



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be Your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as Your adopted children; through Jesus Christ Your Son Our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**8 Jan 2023**  
**1st Sunday of Epiphany**

**8am and 10:30am**

**Preacher:** Revd Ian Chew

**Sermon:** "Encountering Jesus in Creation"

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 1 and Luke 24:13-27

## UPCOMING

**11 Jan (Wed) Hour of Power**

**8pm - 9pm** via Zoom

**12 Jan (Thurs) Comlink - "What's A Cooking?"**

**9:45am - 11:30am**  
 CNY Special  
 LKC Hall, level 1

**15 Jan (Sun) 8am & 10:30am**  
**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**  
 "Encountering Jesus in the Patriarchs"  
 Genesis 12:1-9; John 8:49-59  
 Ps Edward Zaccheus

Connect with the Ascension Family



13 Francis Thomas Drive S(359339)  
 T(65) 6283 3988 F: (65) 6283 3220

Email: [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)  
 Website: [www.ascension.org.sg](http://www.ascension.org.sg)

## VICAR'S MESSAGE 8 JAN 2023

Dear COA family,

Last Sunday I preached from the text from Hebrews 6:1-12 encouraging us to embark on the journey of growth in our spiritual lives and to take active steps in that direction. This is because our faith is ultimately a journey with a starting point to maturity in Christ (Colossians 1:28). Our God desires us to become spiritually mature and not simply stay as stunted Christians.

Yet Hebrews 6 is also one of the most frightening passages in the New Testament. There we read about the severe consequences of turning away deliberately from God and persisting in sinful behaviour. The final result would be to forfeit one's salvation, which is the greatest loss anyone could ever experience!

Here are the words of the passage:

*"For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— and who then turn away from God. **It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.**" Hebrews 6:4-6*

There are teachers in Christian circles who would try to explain the consequences away by claiming that these are not true Christians to begin with. They claim that these people merely tasted the goodness of God without receiving it. This is because these teachers hold on to the view that salvation, once obtained, can never be lost.

Yet this way of reading is to use a pre-determined mindset to understand a verse. And invariably, it will lead to a wrong view. The plain text of this passage clearly indicates that loss of salvation is possible – and will take place if one wilfully turns his back on God (see also Hebrews 10:26-31). This terrifying consequence can really happen to people!

I am not saying that we should therefore be paranoid about our salvation status or judge *those who have "lost" their salvation. Ultimately, it is the Lord who truly judges each one.*

Yet I am saying that there is a direction that one can take that leads to eternal ruin and go past the point of no return. The heart can become so hardened and the conscience become so seared that turning back to God in trust and tenderness of spirit becomes problematic. At this point, the author of Hebrews calls it "impossible".

Let us then be wary of turning away from God deliberately nor even tolerate sin or compromise in our lives. After all, in this journey of faith, if we are not moving forward, we are moving backwards. Let us determine to grow intentionally in our lives through godly thoughts, actions and responses.

Have a blessed week ahead!

Revd Ian



## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We warmly welcome you to worship with us at our Sunday Services.

The Church Office is open daily from Tuesday to Saturday (9am to 5.30pm), except for public holidays.  
Office Phone: 62833988  
Emergency contact: 81002203

Sunday Service	Time	Venue
English Traditional Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
English Contemporary Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
Mandarin Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	2:00pm	Sanctuary (Level 2)

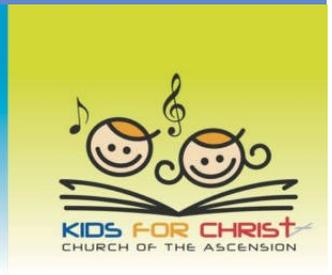
### NEW TO COA?

Whether you have joined our service today, onsite or online, or found us on the web, we are glad you have! Do let us know if you would like more information or prayer, or to just give us some feedback. Please contact us at [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## COA CHILDREN MINISTRY

The Kids For Christ and Little Gems will be resumed on 8 January 2023 (Today).

Enquiries: [Shirley Kwek](mailto:Shirley Kwek)



## ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY

### INTERNET BANKING (BANK TRANSFER)

Account Name: Church of The Ascension  
Bank Name: OCBC  
Account Number: 511010332001  
Reference: Tithing number (if any), and any other description e.g. month of contribution etc.

### PAYNOW VIA UEN

Step 1: Log in to your internet banking account  
Step 2: On the PayNow transfer screen, enter the UEN number T08CC4066A for the Church of the Ascension



## VACANCIES FOR COA STAFF POSITION

We are looking for suitable candidates to fill the following positions:

- Chinese Ministry pastoral staff. Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/pastoral-worker-chinese-ministry/>
- SAJS Chaplaincy worker. Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/chaplaincy-staff>

If you are interested to apply for the above positions, please send your resume to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## HOUR OF POWER ONLINE 11 JAN 2023

**Date:** Wed 11 Jan 2023

**Time:** 8 pm - 9pm

Join us as one Ascension family to pray and seek the Lord.

The online Prayer Meeting will be conducted via Zoom:

([Click here](#) for the link.)

**Meeting ID:** 822 3756 7980

**Passcode:** matt1820



## COA CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RECRUITMENT

### COA CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RECRUITMENT



Interested in investing in the lives of Children  
and serving God?

We are looking for volunteers to serve in our Sunday School.



Contact Shirley at 97667304 or email to [shirley.kwek@ascension.org.sg](mailto:shirley.kwek@ascension.org.sg)

## COA BREAKFAST CLUB

By the grace of God, we can now serve breakfast in church.

We are appealing for generous contributors and volunteers.

Please email Clare at [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg) or call the Church Office if you wish to serve in this area.

Come serve with us!



## CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Ascensionnaires,

We are looking for volunteers to partner us in our chaplaincy outreach to SAJS boys. We invite you prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of the following ministries.

### **Saints' Haven**

Saints' Haven is a recess ministry that runs across the 3 recesses in SAJS. The boys come into our drop-in room to chill out. Board and card games are available for them to unwind and socialise.

Using game-playing as a platform to build friendships, we minister to the boys by patiently hearing what they have to say and speaking into their lives. Opportunities for prayer may arise as well.

#### **Commitment:**

1-2 volunteers on any one or more days from Mon to Thu, 9.25 – 10.55 AM, in SAJS, during school term.

Please come in earlier (9.15 AM) to help set up the place with games and prayers.

### **SAJS Praying Parents**

The SAJS Praying Parents is part of the nationwide Praying Parents Unite! group that galvanises parents to pray and intercede for their schools.

We meet onsite weekly to cover the students, staff and parents of SAJS in prayer. Additional prayer meetings are also organised during important examination periods (eg. PSLE).

If you have a heart and/or burden to pray, we encourage you to join us. You do not need to be a SAJS parent to join the group.

#### **Commitment:**

Thursdays, 7.30 – 8 AM, COA MPH, during school term. Zoom option available for those who cannot meet onsite.

## CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### **7J Boys' Brigade Singapore Company**

The Object of the Boys' Brigade (BB) is "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness".

Utilising the method of Company, uniform, awards, promotion and wholesome activities, BB volunteers play an important role as mentors, helping nurture BB Boys to be men of godly character.

A typical weekday parade starts with a time of Singspiration, where praise songs are sung. Then a devotion is shared, before the boys break into their different levels to do activities like badgework, drills, soft archery or team-building games.

Other than the weekly Friday parades, volunteers are also involved in inter-school events such as the Adventure and Character Quest competitions, and community outreach events such as BB CARES and BB Share-a-Gift. Camps and outings are also organised occasionally.

#### **Commitment:**

1-4 volunteers for weekly Friday parades from 8 – 10 AM in COA, during school term. Adhoc volunteers for annual Saturday competitions and other activities (eg. camp, community outreach) are welcome too!

### **SAV HOPE Boyz Club/ Up & On Programme**

SAV Helping Our Pupils Excel (HOPE) Boyz Club and Up & On Programme are after-school programmes that reach out to children-at-risk (Financial Assistance Scheme, latchkey, etc) identified by the school.

The boys gather for lunch after school on Wednesdays. Then a short message for the day is shared before they go into their different levels to do homework and revision (with a short break in between). Games and sports might also be played in the last period.

Sometimes outings (local and overseas) are organised to allow them to have the experience of travelling or going overseas. Past trips include an outing to Hay Dairies in 2018 and a cultural immersion trip to Chiang Mai in 2017.

P6 boys in the Up & On Programme also meet more regularly, from once a week to daily, as the PSLE draws closer.

Volunteers need not be good in any academic subjects (advantageous as that may be) – you just need a heart to journey alongside these boys and be a significant adult mentor in their lives.

#### **Commitment:**

1-2 volunteers on Wednesdays, 2-4 PM, in SAJS, during school term, from February onwards (start date TBC)

For P6s, same timing as Hope Boyz, but volunteers can commit to one or more of the 1.5-hour days from May onwards (May, Jul – Fri; end Jul-Aug: Tue, Thu, Fri; after Sep school hols-PSLE: Mon-Fri).

## CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

<p><b>Extend-A-Care Programme</b></p> <p>Mentors with time and patience to model Christ's love are needed to encourage and listen to students who require additional emotional and academic support.</p> <p>Volunteers work with the school counsellors and teachers to care for students through regular meetings to look out for these needy students and celebrate their joys and successes.</p> <p>Commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1-2 volunteers who can commit to meeting matched students at least once a week, before school assembly starts.</li><li>Counselling skills (active listening, naming emotions, reframing) and problem-solving skills advantageous but not necessary.</li></ul>	
--	--

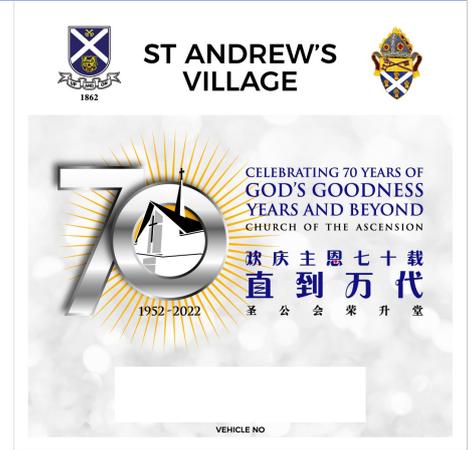
Interested? Please feel free to contact Ps Barnabas (9090 6067 or [barnabas.sim@ascension.org.sg](mailto:barnabas.sim@ascension.org.sg)) for more details.

## COA NEW CAR DECAL

In conjunction with COA's 70th Anniversary celebration, we are proud to present members with a new car decal! (See image.)

Please take note of the following:

- Register for your new car decal via this link <https://bit.ly/3omt1Y9> (Please contact the church if you cannot access the online form.)
- If you have an existing decal, please bring it to exchange for the new one on Sundays after service, at the Church office (after you have completed the registration).
- Period for registration and exchange:  
**Jan - Mar 2023.**
- We encourage everyone to register for the new decal to enter St Andrew's Village. The SAV guards have the authority to deny entry to vehicle without proper identification.
- Parking in the school compound is allowed on Sundays **only**.



## COA - TELEGRAM

### We are on Telegram!

Subscribe to Church of The Ascension to receive updates on our latest announcements, events, programmes and more. Click on the link or scan the QR code to subscribe

<https://t.me/Ascensionaires>

Follow us and stay in touch!



@ASCENSIONAIRES

### Download Telegram:

Android: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.telegram.messenger&hl=en\\_SG&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.telegram.messenger&hl=en_SG&gl=US)

Apple/iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/telegram-messenger/id686449807>

## WELCOME NEW PASTORAL STAFF

We warmly welcome Revd Soon Soo Kee who joined COA as auxiliary priest (part-time) on 1 January 2023. Revd Soon will be involved in Seniors and Visitation Ministry.



## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to Mrs Mary Yee and her family on the passing of Mr Yee Teck Peng, who went home to the Lord on 5 Jan 2023. Please continue to uphold Mary and their family in our prayers.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

# ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



8 Jan	<i>Revd Ian Chew</i>	Encountering Jesus in Creation
15 Jan	<i>Ps Edward Zaccheus</i>	Encountering Jesus in the Patriarchs
22 Jan	<i>Revd Ian Chew</i>	Encountering Jesus in Moses and the Law
29 Jan	<i>Ps Barnabas Sim</i>	Encountering Jesus in the Wilderness
5 Feb	<i>Revd Soon Soo Kee</i>	Encountering Jesus in the Sacrifices
12 Feb	<i>Revd Ian Chew</i>	Encountering Jesus in the Psalms
19 Feb	<i>Revd Stephen Lim</i>	Encountering Jesus in the Prophets



## EVENT CALENDAR 2023

The COA 2023 Event calendar is available for download. Please use the below link for the event calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

## RECRUITMENT OF HOST PARENTS FOR SA HALL FOREIGN STUDENTS

Host parents are needed for a new batch of foreign scholars aged 13-16 years of age and now residing in St Andrew's Hall. If you are interested in caring for and reaching out to these students, please contact Clare Ng at [clare.ng@ascension.org.sg](mailto:clare.ng@ascension.org.sg) or 62833988.

## ONLINE DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (DCBS) TERM 1

### **Online Diocesan Certificate of Biblical Studies (DCBS) - Term 1**

Registration for online DCBS Term 1 is open! DCBS aims to bring Bible literacy to participants, helping them to know and apply God's Word to life. Interested participants may sign up for an OT or NT module each term. All first-time participants are recommended to attend Module 1A or 1B to receive background overview of the Bible.

**Title:** Module 2A - The Pentateuch (1): Genesis & Exodus

**Instructors:** Ms Vivien Chen, Mr Kwan Fook Seng, Mr James Tan

**Dates:** 12th January – 16th March 2023

**Time:** 7.30pm – 9pm

**Cost:** \$10

**Title:** Module 8A - The Gospels (1): Mark & Luke

**Instructors:** Revd Aaron Cheng, Mr Alfred Chan

**Dates:** 12th January – 16th March 2023

**Time:** 7.30pm – 9pm

**Cost:** \$10

All lessons will be conducted via Zoom. Registration details can be found on the Diocesan website at [www.anglican.org.sg](http://www.anglican.org.sg).



*Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers*

## PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 8 - 14 JAN 2023

### 1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

#### CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Vicar:

English and Chinese congregation

Queenstown Good Shepherd Kindergarten:

Revd Canon Huang Ao-you  
Clergy, staff and parishioners  
Principal and staff

### 2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

- Singapore's hospices extend support for more illnesses, boost home and day care services
- Up to 70% of Shanghai population infected with COVID-19 during China's huge surge in cases

### 3) PARISH:

- Sermon series on "Growing Deeper in the Faith" (Jan - Feb 23)
- KFC and Little Gems Sunday school classes resumed (**Today**)

### 4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

#### For health and recovery

Doris Chew, Evelyn Tan, Jenny Ng, Joanne Lau,  
Lily Chan, Mary Yee, Tan Teck Hin, Wong Wah Kum,  
Zephan Heng

#### Relatives and Friends of COA members

Benjamin (Lesley Ho's nephew) - Hepatitis B  
David Yeong (Margaret Onn's husband) – cancer  
Sng Hock Meng - healing of the mind  
Soo Ngook Khinn (Sien Yee's father) - salvation  
Ong Chwee Hock (Ong Siew Chin's brother) -  
physiotherapy and lymphoma

#### For healing

Annie Huan - strength for her legs  
Conelius Loo - sleep apnea  
Joseph Phua - muscular degeneration  
Nancy Chan (Low) - stroke & heart  
Felicia Koh - protection against stroke in  
future

*“So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.”*

Genesis 1:27