

## **NEW HEART FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."  
(Psalms 51:10)*

### **REFLECTION**

This Lunar New Year, we will usher in the Year of the Ox. It is part of the Spring Festival celebrated largely by Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. The Spring Festival traditionally offers a fresh start for the people. The houses would have been given a thorough clean-up job and old items, no longer in use, would be discarded. Symbolically pre-Lunar New Year cleaning is an exercise of clearing away the "bad luck and habits" so as to make way for good fortune.

As Christians we do not subscribe to the concept of or belief in "luck". We believe our lives are centred in God's perfect will and hands. But the practice of annual "spring cleaning" is a good idea for us to declutter not only our houses but also our hearts of excess baggage that can weigh us down or distract us from having a more intimate relationship with God. This will free up space for Christ to have more room in the centre of our life. As you "spring clean" your homes in preparation to celebrate the Chinese New Year, do take some time also to say the prayer of the Psalmist, calling on God to "create in me a clean heart ... And renew a right spirit within me." Let the cleansing be one that is physical and spiritual, external and internal, one where God does a transformation through the Holy Spirit and grace.

### **PRAYER**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, forgive us if we have cluttered our life with things which are of no lasting value. Search our hearts and cleanse us from sins which have taken a grip on our life. Free us from sinful obsession and make us whole to live the abundant life which you promised to those who acknowledge you as Lord and Saviour. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- We thank God for the gift of salvation which is available to anyone who believes in Him. We pray to God to give Christians the confidence and joy to share this Good News with friends and members of the family so that they too will come to the saving knowledge of Christ.

- We pray to God for divine intervention to stop the spread of COVID-19 and the variants of the coronavirus which have seen a spike in number of people being infected all over the world. For those who have lost their loved ones to the disease, we ask God to comfort them and give them strength to overcome grief. For those who have been taken ill, we pray that they will receive proper treatment and that they will recover completely.
- As more people are being vaccinated against COVID-19, we ask God to ensure that the vaccines will be effective in immunizing those who receive any of the different types of vaccines available. We pray that more vaccines will be produced and made readily available and accessible to the poorer countries so that they will be able to protect their people from the virus.
- So long as the current pandemic is still with us, many people will suffer from loss of jobs and anxiety over an unpredictable future. Others will be mentally stretched and exhausted. So we pray to our loving Father to help those who need jobs that they will find suitable employment, and those who are emotionally drained will find calm assurance in Christ and the peace He gives. We also pray for more members of the church to step up and offer practical support for the afflicted.

*"Search me O God, and know my heart today,  
Try me O Saviour, know my thoughts I pray;  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free."  
(James E. Orr)*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:  
Email: [wecare@brmc.org.sg](mailto:wecare@brmc.org.sg)  
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