






# St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah)

Weekly Parish Bulletin • 01 Dec 2024 • First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

 620 Upper Bukit Timah Road  
Singapore 678116

 Gate Opening Hours:  
8.00am to 9.00pm

 [stjoseph-bt.org.sg/](http://stjoseph-bt.org.sg/)

 [facebook.com/sjcbt/](https://facebook.com/sjcbt/)

## PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Christopher Lee  
Tel: 6760 0052

## ASST PARISH PRIEST

Rev Msgr Peter Zhang  
[peter.zhang@catholic.org.sg](mailto:peter.zhang@catholic.org.sg)

## ASST PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Lourdusamy Prasanna  
[lourdusamy.prasanna@catholic.org.sg](mailto:lourdusamy.prasanna@catholic.org.sg)

## SECRETARIAT

Maggie Chia Tel: 6769 1666  
[sjcibt.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:sjcbt.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

## ADMINISTRATION

Evelyn Lau Tel: 6769 1608  
[sjcibt.admin@catholic.org.sg](mailto:sjcibt.admin@catholic.org.sg)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### WEEKDAY MASSES (Chapel of St Joseph)

Mon – Fri : 6.30am, 6.30pm  
Sat : 6.30am

### WEEKEND MASSES

Sat : 5.30pm (Sunset)  
Sun : 7.30am (Mandarin),  
9.30am, 11.30am and 5.30pm

### CONFESSIONS

15 mins before all weekend Masses in  
the Reconciliation Rooms in Church.

## OTHER SERVICES

### ADORATION ROOM

Mon – Fri : 8.00am to 9.00pm  
Sat : 9.30am to 7.00pm  
Sun : 8.00am to 7.00pm  
Public Holidays : 8.00am to 4.00pm

### COLUMBARIUM / ROSARY GARDEN / STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mon – Sun : 8.00am to 8.00pm

### MEDIA CENTRE (BOOKSHOP)

Sat : 4.30pm to 7.00pm  
Sun : 8.30am to 1.00pm  
Every 2nd Sunday : 8.30am to 1.00pm,  
5.30pm to 7.00pm

### DEVOTIONS

**Holy Hour** : First Friday @ 8.00pm  
in Main Church (unless otherwise stated)

**Mass in Honour of St Joseph** :  
First Wednesday @ 8.00pm  
in Main Church

### Divine Mercy :

Every Friday @ 8.00pm (except First Fri)  
in the Chapel of St Joseph

### Garden Rosary :

First Saturday after the 5.30pm Mass

**Grotto Rosary** : Every 13th of the month  
after 6.30pm Mass (weekdays only)

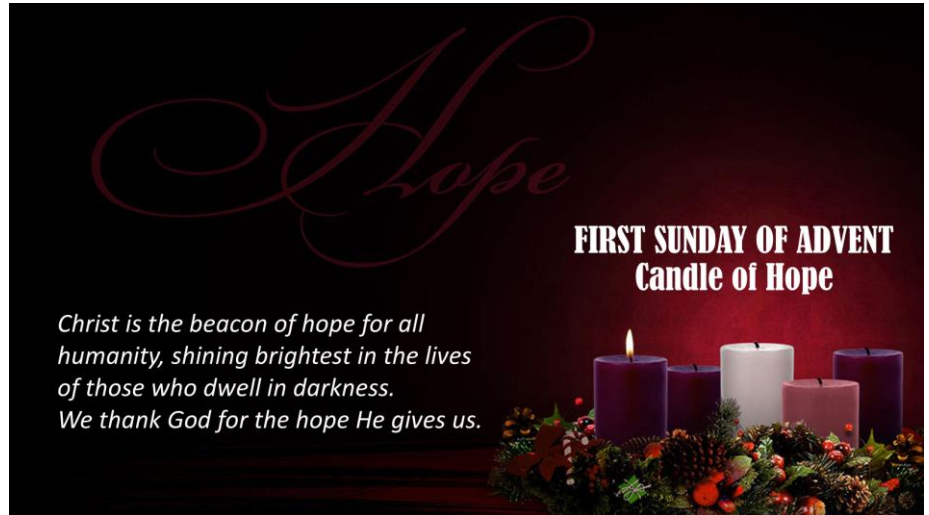
### Holy Hour for Vocations :

Every Third Thursday of the month in  
the Chapel of St Joseph @ 8.00pm

### Blessing of Expectant Mothers:

Every Fourth Sunday of the month

## From the Desk of the Parish Priest



As the Church's liturgical year commences, Advent beckons us to embrace a season of spiritual preparation, heralding the arrival of Christmas.

This sacred period beckons our hearts and minds to focus on two pivotal events: Christ's second coming at the end of time and the anniversary of His birth.

Advent shares a common thread with Lent, as both seasons prepare us for momentous feast days, symbolized by the liturgical color purple. Additionally, Advent incorporates an element of penance, inviting us to quiet, discipline, and prepare our hearts for the unbridled joy of Christmas.

As we embark on this First Sunday of Advent, we will kindle the Candle of Hope, a beacon of light that symbolizes our eager anticipation of Jesus' arrival. May its gentle flame remind us to prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the Savior, illuminating our path towards spiritual readiness and filling us with the promise of His coming.

## Advent Penitential Services

Day & Date	Time	Parish
Monday 09 Dec	10.30 am & 8 pm	Risen Christ
<b>Tuesday 10 Dec</b>	<b>8 pm</b>	<b>St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah)</b>
Wednesday 11 Dec	10.30 am & 8 pm	Holy Spirit
Thursday 12 Dec	8 pm	Our Lady Star of the Sea
Friday 13 Dec	10.30 am & 8 pm	Christ the King
Monday 16 Dec	8 pm	St Anthony

# ADDED SECURITY MEASURES

In light of the recent incident in our Parish, our Archdiocesan Emergency Response Operations (AERO) has reminded all parishes to strengthen our security and safety measures, especially as we approach Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

Here are some of the measures that we will be undertaking :

**(1) Strengthened PEPT Team**

We will be deploying more PEPT members to each Mass.

If any parishioners are keen to join the PEPT, please approach any of the PEPT members for information.

**(2) Promote a “See Something, Say Something” Culture**

Parishioners are strongly encouraged to report any suspicious activities or unattended items to any of the PEPT members or the wardens.

In the same light, parishioners are reminded not to bring big bags/luggage into the Cry Room, Church or Foyer. These items should be placed at St Joachim's Room.

Posters will be placed in strategic areas around the Church to remind parishioners of this.

**(3) Medical Professionals**

We are strengthening our pool of Medical Professionals. If there are any doctors / nurses in our midst, please do approach our wardens so that we can reach out to you should a need arise.

**(4) Keeping Calm in a Crisis**

Should any incident arise during Masses, please remain calm and follow the instructions given. This will help the authorities carry out their duties without impediment. We were complimented by the authorities that they were impressed that the congregation co-operated and remained calm during the incident on 9 Nov.

**(5) No Photography / Videography During Masses**

We remind all parishioners that there is to be no photography / videography taken during Masses. This is to preserve the sanctity of the Mass. Only official Church photographers are authorized to do so. If you observe anyone doing so, please do alert the wardens.

***We all have a part to play to keep our community safe.***

**A Call to Vigilance in Faith**

While we should not take security lightly, we (*religious leaders*) must minister to our flock courageously and without fear. We firmly believe God is in charge of our lives, and that He will transform evil to good. We cannot allow evil to paralyse the proclamation of the Gospel.

William Cardinal Goh

**SEE SOMETHING**  
**SAY SOMETHING**



### Our French heritage

St Joseph’s Church in Bukit Timah (SJCBT) and 60% of Catholic churches in Singapore owe their heritage to the Paris Foreign Missions or Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP).

Formed in 1663 to support the vision of Pope Gregory XV to propagate the Catholic faith in foreign lands, MEP evangelised in Tonkin, Cochinchina, Siam, western China and southern India. From its regional base in Siam, MEP expanded to Malaya and moved south to establish the Good Shepherd city chapel in 1833.

Fr Jean-Marie Beurel, who was born in 1813 and who took charge of the MEP Mission in Singapore in 1840, had the vision to start a jungle mission to serve Chinese migrants working in gambier, pepper and rubber plantations. These workers were reluctant to travel to the city, so Fr Beurel sent Fr Anatole Mauduit to build a chapel in Kranji in 1846.

Born in 1817, Fr Mauduit was ordained a priest in 1843. He arrived in Singapore in 1844 and assisted Fr Beurel to look after Chinese converts. Fr Mauduit solicited funds to build the thatched Kranji chapel, even writing to his Mortain parish in France for assistance. Fr Mauduit dedicated the chapel to Fr Beurel’s favourite saint, St Joseph.

By 1849, Kranji was known as the Catholic Village. However, the marshy Kranji area and the dismal wooden chapel became unsuitable for an expanding Catholic community. Hence, Fr Mauduit and his team built a brick church in 1853 on the higher and dryer Bukit Timah location. Fr Mauduit then bought a nutmeg plantation in 1854, using the income for his parish, and 36 acres of land from the British East India Company in 1857 (which now serve our parish, schools, seminary and theological institute).

After Fr Mauduit died in 1858 from illness, MEP sent 14 French priests to look after SJCBT till the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Four priests served two terms each across separate periods: Fr Marie Francois Issaly (1864-1866 and 1871-1873); Fr Augustin Perie (1860-1863 and 1868-1870); Fr Pierre Paris (1876-1877 and 1881-1883); and Fr Jean Marie Belliot (1885-1899 and 1901-1934). Fr Perie and Fr Belliot contributed significantly to parish growth.

Fr Perie was born in 1832 and ordained in 1859. He repaired the presbytery with donations collected from Portuguese, Chinese and French guests at a dinner on the Feast of St Joseph; built a school for parish children; arranged for a government pharmacy; and established the St Joseph’s Association for Good Death. Popular with the locals as he spoke Teochew, Fr Perie attracted poor parishioners to attend catechism classes by providing dinner and played matchmaker to find convent girls for his Christian boys.

Fr Belliot served SJCBT the longest for 50 years. Born in 1848 and ordained in 1874, Fr Belliot served in Sichuan and Malacca before coming to Singapore. Conversant in the Cantonese and Hokkien dialects, he straddled between SJCBT and the Chinese Mission in town. He started a small convent to provide refuge to virgin girls who had escaped from brigands in China and developed a rubber estate of 40,000 trees to keep his parishioners employed. He celebrated his priestly Golden Jubilee in 1924 and Diamond Jubilee in 1934.

While Fr Mauduit was the ‘Father’ of SJC in Kranji and Bukit Timah, Fr Beurel as ‘founder of the Catholic Church in Singapore’ initiated the jungle mission and was devoted to St Joseph. Credit also goes to MEP for spreading the Catholic faith in Singapore through young priests in their 20s.

*By Peter Ling*



Fr Jean-Marie Beurel, ‘founder of the Catholic Church in Singapore’





# Christmas Joy of Giving

Every year, **Parish Befrienders Group** proudly represents our Parish community to share the joy of Christmas with our migrant brothers living in dormitories. We bring simple gifts of friendship and Christ’s love.

This year, we would like to invite all of you to be part of this. We are appealing to your generous hearts to help us fill gift bags for their daily necessities: **towel, toothpaste, and toothbrush**. If you are able to help, please let members of PBG know by registering your offers on **30 Nov or 01 Dec 2024** at St Joachim room.

Thank you.



**FAITH & BIBLE  
REFLECTIONS presents:**

# YOUTH ADVENT REFLECTIONS (Secondary to Tertiary)



Let’s come together and reflect on the Sunday Gospels!

- Sun 2-3.30pm, 1/8/15/22 Dec
- St Mary AVA Room

Calling all youth in secondary, tertiary and NS! Let us come together and prepare for Christmas with our weekly Advent Reflections. We'll be reflecting and sharing on the Sunday Gospels, every Sunday 2-3.30pm at St Mary AVA Room.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/YFABAdvent2024>



Mysteries of the Rosary (starting 26 Nov)

**TUESDAY**  
**MORNING MANNA**  
presents

# MYSTERIES of the ROSARY:

## The Joyful Mysteries

**Journey through Advent with this video series filmed in the Holy Land!**


**Starting 26 November**

**Tues 11.05am, St Joseph AVA Rm**



As we prepare our hearts this Advent to welcome Jesus, come and learn about the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary through this video series filmed in the Holy Land. Every Tuesday morning, 11.05am at St Joseph AVA Room. Please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/JoyfulMysteries2024>

Online Advent Reflections (starting 26 Nov)

**FAITH & BIBLE Community presents:**  
REFLECTIONS

# Online Advent Reflections




**Join us in reflecting on the Sunday Advent readings**

**Tues 8pm or Wed 9am**

**Starting 26 November**

**Online via Zoom**



Join the Faith & Bible Reflections Community of St Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah) for weekly online sessions to reflect and share on the Sunday Advent readings.

Every Tuesday 8-9.45pm or Wednesday 9-10.45am (you can attend either), online via Zoom from 26 November to 18 December 2024. For ages 20+.  
Please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/SJCBTAdvent2024>



## Media Centre (Bookshop) : Christmas Fair

*Back by  
popular demand!*

The Daughters of St Paul Media Centre (Bookshop) will extend the Christmas Fair for one more weekend on **Sat 7 Dec & Sun 8 Dec.**

Do drop by and pick up some delightful Christmas presents for your family and friends.



**SSVP Gifting – Thank you for your support**



### Sharing Christmas Joy

**The Society of St Vincent De Paul  
thanks the Parish community  
for the tremendous support to our Families-In-Need**

**Collection of Christmas gifts**

**Day & Date: Sunday, 8 & 15 December 2024  
From 8.30am to 12.30pm @ St Joachim Room**

***Please paste the gifting card on the gift box or put the gifting card together with goodie bag items or bookshop vouchers***

SSVP thanks all parishioners for their overwhelming support.  
All gift cards were already taken up by 11 am on Sunday 17 Nov.



Simbang Gabi (Wed 18 Dec)

# Simbang Gabi 2024

Singapore

St. Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah)

Rev Fr Romeo Yu Chang, CICM

**Date : 18 December 2024**

**Time : 7:15pm - 9pm**

**7:15pm (Holy Rosary)**

**8:00pm (Holy Mass)**

**Address : 620 Upper Bukit Timah Rd  
Singapore 678116**

**MRT : Cashew Station (Blue Line)**

**Bus : 67,75,170,176,178,184,961  
963,970**

**Theme :**

**"Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven  
(A request for God's will to be fulfilled)"**

Simbang Gabi is a beloved Filipino Christmas tradition that consists of a series of nine dawn Masses, beginning on December 16 and ending on Christmas Eve, December 24. The term "Simbang Gabi" literally means "night Mass" in Filipino.

One of these nine Masses will be held in St Joseph's Church. Come and experience the rich cultural heritage of the Filipino people. All are welcome!

Prayer thru Music (Wed 18 Dec)



## Prayer thru Music®

(brought to you by SAHOP)



*Embracing the  
Season of Hope  
-Advent &  
Christmas!-*



**Rev Msgr Peter Zhang  
(Vicar General)**

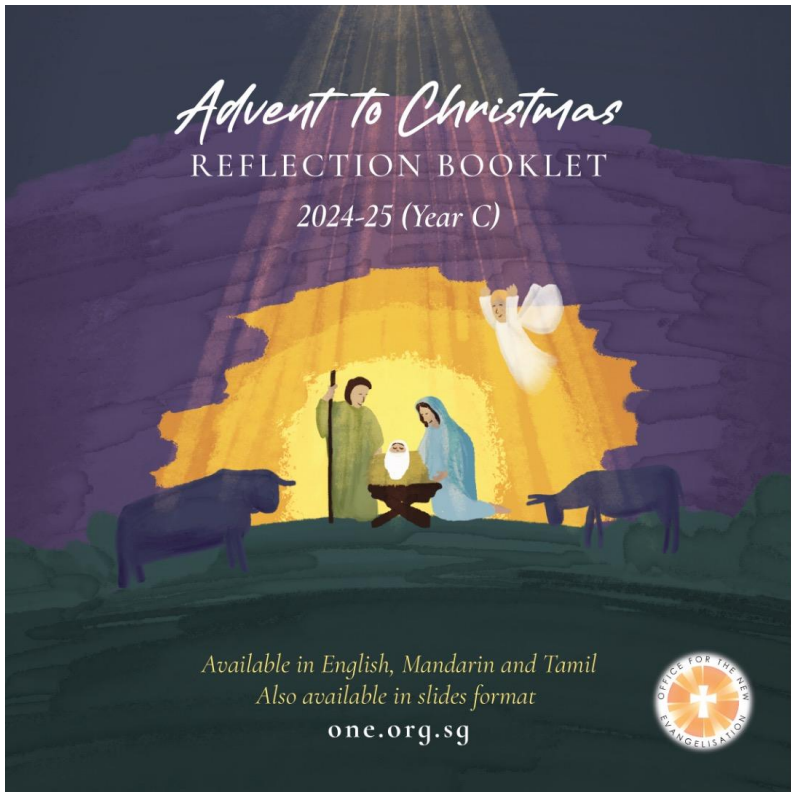
- ❖ Praise & Worship
- ❖ Spiritual Talk
- ❖ Community Bonding

**18 Dec 24 (Wednesday) 8PM  
@ St Mary AVA Room, Level 3,  
Parish Community Hall**

e-mail:sahop.sjcbt@gmail.com



Advent to Christmas Reflection Booklet



Prepare your hearts  
for our Lord Jesus’  
coming at Christmas

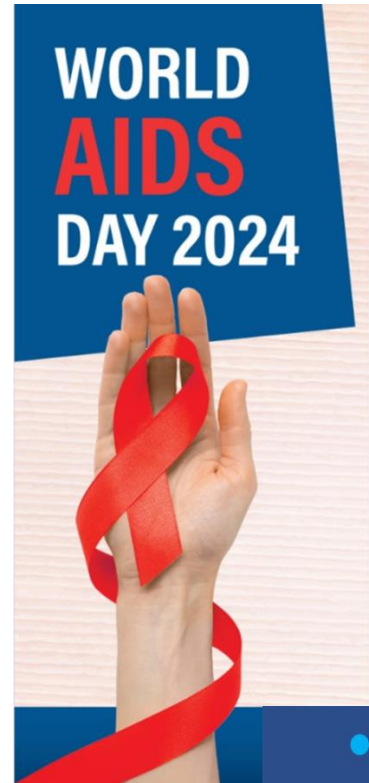
Download Now



bit.ly/ONEAdventChristmas24

In the midst of the busy holiday season, this booklet offers a beautiful way to pause, reflect on God’s boundless love, and share meaningful moments of faith with those around you. It is our hope that through the breaking of the Word and the sharing of our own unique stories, we may bring one another closer to the heart of Christ.

World Aides Day (1 Dec)



**Catholic AIDS Response Effort (CARE) is the only shelter in Singapore specifically set up to help People Living with HIV/AIDS.**

CARE is a homeless shelter to the people living with HIV/AIDS, where they receive support and healing; discover their dignity as a child of God and find meaning in life through the celebration of work and other pastoral care activities.



Support our Mission  
Scan to Donate

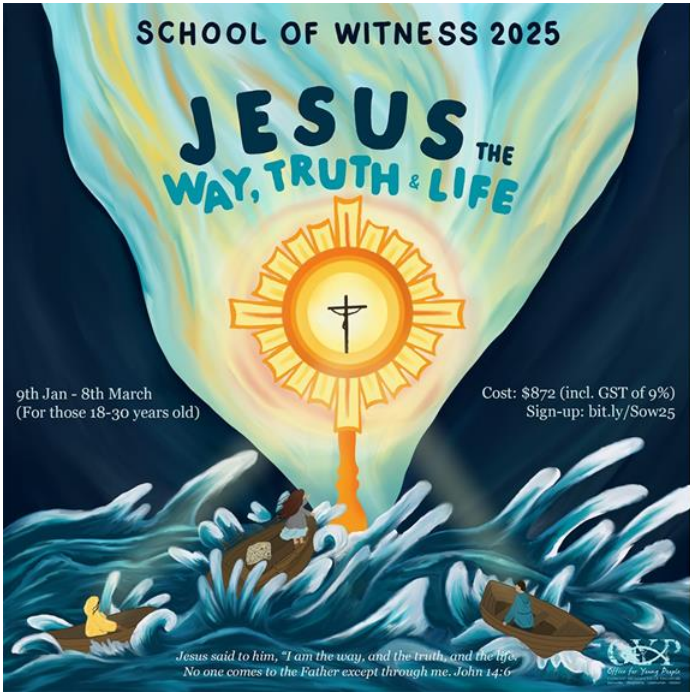


Thank you  
for your generosity

To find out more or visit [www.catholicaidsresponseeffort.com](http://www.catholicaidsresponseeffort.com)



OYP School of Witness 2025 (Applications Close : Mon 2 Dec)



This live-in discipleship school is for young Singaporeans aged between 18 to 30 years and runs from 9 January 2025 to 8 March 2025.

Young people, is the Lord calling you to turn to Him, to live in Him and for Him? Be courageous to allow the Lord's way and truth to lead you in the storm and to commission you to bring this life to others and to show them the way to Him! Sign up for School of Witness 2025!

ACMI Skills Development (Registration open till Sun 8 Dec)

### ACMI Skills Development Courses (Jan-Jun 2025)



**Sign up for weekend classes at Agape Village!**

- English Language
- Caregiver
- Basic Conversational Mandarin
- Basic Web Design & Canva
- Basic Mobile Photography & Editing
- Zumba
- Dressmaking and many more...

**Calling all migrants:**  
Registration open  
till 8 Dec

Scan the QR code  
to find out more:



Registration for Jan-Jun 2025 courses are open! Pick up new skills such as mobile photography and editing, cooking and many more. Courses are held at Agape Village.

For more information, visit [rebrand.ly/skillsdevelopmentcourses](https://rebrand.ly/skillsdevelopmentcourses) or scan the QR code below for more details! Registration closes on 8 Dec. For any enquiries, please call 8600 3583 or drop us a message on Instagram or Facebook (@acmi.singapore).

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Mass (Thu 12 Dec)

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

*Feast Day Mass*

Honouring the Patroness of Unborn Children

Thursday, 12 December 2024

Pro-life Rosary | 5:30 PM

Mass | 6:30 PM

Cathedral of the Good Shepherd



PREGNANCY  
CRISIS &  
SUPPORT  
a service of  
CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE



We invite all parishioners to join us at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The celebration will begin with Pro-life Rosary at 5.30pm followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at 6.30pm. There will be a Healing Prayer and Blessing of Pregnant Women after the mass.

ITE Outreach (13 Dec)

OYP Outreach for ITE Students

In ITE college east, west or central? Or know someone who is?

The Office for Young People welcomes all who are from ITE to join us for a time of prayer and getting to know fellow catholic ITE students!

See you there!

Date: Fri, 13 Dec 2024  
Time: 2PM - 5PM  
(1.45PM registration begins)  
Venue: Catholic Centre, Level 8. 55 Waterloo Street,  
Cost: Free!  
Registration: [TINYURL.COM/OYPITE24](https://tinyurl.com/OYPITE24)

For enquiries, please email to [Neumann.oyp@catholic.org.sg](mailto:Neumann.oyp@catholic.org.sg)

JOIN US FOR ITE  
OUTREACH!

13 December 2pm-5pm  
Catholic Centre, Level 8  
55 Waterloo Street

MEET FELLOW ITE  
FRIENDS OF FAITH!

SIGN UP AT  
[TINYURL.COM/OYPITE24](https://tinyurl.com/OYPITE24)



OYP  
Office for Young People  
Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore





# Verbum Dei Family Camp

15 - 17 MARCH 2025  
HARRIS RESORT WATERFRONT BATAM

Struggling to hear God's voice or find time for family prayer? Come away and discover what God has in store for you this upcoming 2025 March school hols! Experience a faith-filled adventure for the whole family this Lent and re-discover the plans and wonders God has for your family. Hear from fellow Catholic parents about their life experiences on how to grow closer to God as a family. Kids' programmes for ages 3 – 12 years will be provided, including a special bonfire on Saturday night! We promise a spirit-filled getaway for the whole family with plenty of fun, food and fellowship!

**Date:** 15 - 17 March 2025 (3 days, 2 nights)

**Venue:** Harris Resort Waterfront, Batam

**Cost:**

Twin/Triple - Sharing :

\$290 per adult (above 12 yrs)

Child w Bed : \$190 per child (5 - 11 yrs)

Child w/o Bed : \$135 (5 - 11 yrs)

(Extended Stay @ \$75 room/night with  
Breakfast for two)

Return ferry ride to Batam & land transfer  
included

**Meals:** Full board (2 x breakfast, 2 x lunch,  
2 x dinner included)

Registration Closing Date: **11 November 2024**

For enquiry, please contact **Michelle @ 9683 0817** or **Diana @ 9689 0919**

Email: [vdeifamilies@gmail.com](mailto:vdeifamilies@gmail.com)

Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/VdeiFC2025> to register.





# Career Counselling for PME

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Mt 7:7*

- ✓ CAREER EXPLORATION
- ✓ WORKPLACE WELL-BEING
- ✓ CAREER TRANSITION
- ✓ JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES

Sessions conducted via Zoom



Scan the QR Code to Register

*There will be a nominal charge of \$10 to cover administrative costs. All PMEs are welcome*