to be accountable to the Church so that we do not tire in doing good and keep persevering.

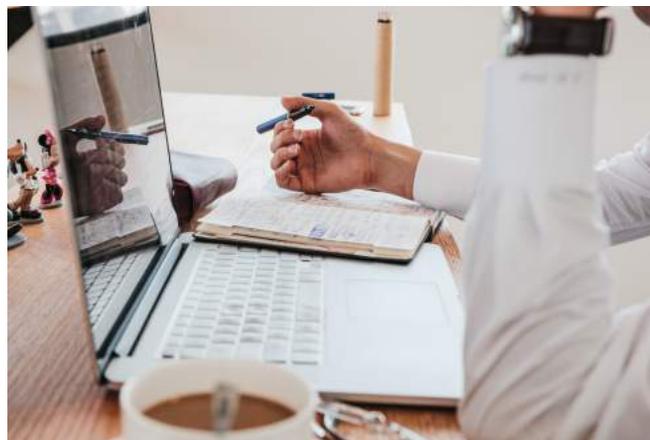
1 Thessalonians 4 *“⁹Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you,¹⁰for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.”*

In Paul's earlier letter to the Thessalonian Church, he shared how the Church can be more loving through living quietly, not being a busy body but to be busy at work. The most loving thing for the Church to do is to demonstrate these attributes in order to be a good witness to the world. As a loving community, we want to be urging our young adult workers to be loving more and more (vs 10) by demonstrating a God-centered perspective at work through service and witness.

How can we as a Church help young adults in the area of work?

It is to keep reminding each other of our status before God, how we are redeemed from serving idols and not be busy bodies but busy at work whilst waiting for the Lord Jesus's return. As workers demonstrate this loving distinctiveness, we become an effective witness to the world as a loving Church community.

When the Church loves, the world takes notice.



“WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE”

By Joanne Liaw



"I still miss the days when I could see," reminisces Rohan Sanghani who lost his vision about two and a half years ago. Rohan, born in the UK but bred in Nairobi, struggles with glaucoma (a group of diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve). "In Nairobi, I got expelled from high school and was sent to another school where a friend first introduced Jesus Christ to me although I was a Hindu,"

says Rohan.

A few years later, Rohan went to India for major surgery to fix a retinal detachment. That was when he decided to read the Bible. *"I realised I was a sinner who needed a Saviour. But I first accepted the Gospel because my friend, who believed the prosperity gospel, told me that Christians don't suffer. However, it was tough being a Christian as I had oppositions from my family,"* says Rohan.

The first time Rohan attended a church in Nairobi, he was not accepted because he was not rich, and the church expected Christians to be wealthy. The next year after that, a friend brought Rohan to St Mary's and that was where he first heard the Gospel being preached faithfully. Unlike the prosperity gospel, Christians do suffer, but have the hope of eternal life in Christ. Hence, Rohan began his own investigation of the Christian faith, and he learnt how to read the Bible in context.

"The prosperity gospel is big in Nairobi and now that I have come to hear the Gospel being preached faithfully at SMACC, it hurts me to see how many people are being led astray by the prosperity gospel. I seek to bring the actual Gospel to Nairobi," says Rohan.

This has inspired Rohan to do one-to-one Bible study, using the Gospel of Mark and Christianity Explored, with people in The University of Nottingham Malaysia (the university he is studying in) on a weekly basis. *"How I get people to do one-to-one Bible study with me is by first building a relationship with them. If they are going through struggles, that's when I can use my own struggles with my vision to draw them in and tell them how I continue trusting in Christ despite my struggles. I genuinely love them with God's love and that is something that moves them and motivates*

them to find out more about Christianity. Once I know them better, I will ask them upfront if they want to read the Bible one-to-one with me," says Rohan.

Rohan usually meets the person he does one-to-one Bible study with for a meal to bond with him (because Malaysians usually bond over food) before looking at the Bible passage. Then Rohan will read the Bible passage with the person using his iPad. Rohan will then ask the person if there are any words he cannot understand before moving on with the Christianity Explored questions. *"Sometimes if it's helpful, I will use my own questions. I don't use the videos but only the book. The study can be done without the video. I also prepare ahead by familiarising myself with the passage,"* says Rohan.

Rohan wants people to know that the troubles that they face in this life are temporary, but faith in Christ is for eternity. *"Spiritual sight is more important than physical sight which is temporal because spiritual sight is for eternity. I was blind, but now I see,"* says Rohan.

The calendar shows courses that will run throughout 2019

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

Was it surprising? Did it change the way you think? Or was it something you wanted to be true but didn't dare hope? In this course, you will read 'Mark', one of the biographies of Jesus found in the Bible. As you do, you will find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ. And you may well find that the best news you've ever heard is about him.

Life Explored

Sundays in 2019

- Jan 6
- Jan 13
- Jan 20
- Jan 27
- Feb 3
- Feb 10
- Feb 17
- Feb 24
- Mar 3
- Mar 10
- Mar 17
- Mar 24
- Mar 31
- Apr 7
- Apr 14
- Apr 21
- Apr 28
- May 5
- May 12
- May 19
- May 26
- Jun 2
- Jun 9
- Jun 16
- Jun 23
- Jun 30
- Jul 7
- Jul 14
- Jul 21
- Jul 28
- Aug 4
- Aug 11
- Aug 18
- Aug 25
- Sep 1
- Sep 8
- Sep 15
- Sep 22
- Sep 29
- Oct 6
- Oct 13
- Oct 20
- Oct 27
- Nov 3
- Nov 10
- Nov 17
- Nov 24
- Dec 1
- Dec 8
- Dec 15
- Dec 22
- Dec 29

LIFE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT GOD COULD GIVE YOU?

We all want to be happy. Why is lasting happiness so hard to find? Life Explored helps us to discover the little gods that promise us so much happiness, yet deliver so little. As it explores the Bible story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation), this course shows how our deepest desires for happiness can only be satisfied in one person, Jesus Christ. The best gift God can give us is himself.

1.30 pm on Sundays

A simple complimentary lunch will be served from 1.00 p.m. each week before the course begins and we'd love for you to join us for that as well

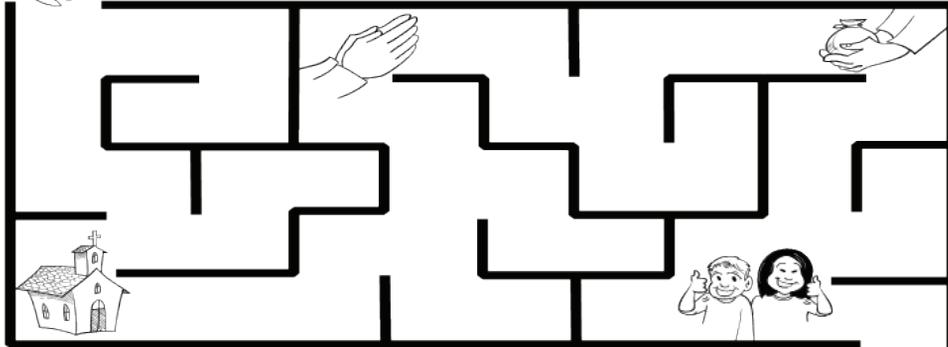
Please register at <http://findoutmore.stmarys.my> or contact 03-26928672

We are running Christianity Explored and Life Explored courses throughout the year. You can invite family and friends to this course, and pray for all who attend that they will find out more about Jesus and put their trust in Him.

MISSION MAZE



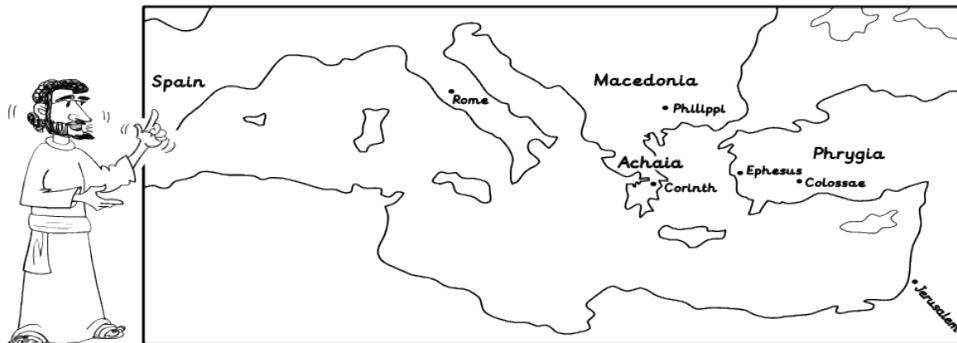
Paul really wants to share the good news about Jesus with those who have never heard about him.
Can you help him get there?
What will he need along the way?



This lesson can be found in Romans 15:23-33

Discover

Where was Paul planning to go? (15:24-26) Circle three places on the map.



What did Paul want to do in each of those places? Circle the correct words.

- To preach the gospel in **Rome** / **Spain** / **Achaia** (15:23, 28).
- To **teach** / **visit** the Christians in **Ephesus** / **Rome** / **Jerusalem** (15:23-24, 28).
- To take money for the **poor** / **powerful** Christians in Jerusalem from Macedonia and **Corinth** / **Achaia** (15:25-26)

How could the church in Rome help Paul? (15:24, 30-32)

By supporting Paul and p _ _ _ _ _ to God for him.

Think Spot

Why do you think Paul asked the church in Rome to help him?
Who else did he need to help him?

Discuss

What is mission work? What sort of things does it involve?
Why is it so important?
How could you be involved in mission work?
Are you willing to go yourself like Paul?
Could you support, pray for or fund others to go?





MINISTRY UPDATES

In each edition all ministries are given the opportunity to submit updates and photos.

Liturgical (Traditional) Services

The Liturgical Services have continued to grow together in our knowledge and love of God through his Son Jesus Christ. In our regular meetings we've recently worked through Exodus, Hebrews, Mark, and are currently working through John. We have developed or started welcoming teams in the 8:30am, 10:30am, and 6pm meetings and continued to grow in our community connectivity. We seek to be communities where God's people are edified (built up) individually and together in Christ through His Word, and to His Glory, and that is the guiding principle behind all the different ways in which we meet.

SMACC (Contemporary) Services

SMACC spent most of last year going through Deuteronomy and Hebrews. We had the opportunity to see intricate links from Deuteronomy: God saved his people in the exodus (Deuteronomy), and we see God's ultimate work of salvation through Jesus (Hebrews). We are encouraged by remembering the supremacy of Jesus as the Son of God, our Great High Priest, and the certainty that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all those who trust in Him. We are equally challenged by the author's warnings to persevere in our faith, but comforted in knowing that we do so as His people (church).

BM



BM Music workshop on 1 February



Youth Bible study

Nepali Service

The Nepali Ministry started the New Year by having a day trip to Malacca since many of the Nepalese have not been there. It was an enjoyable trip for them. A one-day training 'Why attend church?' was held on the 1st day of Chinese New Year. There were eleven in attendance. On the following day, we had food and fellowship at Pastor John's house. Please pray for our tri-monthly home fellowship which began in February. We will also distribute tracts in Puchong, USJ and Shah Alam areas.



Mandarin Service

Although it has only been two years since the mandarin congregation was established, we are delighted to share that we have taken yet another big step to start our own Kids' Church ministry. We initially started off with 5 children and now our class consists of 10 children. This ministry has been running for 6 months, and we are especially thankful for the growth over this period. We look forward to having more children joining us to learn God's word together and pray that the children will continue to grow in their love and knowledge of God and be firmly rooted to His word.



Cathedral Youth Fellowship

In the past year, the Youth Fellowship have studied the books of Mark, Jonah, Revelation, and James. In 2019, we will continue to teach through the gospel of Mark, followed by an in-depth look at the Fall. Our teaching is rooted in the conviction that the word of God is sufficient for salvation and godliness;

therefore, we ask the church to pray with us that the outward proclamation of His word would be attended by the inward work of his Spirit, producing true faith in the hearts of our young people and a desire to live in conformity to his will.

Cathedral Women's Bible Study

The year has begun well for the ladies at CWBS, with both morning and evening groups welcoming new members. In the mornings we have been encouraged and challenged by Paul's letter to Titus, and continued our tour through the history of Israel in the second half of 1 Kings. Upcoming studies include the "I Am" statements of Jesus in John's gospel, and the book of Job. Our evening group continues to read through Matthew's gospel. Do join us and be blessed as we hear the word and help one another to walk in it. Thursdays at 10am in the MPH (crèche provided) and 8pm in the Sam Abraham Library.

Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Choir helps the liturgical congregations as we sing in praise of God, together. The aim of the ministry is to help our meetings to be edifying and God-glorifying. As such they are a very valued and important part of our community as they use their gifts for the sake of the whole Body (Romans 12:1-8). This is overseen and organised at present by godly and able leaders; Christina Sankey at 7am, Adele Chin at 8:30, Josephine Kong and Christine Rajaratnam at 10:30, and Brandon Chai at 6pm. They would love you to be involved too, so get in touch!

Golden Circle

Always seeking new and adventurous activities for Golden Circle members and Cathedral services, we have stretched our wings to Sri Lanka where we enjoyed a highly successful self-financed excursion. In November our committee organized a dinner and dance event - "A trip down Memory Lane" at the Ballroom in the Royal Selangor Club. It was a huge success where 200 people came together for a joyful time of dinner and dance and listened to

'old time favourites' from the 60's and 70's and were joined on the dance floor by our 'Dancing Dean'. The Golden Circle Retreat took place in March at the Suria Hot Springs Resort, Bentong - another great opportunity to share 'Faith, Fellowship, Fun (and Food!)' with our fellow seniors. Members continue to get together to organize the Breakfast Fellowship every 1st Sunday of the month. Not forgetting our fellow seniors, we continued our programme of Social Concerns to share Faith, Fellowship and Fun with our less mobile members and other seniors.

Praise & Worship

This lay-organised service on Wednesday begins at 7.30pm with prayer and worship followed by a spirit-filled message delivered by local or visiting international ministers and preachers. During service, personal testimonies are given by believers touching on healing, deliverance and breakthroughs, which serve to encourage our church. The service ends with an invitation to personal ministry and the laying on of hands by the minister. Leon Tay shares *"When my mum, Mdm Lee first attended Praise and Worship in 2017 she was undergoing chemotherapy. She found much joy and peace in the worship and experienced the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit. She was always looking forward to the messages and persevered despite her worsening condition. Her energy levels were taking a toll and her attendances were more infrequent in 2018 but she was very appreciative of the ministry and prayers."*

Training

Training remains a high priority throughout the Cathedral, with the goal of deepening our knowledge and love of God from His word. Term 1 of our Tuesday Night Training program is underway, with over 85 attending. Term 2 classes will run from Tuesday 15 May till 24 July, with the following courses being offered: Bible Overview, New Testament 1, Doctrine 2, New Testament 3, Trellis & the Vine, and Resolving Everyday Conflict. Earlier this year our TAFT conference was held to help people in 'Thinking About Full-Time' (TAFT) Ministry. Two groups of leaders have recently completed Growth Leaders Training, and a group of 15 are currently undertaking training in Personal Evangelism through the 'Two Ways to Live' Course. We encourage all Cathedral members to take up these and many other opportunities to be better equipped to understand and teach God's word.

Invitational Evangelism

We run Christianity Explored (CE) & Life Explored (LE) as part of our evangelism outreach programme throughout the year. The programme has been extremely well-received and has enabled many to grow in their faith as they come to know Christ more. Last year, we translated and dubbed CE materials into Mandarin and Malay to better serve our non-English congregations. The resource was launched together with a CE Conference in November. Since then, the material has been adopted by various churches in Malaysia and abroad. We are now in the midst of translating the same for Iban and Tamil. Please pray that God will provide financial support and bring the right people to complete the remaining translation work. Please pray for those involved in this ministry to grow in our love for Christ and for many more to come to know Him through this.

Girls' Brigade

Seek, Serve & Follow Christ – We had an encouraging start this year at 6th KL's first GB meetings, both in both SK & SMK St Mary's respectively. Fun and out-of-the-box methods have been applied so the girls hear, understand and engage with the gospel. With more than 30 GB members in the primary school and close to 300 in the secondary level, there are ample opportunities to be sharing Christ with the girls in GB! Please pray for the ministry team comprising ministry staff from both our Cathedral & Scripture Union Semenanjung Malaysia as we share Christ with these girls!



Shal Home

It's truly been a joy serving the residents of Shal Home Care (a care home for the mentally-ill). The ministry team comprising members from various Cathedral congregations have been so encouraged to witness residents put their trust in Christ and grow in spiritual maturity despite their mental health challenges. Some have started meeting on their own to study the Scriptures! We managed to set up a mini-library for the home, thanks to the generosity of the members of the Cathedral who donated towards the library's books (and shelf!). Please do continue to uphold the residents and the ministry team in prayer!

St Mary's Agape Mission School

"Teacher, I cannot stay, but I also cannot go. We have no money to go back to Myanmar. We don't know what to do." These are the heartbreaking words with which we, at the Agape School, are all too familiar with hearing in recent months. With the UNHCR's announcement of the cessation of their refugee status, our children are facing an unprecedented amount of uncertainty and stress. In view of the recent announcement by the UNHCR on 14 March that Chin refugees will not have their refugee status withdrawn, we thank God for his mercy, and thank you to everyone who has been praying for Agape and during this crisis. Operationally, the school is doing exceedingly well (all the older 25 children are speaking and writing English with varying levels of fluency and the 30 kindergarteners learning basic conversational English and phonics). We continue to pray for the community and those in positions of authority.



If you would like any more details about any of our ministries please contact the Cathedral office.

Feedback From Visitors

"The church service was good and the gospel was preached well"
- M.T., Uganda

"Absolutely loved the ceremony and the sharing of peace was very touching. It absolutely left my heart wanting for more fellowship to spread"
- A.P., India

"Awesome service! Completely amazing."
- S.M., Kenya

"So happy to be here"
- T.K., Sarawak

Let's keep working hard at loving and welcoming our visitors and newcomers as God has welcomed us.

Cathedral Services

Holy Eucharist

(Traditional/Liturgical Service in English)

7:00am, 8:30am (sung), 10:30am, 6:00pm (Evensong)

SMACC (Contemporary Services in English)

10:30am, 5:00pm

Iban Service

8:00am

10:30am (ACA Jalan Pahang)

10:30am (Mentakab)

Bahasa Malaysia Service

10:30am, 3:00pm

Nepali Service

9:30am (Puchong Outreach)

Mandarin Service

5:00pm (Saturday)

*All services are at the Cathedral on Sunday
unless otherwise stated*

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St Mary's Cathedral

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