



# BROTHERS OF ST GABRIEL

*"Labor Omnia Vincit"*



*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*



## Provincial Superior's Message

*Bro John Albert Arul Devanesan fsg*

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Board of Governors, Benefactors, Montfort Associates, Friends of Montfort, Principals / Teachers / Support Staff, Students / Trainees,

Greetings to all of you!

**“The waters of a river give joy to God’s city, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within, it cannot be shaken; God will help it at the dawning of the day.” Psalm 45**

The providential love of God watches over us all.

The Psalmist shares his consciousness of the providence of God in his life. We are encouraged to develop the vertical vision of faith, that is to become aware of God’s Working in our life and in our world.

The Man and Woman of God in the Holy Scripture have very beautifully described their God Experience using metaphorical language.

They very firmly and poetically articulated their faith experience and left for us the spiritual heritage to evoke in us the desire to encounter and experience the Most High God in our own lives.

We cannot be a witness to Love and Wisdom that we have not known or tasted.

The element of faith sharing among the believers is slackening, we seem to be caught up with the matters of temporal world at the expenses of neglecting or rejecting the Divine Infused in Humanity.

As we approach the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2018, we are boosted with the Mystery of the Risen Jesus.

The dawning of the day of the Resurrection – Empty Tomb – Jesus Victory over Sin, Evil and Death.

The Liturgical Celebration brings us all into contact with God, who revitalise our faith, hope and love. As people sent forth, we can step up the element of faith sharing among ourselves, in our homes, and community gatherings.

We, can witness to the unbroken journey of love, life and light as revealed in Jesus.

In Him we are alive.

Thank you,

SHALOM. Blessed Easter 2018

Rejoice my friends that we are God’s Presence Bearers.

Bro John Albert Arul Devanesan fsg



# Montfort Secondary School (MSS), Singapore

By Priya Prasad



## PARENTS' EXTRAVAGANZA

Montfort Secondary School hosted a Parents' Extravaganza on Saturday, 27 January 2018. A series of engaging talks and workshops were planned for the day. Parents attended parenting workshops by industry experts who suggested a plethora of ways parents can be involved in their sons' lives. From understanding the challenges their sons face to strategizing how to rediscover the joy of learning, parents were given many practical tips in helping them manage their

adolescent sons. Following that, parents were engaged in a dialogue session with the school leaders and also with representatives from Institutes of Higher Learning. Parents left the sessions that day with a better understanding of how to engage their sons and of the diverse post-secondary opportunities that await their sons.



## X-COUNTRY

As a school, we journeyed to Sengkang Hockey Stadium on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> February to get our X-Country 2018 run going. As our boys slowly but surely filled the stands, we assembled on the pitch for morning assembly. After singing the national anthem and reciting the pledge with gusto, the Upper Sec students were summoned to the start line to get the run going. Unfettered neither by their soaking wet attire nor the blazing sun, our boys ran faster than they ever had! Post-run, teachers engaged the students over some delicious snacks. After 80 medals were given out to the top

20 runners of each level and Berthomieu house was declared champions, our boys sang the Song of the Brave with such power that it reverberated through the walls of the stadium. The run was a stroll in the park for some, yet others found themselves to be pushing their own physical limits. Regardless, what we witnessed was a true testament of the Montfortian spirit- an unrelenting band of brothers.

## TOTAL DEFENCE DAY



Montfort Secondary commemorate Total Defence Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February this year. The solemn ceremony started with a simple parade by our four Uniformed Groups (UG) which was followed by a presentation by Colonel Gaurav Keerthi from the Republic of Singapore Air Force who inspired our students with an engaging and motivational assembly talk. Later in the day, the students experienced had a food rationing exercise, where they ate sweet potato and porridge, staples of our forefathers who went through an arduous time in the war. It was indeed a humbling experience for us all.



# BOYS' TOWN

Helping Children & Youth-in-need

*By Trevor Chan*

A youth receiving encouragement from Executive Director Dr Roland Yeow.



experiences when enjoying the food together.

## Boys' Town Orientation Camp

The boys started the new year with an Orientation Camp! It was held from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January. The Camp provided the opportunity for staff and boys to bond and to make them feel welcome. The boys showed enthusiasm and teamwork during the Camp. They worked as a team to overcome the obstacles and challenges placed before them. Further bonding was seen during meal times when they shared about the day's

## Fostering Roadshow – 10 Feb 2018



Our Fostering Services team set up a booth at The Meadow, Gardens by the Bay on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. In conjunction with Tote Board's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the staff were there to raise awareness about fostering and to recruit foster parents and volunteers.

## Family Day Lunch 2018 - 24 Feb 2018

Boys' Town Family Day celebrated the Family Day 2018 on February, 24<sup>th</sup>, with the boys and their family and the staff. In addition to the buffet lunch, the boys performed admirably in front of the audience. The staff took the opportunity to interact with the boys and their families. The boys and staff enjoyed the special time together.



The staff were dressed up with recycled materials as part of the day's programme to the delight of the boys and their families.



# Assumption English School (AES), Singapore

By Ms Kathryn Lee

## Experiential Learning at Assumption English School

While the Secondary Three Assumptionites were away at the Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) camp, the rest of the school had two days of experiential learning on 15 and 16 January 2018. A variety of specially-planned workshops and learning journeys allowed Assumptionites to learn through hands-on tasks. Here are some of the highlights of the two days!

### Secondary One

In Mathematics, students learn that one way to solve real-world problems is through mathematical modelling. Students were given the task of designing the “best” kite, which required them to apply mathematical concepts learnt in class as they designed and built their kites out of materials like newspaper and plastic bags! Subsequently, the school field was awash with students running around with much enthusiasm as they tried to get their kites to lift off!



To kick-start the year-long Creative Science Innovations/ Investigations (CSI) project, students began discussing issues that they would like to investigate and solve. For example, one group has decided to work on determining the sugar content of soft drinks, while another is trying to build their own lava lamp!



### Secondary Two



As part of the school’s Applied Learning Programme, SPEak English with grAce and Knowledge (SPEAK), students participated in a workshop which introduced them to the field of broadcast journalism. They learnt about camera angles and reporting techniques which prepared them to take on roles as student reporters for their Secondary Two SPEAK projects.



The Science Performance Task required students to build a solar cooker which could successfully cook an egg. Instead of merely learning the scientific concept of “heat” in class, students embarked on a self-directed journey to explore the concepts of conduction, convection and radiation. Out of the many young scientists, one group successfully cooked an egg after revising and improving their model countless times!

### Secondary Four and Five

Secondary Four and Five students had the opportunity to visit the Science Centre or the National Kidney Centre which allowed them to see the link between the scientific concepts taught in class and real-life.

In addition, the students took part in the inter-class games of badminton and floorball which allowed them to apply the skills learnt in Physical Education classes in a competitive setting. More importantly, this promoted class spirit and camaraderie among the graduating students!



## Mother Tongue Language Fortnight 2018



The Mother Tongue Language (MTL) Fortnight 2018 was launched on 5 February 2018. With the theme “Moving with the Times”, the fortnight-long programme encouraged Assumptionites to adopt an open mind-set to look at learning Mother Tongue Languages from a fresh perspective!

A highlight of the programme that infused cultural practices was carried out during lunch breaks on 8 February. In the CAN(speak MTL)TEEN Experience, students were encouraged to order their food in their Mother Tongue Language and eat using their respective traditional dining etiquette, such as using their hands or chopsticks to enjoy the food!



During level assemblies, students participated in the F(I)LMM fiesta where local films such as ‘Popiah’, ‘Together Apart’ and ‘Grandma Positioning System’ were screened. The screening of these short films, and the discussions that followed, allowed students to examine Singapore’s evolving cultural traditions and identity.



In addition to the activities in school, students embarked on various cultural learning journeys. For example, one group of Secondary Two Chinese students visited Dance Ensemble Singapore to find out how Southeast Asian cultures have been infused in their performances. Another group visited Nanyang Old Coffee in Chinatown to learn about the history of coffee in Singapore. Besides practising their language skills as they interviewed the master in-charge of making coffee, the highlight of the trip was certainly getting to taste the traditional flavour of ‘kopi’, ‘teh’ and kaya toast! Secondary Four Malay students were immersed in kampung life when they went on a tour of Kampung Lorong Buangkok, the last kampung in Singapore. They experienced Malay culture through a variety of activities like making traditional ‘kuih’ and communal dining with ‘nasi ambeng’.



The various activities organised for MTL Fortnight 2018 were eye-opening experiences for Assumptionites and allowed them to appreciate the changing dynamics of Singapore’s society.

# MeToYou

A Programme by MontfortCare

## MeToYou Youth Outreach Programme (YO!!!)

By Carmmen Lee

MeToYou Youth Outreach (YO!!!) is a monthly volunteering programme targeting youth aged 12 to 18 years old. The aim of the programme is to expose youths to various interest and volunteering opportunities offline. At the same time it provides them with a platform to enhance their social skills and support network.

The theme for YO!!! this year is “Mental Health”. Mental health is an integral part of our lives and it influence how we cope with stress, relate to others and make daily life choices. It is important for youths to understand the vital role of mental health and how they can support themselves and people around them. With this in mind, the youths are educated on various topics about mental health and had the opportunity to interact with different profile groups through the programme.

In January 2018, our youth volunteers came to learn more about mental health challenges that stay alone seniors commonly faced. They gained a better understanding of the predicament of stay alone seniors, what they can do to help and services available to support them. With that in mind, the youth volunteers then learnt to fold little dog origamis with red packets as a token to give the stay alone seniors for our subsequent Chinese New Year (CNY) visitation in February.

In the following month, the youth volunteers prepared CNY goodies along with the origami dog that they have folded and went on early CNY visitations to the stay alone seniors. The team was divided into 3 groups to enable more quality interactions between the seniors and the youth. In total, we managed to engage 10 seniors who were more than happy to welcome us and share with us about their life stories. The youths shared that they were surprised at how receptive the seniors were and were enlightened by the experience. One youth even



Dog Origamis



Chinese New Year Goodies



Visiting the Senior Citizen

commented that he wanted more opportunities to work with the seniors! It also piqued their curiosity to the services available in the community for these seniors. They then had a brief visit to *GoodLife!* and *GoodLife! Makan*, the senior activity centre and community kitchen for stay alone seniors at Marine Terrace. We were glad that the youth and seniors had a positive experience during the February YO!!! We hope that through these inter-generational interactions, our youths gained a better understanding of the support for the seniors in the community and learnt to communicate with them.



In March, the youths embarked on another volunteering journey with us on the theme of mental health, this time focusing on “addictions”. MeToYou was invited by National Addiction Management Service (NAMS) to share more about Gaming Addiction during National Addiction Awareness Day (NAAD) at Our Tampines Hub. Gaming addiction has become a growing concern amongst the public especially after World Health Organization (WHO) announced for it to be listed as a mental health condition in the 11th International Classification of Diseases

(ICD). Our youth volunteers got to learn the trends, definition as well as signs and symptoms of Gaming Addiction. Thereafter, they represented MeToYou as cyber wellness ambassadors to engage and share with the public on the topic. Fun and interactive activities were used to help enrich the public’s understanding of the matter. We’re glad to see the enthusiasm that our volunteers exhibit in psycho-educating the public on cyber wellness issues and look forward for more of such opportunities in the future!





## Montfort Boys' Town, Shah Alam

By Arulannandam S

We ushered the New Year with joy. Trusting in God Alone, we will journey with confident to witness many more blessings for this year. As we enter into 59 years of our Nobel work, we look forward with gratitude and with Divine Providence that He will lead us.



### Festival of Harvest (Ponggal Celebration)

The boys and girls took part in the Ponggal Celebration on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. The SA staff and a few staff assisted the students in the preparation and made the event a meaningful.



### Staff Development Session conducted by Mr. Martin Jalleh

A two days staff session on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January, was conducted by well-known person in a Church circle, Mr. Martin Jalleh and it was a fun filled training. A lot of sharing and activities put all staff on active learning mode. Mr. Martin spends additional two days to give training for boys and girls with the theme “**knowing yourself**” as well. The Management is very grateful and happy that all staff and students benefitted from this staff session.



### Thaipusam Tele-match (31<sup>st</sup> January 2018)

Public Holiday is a jolly day. The day is always filled with joy and rewards. All students took part in it and the tele-match was conducted with the assistance of students where they put in much creativity and team effort.



## Chinese New Year Celebration

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018, our very own Lion Dance Troupe was invited by the Arch Bishop of Kuala Lumpur (Arch Bishop Rev. Julian Leow) to his residence. (Picture shown the two lions at the door of the Archbishop residence)

The in house celebration of the Chinese New Year celebration was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. A few Board members graced the occasion and our students entertained the guests with beautiful performances.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WHAT HAPPENED ON EASTER?

*“Can anyone tell me what happened on Easter?”* the pastor in an affluent inner city parish asked. There was total and utter silence. The pastor, persisting, asked again politely, *“Now I know that someone here knows what happened on Easter a long, long time ago.”* Again, total silence.

Finally, visibly frustrated, the pastor asked more forcefully, *“Will somebody, anybody, please tell me what happened on Easter Sunday!”* Finally, little Freddie (never at a loss for words) tentatively raised his hand and said, *“They killed Jesus!”*

*“That’s right,”* said the pastor, *“And then what?”*

*“They put him in the ground!”* (Freddie spoke with more confidence).

*“Right! Right! Very good!”* the proud pastor affirmed, *“and then what?”*

*“And he was there for three days!”* continued Freddie, now fully trusting his voice.

*“And then what?”* the pastor continued.

*“And on Easter morning, Jesus comes out of the ground!”* continued Freddie, now fully confident he had it all right.

*“Wonderful! Amazing! Perfect!”* the pastor joyfully agreed.

And then Freddie continued, *“And if Jesus sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of bad weather, six more weeks of winter!”*

## CONSIDER THIS

A lot of people are like little Freddie – they know bits and pieces about the Easter story, but the details are not all that clear. In the midst of Easter bunnies and colourfully painted eggs, it’s easy to forget the real meaning of greatest festival of faith: Easter!

Today, and in the coming days, consider this: what is Easter for you? What does it mean? And what difference does it make in your life?

(Source: <https://philipchircop.wordpress.com/2015/04/05/what-happened-on-easter/>) – Fr. Philip Chircop (SJ)

# Montfort Youth Centre, Melaka

By Ms. Laura & Mr. Cyril



## Training by Bosch

Key personnel from Bosch Malaysia gave practical training using the air-condition equipment which also does automatic recharge, recovery leak check, oil charge and automatic vacuuming. The equipment was donated by Bosch Malaysia for training purposes of the Motor Mechanics Department. The students will learn how to dismantle and service the air-condition of vehicles. We thank Bosch Malaysia for their kindness and generosity in donating the equipment to MYC.

## Sessions by Mr. Martin Jalleh



Mr. Martin Jalleh, who is a motivational speaker came to MYC and gave sessions to students and staff. The session boosted the staff's enthusiasm to work and encouraged the students to face challenges in their daily life. Staff and students enjoyed his sessions fully and gained some knowledge through his sessions.

## Child Protection Policy (CPP)

A session on Child Protection Policy (CPP) was conducted by Mr. Arul from Montfort Boys Town, Shah Alam attended by all staff. The session gave much awareness and information as an eye-opener to caring for youths in line of MYC's mission and vision.



## A visit by ENE Melaka Sdn Bhd



ENE Melaka Sdn Bhd continues to support and contribute things in their way to MYC. Their presence always bring joy to our students. They distributed goody bags and "ang pau" to the students. Our students were delighted and we hope that ENE Melaka Sdn Bhd will continue to support MYC.

### **Spiritual Solace *Adoring the Blessed Sacrament***

The Christian Boys (Catholic and other denominations) of MYC took part in the '24 hours with the Lord' in St. Mary's Church. It was a great moment for the students to spend their time with Jesus.



### **A visit by bikers**



A group of superbike riders paid a surprise visit to MYC and spent some time with the students. They shared many experiences and advised the students to ride or drive their vehicles carefully when on the road. We thank all the bikers who came and showed great concern and effort to help our students.



### ***The Wise Woman's Stone***



A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me something more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

***Author Unknown***



## Montfort Youth Training Centre, Sabah

By MYTC



### Emergency Preparedness & Response Session

On 9<sup>th</sup> February, MYTC in collaboration with the Fire and Rescue Department of Papar held a half day Emergency Preparedness & Response Session for the Trainees and Staffs of MYTC. The purpose of this session is to educate the Trainees and Staffs to be better prepared when there is risk of fire occurrence and how to respond during emergency situations. Leading the team from the Fire & Rescue Department was Mr Kamaruddin Kamarul. The session was concluded with a fire drill demonstration and an opportunity for some of the Trainees to use the fire extinguisher.



### Sports Day

MYTC held its first sports day on 10 February at the Penampang Sports Complex. All of the MYTC Staffs, Trainees and Boarders of San Damiano Boys' Hostel (SDBH), Kiulu gathered at the venue as early as 6.30 a.m. to show their enthusiasm to mark the significance of this occasion. The day began with a March Pass from each department, i.e, Welding, Automotive, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Carpentry and SDBH, followed by the singing of the MYTC anthem and opening prayer by Mdm Fanny Kinajil. After the opening prayer, Benedict Densip the HQ prefect of Sports and Recreation proudly presented the Sports Pledge of MYTC. Brother Francis Xavier Gasper addressed the Staffs and Trainees with a short speech and in his speech, he expressed the hope that MYTC Sports Day to be an annual event which can be part of the Institution's channel to promote good sportsmanship and instill team spirit between the Trainees and Boarders as well as among the Staffs. Among the sport events offered were track event , i.e, 100M-1500M and 4 x 100M, 4 x 400M and field events, i.e, long jump, high jump, shot put and the javelin. The staffs also get the opportunity to participate in track events, i.e, 4X100M mixed category and



100M run for male and female. The Sports Day concluded in the afternoon and prize presentation was presented to the winner. Carpentry Department emerged as the overall champion for the first MYTC sports day, while the second price goes to SDBH, and third place goes to RAMD Department.

### ALL Staff house construction

Both Staff house constructions are ongoing. One of the house's roofing is done. For the other house's



Constructions in progress



Ground water tank

roofing is done only half. The workers are plastering the Wall putty on both houses. The workers also have started painting the walls. The floors have been cemented. The contractor has increased the number of the workers this

week. As they are supposed to finish both houses at the end of March, the constructions progress a bit faster. The fence's pillars were cemented already. The change-link fences are delivered to the compound as well. They have finished cementing the ground water tank.

### Receiving Guests from Germany



Guest from Germany singing songs for ALL staff

Last Sunday, on 4th March 2018, three ex-students of Assumption University, Thailand, brought 13 guests from Germany to ALL, Twantay. They are associated with KAAD (an organization that give part scholarship). They visited the Assumption Learning Loft. ALL staff welcomed the guests and exchanged some conversations. ALL arranged a short program for the guests. Ms. Nandar was the MC for the event. ALL staff introduced themselves. Then, they sang a welcome song for them. One teacher from Assumption University, explained about how to apply scholarship to Assumption University. Then Mr. Martino also shared about Assumption Learning Loft to them. Mr. Kapaul Mue and Dho Dho talked about interesting places in

Twantay. They suggested the guests to visit the Shwe San Taw Pagoda, the Twantay Canal, the Snake Pagoda, and the Pottery area. Then, ALL staff sang an encouraging song (a Burmese song). Without preparation, the guests also responded with two songs as their kindness exchange. The last item was one of the priests' closing prayer and giving blessing upon all the attendees. After the programme, the parish offered lunch to the guests. Some of ALL staff joined the lunch too. Then, Mr. Dho Dho and Mr. Martino guided them to some of the famous places in Twantay.



## 17 Good Souls Made Their Consecration and Become Montfortian Associates

**Sabah:** On the 4 February, 2018, the pioneering group of 17 Good Souls made their Consecration to Jesus through the hand of Mary and expressed their desire

to be Montfortian Associates. The ceremony took place during the Mass at St. Paul's Chapel on the Hill in Montfort Youth Training Centre (MYTC) Campus, Kinarut, a distance about 17 Km from the capital city, Kota Kinabalu. They made a serious preparation before they finally decided to commit themselves in Montfortian Associate Movement (MAM) and to be part of the bigger



circle of the Montfortian Family throughout the world. They went through the 33 Days Preparation for Total Consecration as prescribed by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Three days prior to the Consecration, Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh facilitated them in the three days retreat. They also celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation before they consecrate themselves.

A month later, on the March 10<sup>th</sup>, they held their First General Assembly where they elected the Executive Committee Members with Ms. Eveline Eduwardo (Pic-First from left) as the first President of MAM Sabah. The term of office is to coincide with the term of the Brother's Provincial Administration. The membership of MAM Sabah consists of the staff of MYTC and also long-time friends of MYTC and the Brothers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 10 New Montfortian Associates



**Singapore:** On the 29 October, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch consists of ten (10) new members made their consecration and pledge to be Montfortian Associates. They went through the 33 Days of Preparation as prescribed by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. They also made their three days retreat before Consecrating to Jesus through the hand of Mary. With the Consecration of the

ten new members, Singapore MAM now has 22 members.

The MAM in Singapore had their outreach programme at St. Joseph's Church, Bukit Timah on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. It is the parish where the Brothers attend daily and Sunday Mass. The outreach is to promote Montfortian Spirituality. This outreach was the third they did. Mr. Neil Cabrera (pic below), the MAM Outreach in-Charge spoke to the congregation about Marian Devotion the context of Montfortian Spirituality.



## News in Pictures



Vocation Seminar (23-25 Feb 2018), organized by the Religious Vocation Promotion Team of Kota Kinabalu Archdiocese, Sabah, Malaysia. There were 130 youth attended the seminar. The Brothers of St Gabriel was represented during the seminar.



The Brothers' quarterly recollection on 20-23 Mar 2018) was facilitated By Mr. Lance Ng. He is a trained Spiritual Director who animated the Brothers into sharings with much candor and liveliness.



Happy Birthday to Bro Roger Venne, who turned 89 on the 22 March 2018. He is the oldest member of the Province of Singapore-Malaysia-Myanmar.



The Monthly Montfortian Evening Prayer held on every last Wednesday of the month always ends with a fellowship. They celebrated Bro Roger's birthday.



Fr. Charolus Albertus (SMM) (4<sup>th</sup> from right) met the Montfortian Associates in Sabah on 28 Mar 2018. He spoke about the importance of the Consecration to Jesus through Mary.



Montfort Youth Training Centre was privileged to have Indonesian Fr. Charolus (SMM) for the Holy Week and Easter Celebration (Photo taken soon after the morning mass on 3 Apr, just before he left for the airport).