



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon Your Church in the burning fire of Your love: grant that Your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in You, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

**17 Sept 2023**  
**Trinity 15**

**8am & 10:30am**

**Preacher: Ps Barnabas Sim**

**Sermon:** "Jesus' Letters to the Seven Churches: Smyrna - Faithfulness to What End?"

**Bible Reading:** Revelation 2:8-11;  
John 15:18-26

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)

Event Calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

## UPCOMING

<b>24 Sept (Sun)</b> <b>8am &amp; 10:30am</b>	<b>Trinity 16</b> "Jesus' Letters to the Seven Churches: Pergamum - How Dangerous is Compromise?" Revelation 2:12-17 Matthew 7:15-20 Revd Stephen Lim
<b>24 Sept (Sun)</b> <b>1pm - 2:30pm</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b> Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) Anglicanism & Church History
<b>28 Sept (Thur)</b> <b>9:45am - 11:30am</b>	<b>Comlink</b> "What's A Cooking" Fuqing Sweet Potato Balls LKC Hall
<b>29 Sept (Fri)</b> <b>10:30am - 12:30pm</b>	<b>Elder Fellowship Holy Communion Service</b> Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) Revd Soon Soo Kee
<b>7 Oct (Sat)</b> <b>9am - 5pm</b>	Men's Network Retreat Revd Ian Chew

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Dear COA Family,

What is your view of the troubles that you face in your life?

If you are anything like me, you would want them to be over as soon as possible. In fact, many people have requested for me to pray that God would heal them of their sickness, deliver them from a bad situation or simply remove a difficult person from their life, all as soon as possible!

Yet the Bible has a different take on troubles in our lives.

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”** James 1:2-4.

In other words, we are not to try to escape troubles but to adopt a different perspective towards them. We are to thank God for them and trust in God's strength for us to endure through our trials. Only then will we grow in our faith and maturity.

The presence of trials and tribulations in our lives should therefore not be something of a surprise to us, as if a good and loving God would never ever let his children suffer. God our heavenly Father is ultimately concerned for our greatest good and, if we have to endure discipline to learn that, he will subject us to trials for our own good.

In fact, we should think of going through tribulations as a **normal fact of life**, and therefore to be expected.

Why do I say this?

It is because we live in a fallen world. Both moral and physical evil are increasing in intensity all throughout the world each day. Just check out the daily news headlines for proof of troubles around the world. We as God's children are also not exempt from them.

Not only that, we are also guaranteed to face persecutions because we are Christians.

The apostle Paul writes that **“everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”** (2 Tim 3:12).

So, knowing this, how should we respond?

First and foremost, it is important to know God's will for us through persecution. God is not trying to make life difficult for us but to help us trust in him fully. And this is only possible if we come to an end of our own strength, wisdom and resources.

After experiencing his “thorn in the flesh”, and realising that God will not remove it, Paul then goes on to say, **“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong”** (2 Cor 12:9-10).

The church in Smyrna was also promised a greater reward – the crown of life if they endured their persecutions to the point of death. They may seem weak and poor in the eyes of the world but, to God, they are rich in faith!

May the Lord help us to have a different and higher view of our sufferings here on earth.

Blessings,

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
<b>English Traditional</b> Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>English Contemporary</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
<b>Mandarin</b> Holy Communion 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	10:30am	Ascension Hall (Level 3)

### 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) or click on the link and kindly fill in the form to help us keep in touch with you. Click [here](#).

If you are driving to church:

- Register for your new car decal via this link <https://bit.ly/3omt1Y9> (Please contact the church office if you cannot access the online form.)
- 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.

## UPDATE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

If your home or email address or contact number has been changed, please notify the church office to ensure you continue to receive COA correspondence. You can notify us in any of the following ways:

1. Call the church office at 62833988
2. Email to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)
3. Write to 13 Francis Thomas Drive, Singapore 359339

## 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



## CHILDREN MINISTRY

Sunday school classes start at 10.30am.  
The children will be dismissed after 10.30am  
English Service.

Enquiries: [Shirley Kwek](#)



## BREAKFAST AT LKC

Welcome to our 'Refreshment Corner' and enjoy your fellowship with the food and beverage.

We praise God and are grateful for the generous monetary contribution we have been receiving.

If anyone is interested in contributing in kind (eg. food and drinks), please contact Elaine Koh (94511625) or Clare at the church office.

In consideration of hygiene and proper coordination, we seek your kind cooperation in informing Elaine or Clare before placing any food contribution at the 'Refreshment Corner'.



## VACANCY FOR COA STAFF POSITION

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

- Associate Chaplain for St Andrew's Nursing Home (Aljunied). Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/jd03> and send your resume to [admin@ascension.org.sg](mailto:admin@ascension.org.sg)

## COA HOLY LAND STUDY TOUR - TEACHING & BRIEFING SESSIONS

For those who have signed up for the Holy Land Study Tour (19 Nov - 1 Dec), there will be teaching and briefing sessions before the trip. The details are as follows:-

**Dates:** 24 Sept & 22 Oct.

**Time:** 12.30pm - 2pm

**Venue:** Ascension Hall, Level 3

## ELDER FELLOWSHIP HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

**Date:** Friday, 29 Sept 2023

**Time:** 10:30am - 12:30pm

**Venue:** Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)

**Speaker:** Revd Soon Soo Kee

Lunch will be provided after Service at LKC Hall.

Do join us if you are 60 or older. Please contact the Church Office for registration and more information.



## CONFIRMATION COURSE

### Confirmation Course (Sep-Oct 2023)

**Date:** 24 Sep - 28 Oct 2023,

**Time:** 1pm - 2:30pm

**Venue:** Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) - COA



Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming Bishop.

The Confirmation Course is for:

1. Those seeking confirmation / membership in Church of the Ascension (COA).
2. Those baptised and currently attending church services regularly at COA.

#### Schedule for Confirmation Course

Sunday 24 Sep - Anglicanism & Church History

Sunday 1 Oct - The Ten Commandments (1-10)

Sunday 15 Oct - The Work of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 22 Oct - The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Saturday 28 Oct (10am-12pm) - Confirmation Retreat

**Confirmation Service:** Sunday 29 Oct 2022, 10.30 am

- Service conducted by Bp Rennis Ponniah



## NEW BELIEVERS' CLASS

### New Believers' Class (Sep-Nov 2023)

**Date:** 17 Sep - 19 Nov 2023

**Time:** 12:30pm - 2pm

**Venue:** Youth room, #01-06, Diocesan Centre

Lunch will be provided.

This class is catered for those who have just received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. You are encouraged to join this class (a total of 8 lessons) to be grounded in the foundational aspects of your new life as a Believer.

#### Schedule For New Believers' Class

Sunday 17 Sep: Lesson 1 - Beginning Your New Life In Christ

Sunday 24 Sep: Lesson 2 - Beginning Your New Life of Fellowship With Christ

Sunday 1 Oct: Lesson 3 - Beginning Your New Life In The Holy Spirit

Sunday 15 Oct: Lesson 4 - Beginning Your New Life Of Growth With Christ

Sunday 22 Oct: Lesson 5 - Beginning Your New Life In God's Word

Sunday 5 Nov: Lesson 6 - Beginning Your New Life In Prayer

Sunday 12 Nov: Lesson 7 - Beginning Your New Life As Part Of The Church (Part 1)

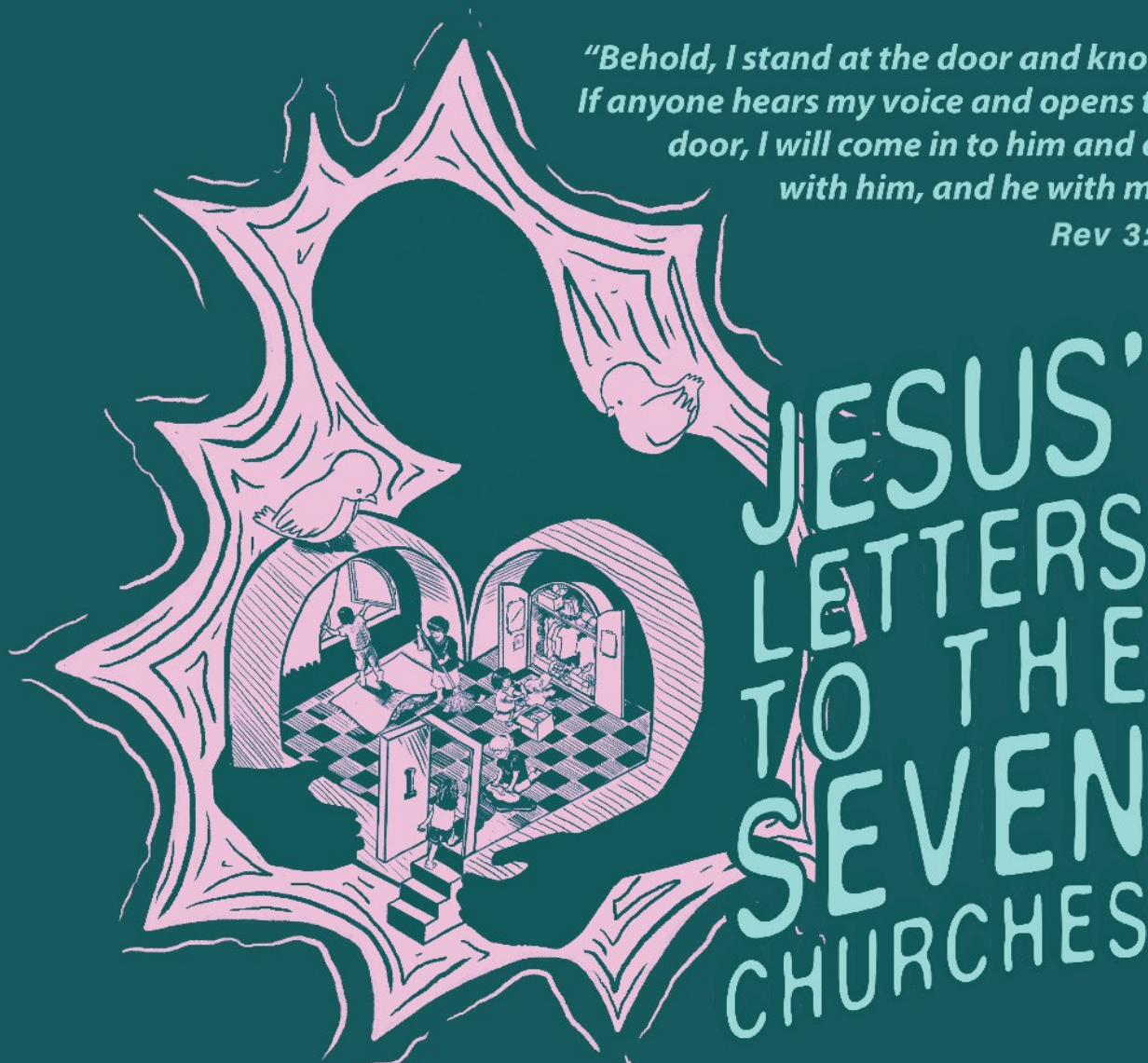
Sunday 19 Nov: Lesson 8 - Beginning Your New Life As Part Of The Church (Part 2)

Please call the church office to sign up.

## SEPTEMBER -- NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone hears my voice and opens the  
door, I will come in to him and eat  
with him, and he with me."*

*Rev 3:20*



3 Sep	<i>Revelation: Who is Jesus Now?</i>	Revd Ian Chew
10 Sep	<i>Ephesus - How to Rekindle First Love?</i>	Revd Soon Soo Kee
17 Sep	<i>Smyrna - Faithfulness to What End?</i>	Ps Barnabas Sim
24 Sep	<i>Pergamum - How Dangerous is Compromise?</i>	Revd Stephen Lim
1 Oct	<i>Thyatira - Tolerance: Virtue or Vice?</i>	Ps Edward Zaccheus
5 Nov	<i>Sardis - What is Your Reputation Worth?</i>	Revd Jeremy Joe Tan
12 Nov	<i>Philadelphia - What are Open Doors?</i>	Ps Jamie Harris
19 Nov	<i>Laodicea - Which Perspective is Right?</i>	Revd Ian Chew

# What's a Cooking?

## Fuqing Sweet Potato Balls



**DATE:** 28 SEPT 23 (THURS)  
**TIME:** 9.45 AM TO 11.30 AM  
**COST:** \$6 PER PERSON  
**VENUE:** LKC HALL, CHURCH OF  
THE ASCENSION

**CLOSING DATE : 22 SEPT 23**

To register, please call Church of the Ascension at 6283-3988 (office hours only, closed on Monday)

The organizer reserves the right to cancel the event should any unforeseen circumstances arise.

## SAV FAMILY DAY - 8 OCT 2023 (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)



### SAV Family Day Volunteers

We need help in these areas:

- 1) Station game masters
- 2) Buffet servers
- 3) Set up (7th Oct Saturday) & tear down crew
- 4) Videographers & photographers
- 5) Befrienders

Interested members please contact:

Andrew Cheang (97583870)

Angelina (81390411)

## SAV FAMILY DAY - 8 OCT 2023 (REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT)



### SAV Family Day

8 Oct, Sunday | 9am-1.30pm

St Andrew's Junior College



Tickets are available  
for purchase  
Scan here to register  
online & make payment  
(NO CASH)

Enter UEN/Bill Reference No.  
SAV Family Day

\* You could also use this [link](#) to register online or make payment.



## MEN'S NETWORK RETREAT 2023 - 7 OCT 2023

# Men's Network Retreat 2023

Speaker  
Revd Ian Chew

Saturday 7 Oct 2023  
9am - 5pm | \$10 per pax

All are welcome | Registration open now

## BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE BY DIOCESAN YOUTH BOARD (DYB)

**Topic:** Being a Christian in the Public Sphere

**Date:** 20 October 2023

**Time:** 7.30PM - 9PM

**Venue:** St Andrew's Cathedral, Pavilion

**Panel:** Mr Keith Chua, Mr Sim Guan Seng, Revd Dr Jeremy-Joe Tan

### Event Synopsis:

Wonder how our Christian faith and value intersect with business, ethics, and leadership?

Come join us as we dialogue with Christian leaders from the marketplace where they share their experiences, challenges, and strategies for making an impact as a Christian in a

## #PARISHOFTHEWEEK – CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER

- The Diocese of Singapore is embarking on a 2-year campaign: Parish of the Week, where one parish is featured per week.
- This week, the Parish of the Week is Chapel of Christ the Redeemer (CCR). You can view a video about PCC via <http://anglican.org.sg/potw> or the Diocesan Facebook or Instagram page @dioceseofsingapore.
- For YouTube Link, please click [here](#).

## CONDOLENCES

Please uphold Terry, Clare, Dylan, Christian and Sarah and family members in your prayers during their time of bereavement. The family would like to thank the COA pastors and church members for your support and prayers.

CHURCH CAMP 2024

*Church of the Ascension*  
**Church Camp  
2024**

**FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES  
TOGETHER**

**DATE: 1ST - 4TH JUNE**

**VENUE: AMERALD RESORT  
HOTEL, DESARU**

**SPEAKER: REVD TIMOTHY CHOW**

*More details to come*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ...**

# BIDADARI KIDS CLUB

**FOR A TIME OF GAMES, STORIES, CRAFT, SONGS**

Program is catered for 9 years and below, all ages are welcomed



**DATE: EVERY 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING PH)**  
**TIME: 6-7PM**  
**LOCATION: PLAYGROUND BETWEEN 106B & 108A BIDADARI PARK DR (NEAR PRIME SUPERMARKET)**



**JOIN OUR WHATSAPP CHAT FOR LATEST UPDATES !**



**ORGANISED BY**



**SUPPORTED BY**



## BIDADARI KIDS CLUB - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ...**

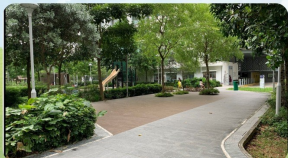
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**ORGANISED BY**



**SUPPORTED BY**



Organised by: **Good News Community Services**

### Details of Event

Event Name: Bidadari Kids Club

Date/Time: Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays (excluding PH), 6pm to 7pm

Venue: Playground between Blk 106B and 108A Bidadari Park Drive (near Prime Supermarket)

Objective: Reach out to children (aged 3 to 9) and their caregivers in Bidadari. Join us as.....

- Curriculum planner
- Game Master
- Story Teller
- Registration/ Parents' Liaison
- Audio-visual/ Technical Photographer/Videographer
- Befriender to parents
- Visitation team

Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/3BicNMCXLgFEKzWT6>

For enquiries, please contact Karen Wong @ mobile: 98234044 or email [wongkaren@goodnews.org.sg](mailto:wongkaren@goodnews.org.sg)



*Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers*

## PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 17 - 23 SEPT 2023

### 1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

#### CHAPEL OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Acting Vicar:

Revd Glenn Chan

English and Mandarin Congregations:

Clergy, staff and parishioners

St Hilda's Primary School:

Principal and staff

St Hilda's Secondary School:

Principal and staff

#### 1) Leadership renewal

Pray that both the English and Chinese Congregations will raise and disciple new lay leaders and full-time workers.

#### 2) Chaplaincy work in the St. Hilda's Schools

Chapel of Christ the Redeemer (CCR) serves as the school chaplaincy team to both St. Hilda's Primary School and St. Hilda's Secondary School.

- Pray for greater partnership with the school leaders and teachers.
- Pray for volunteers and workers to come onboard to be part of the chaplaincy team.

#### 3) Outreach and Evangelism

Pray for the church as they equip and mobilise members for outreach and evangelism.

#### 4) Chinese Congregation

- Pray that the CCR's Chinese Congregation will have a renewed passion to continue with the Chinese work despite challenges.
- Pray for the outreach work to the people at Senior Care Centre (Tampines 117) and for the New Immigrants Ministry.

### 2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

Singapore: Thank God for the successful and smooth swearing-in of our new president Tharman Shanmugaratnam. Pray for God's wisdom on him to lead and God's blessings on the nation of Singapore to live in peace, harmony and goodness.

World: Floods in Libya this week have killed tens of thousands of people. Pray for the rescue efforts for many of the trapped victims to continue and quick relief in aid to arrive for the survivors. Pray for the church to bring God's help and comfort to the people in Libya.

### 3) PARISH

- Sept - Nov sermon series: Pray that we will grow to have deeper revelations of who our Lord Jesus is and the church through Jesus' letters to the seven churches.
- New Believers' Class: Starting on 17 Sep (Today). Pray that many will sign up and all participants who have signed up will grow deeper in their faith.
- Confirmation Course starting on 24 Sep.

### 4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

#### For health and recovery

Evelyn Tan, 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  
- stones in left kidney.  
- urinary tract infection.

Felicia Koh - tiny cyst on the liver.

Pray for favorable results and no further tests need to be done.

Zephan Heng - ALP in the liver to be back to normal level and good report for test results.

Steven Syn - restoration and wellness.

Janet Hale - relief from pain in the stomach.

Wilson Lim - continued recovery from loss of red blood cells

Jasmine Tan - health and protection of baby.

Nancy Chan (Low) - stroke & heart

*"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."*  
Revelation 2:10