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## A journey we don't have a map for

One technology I cannot live without is Google Maps. I have a rather poor sense of direction and so, a cradle on the windscreen of my car holds my mobile phone and the Google Maps app guides me to my destination. I wonder how I ever got anywhere without it.

We feel the need to have a clear destination or goal in mind and to map out a clear route to arrive at that goal. It is unwise to live your life without a goal and a route in mind. That would be like going on a journey without knowing where we are going.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning manifestation. The Epiphany commemorates when the three Magi came to visit Jesus and the divinity of Christ was manifested to them. For our Orthodox brothers and sisters today is their proper celebration of the Birth of Christ. Who were these Magi? Mysterious characters who appear from nowhere and are gone just as soon. We do not know.

The Magi had their own guidance system, though not a very technologically sophisticated one. They followed a star, on a whim, without any real sense of their destination or route. They had to depend on divine guidance.

As we begin a new year, perhaps we all have our resolutions for 2018. Perhaps we can try to plan how to achieve our goals and resolutions. That is all well and good, because in some areas of our lives, like our career and study, it would not be wise to set out on a journey without a destination or a plan in mind. However, growing in faith, growing in our relationship with God and our relationships with others is not a journey we can easily plan. The route and even the destination are not as clear as we expected. We find ourselves surrendering our plans and our expectations to God. And we find ourselves being led on an expected journey with unexpected people. We have to take this journey of life in faith and in trust.

It takes faith and courage to embark on a journey like this. But if the Magi had not had the courage, they would never have found the Christ. Unless we allow God to lead us in the journey of life - follow the star by faith - we will never find the manifestation of God in our lives.

If we can find the courage and the faith to follow our star, to let God lead us, it will lead us to Christ!

**Reflection by Gerard Louis CSSR**

# Novena notes



Epiphany Of The Lord  
 Year B  
 7 January 2018

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 7 January Epiphany Of The Lord	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Mon, 8 January The Baptism Of The Lord	Is 55:1-11; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Tue, 9 January	1 Sam 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28 My heart exults in the Lord.
Wed, 10 January	1 Sam 3:1-10,19-20; Mk 1:29-39 Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.
Thu, 11 January	1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45 Redeem us, O Lord, because of your love.
Fri, 12 January	1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22; Mk 2:1-12 I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.
Sat, 13 January St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor	1 Sam 9:1-4,17-19,10:1; Mk 2:13-17 O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)  
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm  
 Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)  
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS  
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS  
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION  
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm  
 Mandarin: 2.30pm  
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

# Novena notes

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018

Bring along Christian friends for prayer, reflections, songs and fellowship to promote unity. All prayer services are from 8pm to 9pm.

18 January - Covenant Community Methodist Church (11 Blackmore Drive, S599986)

19 January - Mar Thoma Syrian Church (29 Jalan Keli, S577933)

23 January - St Andrew's Cathedral (11 St Andrew's Rd S178959)

24 January - The Salvation Army Balestier Corps (126 Balestier Rd, S329681)

25 January - Church of the Transfiguration (51 Punggol Central S828725)

Organiser: Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) & Host Churches

## At Home Retreat 5<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola to know Jesus more intimately in the midst of life's daily routine.

Includes weekly meeting of faith sharing, daily prayer with Scripture and one spiritual direction by Cenacle Sisters & Team. This will be from Ash Wednesday to Easter - a retreat in preparation for Easter.

For more information, please contact the Cenacle Sisters at 6565 2895 / 9722 3148 or email [cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com)



## Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

## Calling for Artists!

The Angelico Art Award 2018 invites artists to submit paintings to be considered for the \$10,000 (open) and \$5,000 (youth) acquisitive awards. The competition invites artists to contemplate and interpret the quote "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3). The Award is organised by Heartspace in support of the Catholic Foundation. Submissions close on 31 August 2018. For more information, please visit [www.angelicoart.com](http://www.angelicoart.com).

## Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

### Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

## Society of St Vincent de Paul

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for our Friends-In-Need. Kindly give your generous support.

