



carpenter's square



September
issue

sjt youth magazine



Heaven's Kitchen

Core Retreat

Voices from the Parish

Welcome to our trimonthly youth magazine, covering content from recent gatherings, amongst other things. See inside this issue of *Carpenter's Square* for all youth & young adults events at St Joseph's Parish Takapuna.





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September 2022

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Heaven's Kitchen

"It was a chaotic night with intense music playing..."

by Theo Gabriel

In August, we held our annual Heaven's Kitchen which is always a favorite for our youth. The teens had to work in groups to bake and decorate cupcakes and cakes.

We had three wonderful judges who had to vote which team's decorations blew their socks off and whose baking tasted delicious. There was some tough competition with the teens, making some incredible designs such as a Minion cake and cookie monster cupcakes.

Not every team had an easy time through the night. During the baking process, some teams had to come up with some bizarre ways of mixing their ingredients such as deciding to use their hands instead of using a whisk. Don't worry though, we quickly informed the judges and they happily avoided tasting this team's baking.





It was a chaotic night with intense music playing in the background. A race against the clock to get some baking ready to be presented was intensified by the countdown from our MC's. The judges had a challenging time contemplating which team took their breath away.

Finally, they came to the decision that a very intricate and beautiful heart shaped cake and the cookie monster cupcakes had impressed them the most as they looked and tasted heavenly.



Saint Vincent de Paul

"Serving the poor is to be preferred above all things."

A Writing of St Vincent de Paul

Even though the poor are often rough and unrefined, we must not judge them from external appearances nor from the mental gifts they seem to have received. On the contrary, if you consider the poor in the light of faith, then you will observe that they are taking the place of the Son of God who chose to be poor.

Although in his passion he almost lost the appearance of a man and was considered a fool by the Gentiles and a stumbling block by the Jews, he showed them that his mission was to preach to the poor: *He sent me to preach the good news to the poor:* We also ought to have this same spirit and imitate Christ's actions, that is, we must take care of the poor, console them, help them, support their cause.



Since Christ willed to be born poor, he chose for himself disciples who were poor. He made himself the servant of the poor and shared their poverty. He went so far as to say that he would consider every deed which either helps or harms the poor as done for or against himself. Since God surely loves the poor, the Lord also loves those who love the poor. For when one person holds another dear, God also holds in affection those who are poor. That is why we hope that God will love us for the sake of the poor. So when we visit the poor and needy, we try to *understand the poor and weak*.

We sympathise with them so full that we can echo Paul's words: *I have become all things to all people*. Therefore, we must try to be stirred by our neighbours' worries and distress. We must beg God to pour into our hearts sentiments of pity and compassion and to fill them again and again with these dispositions. It is our duty to prefer the service of the poor to everything else and to offer such service as quickly as possible. If a needy person requires medicine or other help during prayer time, do whatever has to be done with peace of mind.

Welcome Home

Core Retreat

"More than maintaining inspires us to go over and beyond what is being asked."

By Justin Bayangos

In the midst of a cold winter season the Core Team Leaders conducted their annual retreat. A time to pause and withdraw from their responsibilities as ministers, and now time to receive and be ministered. This formation also shines a light on the opportunity to further enrich the bonds between the leaders and strengthen the true meaning of WHY we do what we do, and especially to pass the tradition and culture to the future generation of our church.



The retreat took place at Sonshine Ranch in Clevedon where they were warmly welcomed once again over the weekend of 22-24 July after successfully launching their very own parish based summer camp in the beginning of the year at the very same place.

To spice things up, for the first time ever, the Core team had opened the retreat for general participants to enable an enthusiastic bunch of year 13 students to get a glimpse of what it is like to be a Core Team Leader and to witness the culture and community within the team.

The theme of the formation revolved around "More than maintaining". A very profound theme that was unravelled over the weekend. The early mornings of the retreat were solemn and prayerful to start the day in discernment, quietness and stillness with the Eucharist.

Several keynote speakers were invited to slowly unravel the theme: Romwell Ramos, Mina Amso, Antonio Pereira, Susan Fraser, Joselle Vicente and Miguel Balingit. Over the course of the weekend retreat they helped deliver the message of finding your why, going over and beyond what needs to be done, and providing radical hospitality to the teens through relational ministry. One of the retreat's highlights was the family dinner where everyone joined together to share a delicious hearty dinner filled with laughter and fun. The meal was led by the group of year 13 students serving the Core Team Leaders where they joined later on.

The retreat was led and organised by the Core support team with the help of our passionate parent helpers Winnie and Antonio Pereira, Sue and Steven Fraser. A Eucharistic celebration followed by reconciliation was celebrated on Saturday evening. Finally, the retreat concluded at the home parish in St Joseph's Parish Takapuna where the participants attended the 6pm mass together.

More than maintaining inspires us to go over and beyond what is being asked. A ministry that is more than just maintaining a youth group. A ministry that is more than just maintaining a level of hospitality but rather going over and beyond.



Voices from the Parish

"Brough me back to a time in my youth..."

By Rose Muir

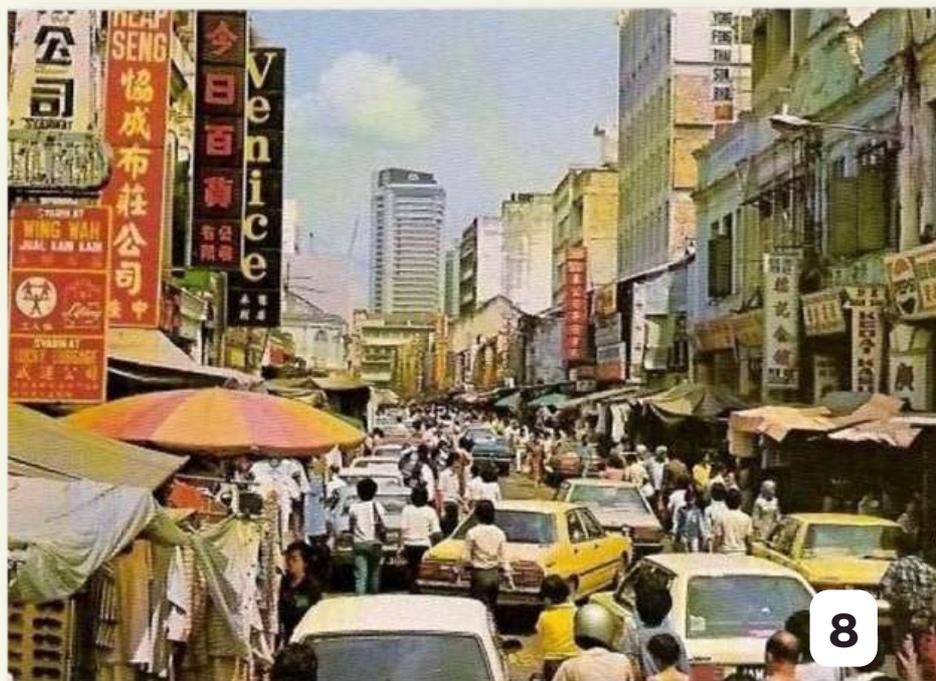
I hope that the [movie night] fundraiser was a success. I enjoyed my choc ice cream and the storyline of the stories of Thor. Love wins ultimately of the agape. May we look forward to what scriptwriters can imagine for the future.

This movie night on my own brought me back to a time in my youth during 1960s. Set out on an open space, a large field. Dry air, pitch black and dark but warm . A giant screen erected up high, could have been a giant sheet of something...I don't recall. Anyway, it showed a movie. There was no seating; it was grassland, prickly grass, probably couch, rough and tough. There were torches ablaze when people settled and when they left. There was no smell of popcorn, crunch of crisps, licking of ice creams. Stillness and silence permeated the air.

This was the cinema in the time of life at the Pudu Jail in Kuala Lumpur. The families of prison staff, administrators and workers were treated to movie nights. Anything free and announced was always supported. I would carry my foot high, homemade wooden stool...2 shorter ends as sides with a longer plank on top as the seat for my bottom.

Sometimes my mother came with me, often, I went on my own. She worked night shifts. The prisoners were guarded 24/7. The environment was safe.

If anyone dared to assault, I would blow a whistle. There were no police. We policed one another. One knows how to keep out of trouble and how to summon assistance.



CORE REFLECTION

Inside look into the team

by **Jana Vicente**

Radical Hospitality in our youth ministry is more than setting up Life Nights and cooking up some supper. Core members delve into this culture by giving the warmest welcome to every single individual and making genuine connections.

I never fail to see this practice in action as each core member works charitably for our teens every single life night. It is the most gratifying feeling to see God's stewards at work, serving willingly for their love for Christ.

As a former youth member myself, the shift from being one of the teens to serving the youth as a core member impacted my faith journey in a drastically transformative way. It's one thing to be involved in youth ministry, but taking up a leadership role to give back and serve has been nothing but rewarding.





Serving alongside such enthusiastic individuals who act purely for the sake of our youth is endless motivation to continually support and guide youth. I find it so honourable how every single core member seeks to involve themselves in relational ministry to create genuine connections and ensure that each teen is comfortable, fed, and wholeheartedly appreciated.

No amount of effort or sleepless nights are ever wasted, especially when we hear the “Glory Stories” regarding our teens and their development as young people. Their commitment to their faith journey and willingness to serve continues to astound me. It is incredibly humbling to witness the maturity of these young people and the genuineness in which they express themselves.

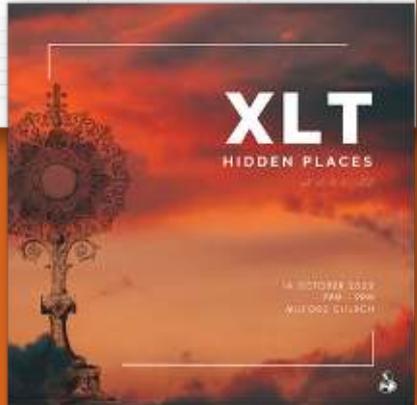
Ultimately, the goal of our youth ministry is to cultivate the growth of the youth’s faith in Christ. The radical hospitality of our core members create the ideal environment for the teens to process the Church’s teachings, learn from others, and develop their own personal relationship with God.

ON THE HORIZON

Upcoming Events

	2022 YOUTH CALENDAR							
	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Mon				1				1 Catholic Day
Tue				2				2
Wed		1		3				3
Thu		2		4				4
Fri		3		5	1 Life Night Service Part I	2 Life Night Service Part II		5
Sat		4		6				6
Sun	1 Youth Mass	5		7		3 Youth Mass		7
Mon	2	6		8		4		8
Tue	3	7		9		5		9
Wed	4	8		10		6		10
Thu	5	9		11		7		11
Fri	6	10	10 Youth Mass	12		8		12
Sat	7	11		13		9		13
Mon	8	12		14		10		14
Tue	9	13		15		11		15
Wed	10	14		16		12		16
Thu	11	15		17		13		17
Fri	12	16		18		14		18
Sat	13	17		19		15		19
Mon	14	18		20		16		20
Tue	15	19		21		17		21
Wed	16	20		22		18		22
Thu	17	21		23		19		23
Fri	18	22		24		20		24
Sat	19	23		25		21		25
Mon	20	24		26		22		26
Tue	21	25		27		23		27
Wed	22	26		28		24		28
Thu	23	27		29		25		29
Fri	24	28		30		26		30
Sat	25	29		31		27		31
Mon	26	30				28		
Tue	27	31				29		
Wed	28					30		
Thu	29					31		
Fri	30							
Sat								
Sun								

[CLICK HERE](#)





Glory Story

From one of our Teens

Over the past month, our youth has really come together. I am part of the blue team (the best team in my opinion) and I realise in our team and all the other teams, just how amazing people truly are. How each single youth is willing to give their time to prepare for the coming Morning Market and to ensure it will be an amazing event where people are able to come together as a community and laugh together.

Whether this be planning to bake and donate, or perform live music to share their talent. I love being a part of this giving youth family and this month I've really come to realise and appreciate this.

Not only are the group discussions really touching in our life nights, but the recent ones about Reconciliation has really awoken a new realisation within me. The way I feel about the Sacrament of Reconciliation has now changed into something that should be taken as an opportunity to become closer to God and a way to lighten our heavy burdens.

I really have come to enjoy our group discussions as I get to hear different stories and different view points. Every time we share, I feel like I have gotten a tiny bit closer to the other youths in a way. I love the time before life night starts where we are able to talk and say "hi" and ask how someone is doing to many different people.

I have come to appreciate these small moments as these moments are the ones that bring me the most joy during the hard times of being a Yr13 struggling with externals.

- Altanya Suparman





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Always Forward.