



# THE VICAR

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## WRITES

**A**s a young nation, Singapore has a lot to give thanks. Most importantly, we need to give thanks for how God has enabled Singapore to significantly impact and influence the nations – either politically, financially, socially or spiritually. We should not take that for granted, for out of the least and weakest, God has chosen this tiny red dot to be a “Light to the Nations.” To continue in our role as the beacon of light, three things are needed:

*We need to discern the time we are in* – This is the second year we scale down the National Day celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, for the first time it has to be

postponed. The last time Singapore and the world had to go through a much-prolonged suffering was World War II. Even the 2020 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Tokyo was much muted. God has allowed COVID-19 to STOP the world in her pursuit of wealth, power and development for this prolonged period. What is He wanting us to focus on, to realize and/or to learn?

*We need to discern our spiritual role* – St Andrew’s Cathedral is 160 years old. We have since become an icon for tourists, a national heritage and monument, and we are also known as the church in the heart of the city. While we thank God

## Blessed 56th Birthday Singapore!



for all these wonderful acclamations and credentials, we need to ask the hard question – how does God see us as a church and as a community of disciples? What is our spiritual role to the community? As a church, we must not miss God's spiritual purpose for this season. Perhaps, we need to ask ourselves, "Is God bringing about a REBOOT to His church?"



*We need to act practically* – As we prepare to celebrate this National Day, let's make NDP2021 special for a group of people – our neighbours. The topic on racism has hit our headlines recently, it reminds us of the fault-lines in our society. The shocking death of the young 13 year old RVHS boy, reminds us of our human frailty and vulnerability – mental health challenges. How should we respond? Jesus commanded us – to "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF" (Matt 22:39). I would like to share one practical way to care for our neighbours. Pray to share with a neighbour (could be your classmate, your colleague

or a family member) – *"Thank you for being my neighbour, it has been a tough year, let's press-on together, and we will get through this together!"* I am certain that this simple practical expression will bless many abundantly.

Lastly, let's also remember our neighbours who are beyond our shores including our deanery countries – many are battling hard to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We need to intercede on their behalf, "Lord have mercy!"

Let's stand together as One People of God in this extremely difficult and trying season – let our light shine brightly as the source of hope for the world for His Glory!