



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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## Responding to Crisis:

# "Lord, who shall we go to?"

**T**he media blitz on the clerical scandal in the church in Pennsylvania has once again put the spotlight on the abuses by powerful members of the Catholic Church, who have caused untold pain and suffering to victims and their families, and the church as well.

What is our response? It may be understandable that many of us will be feeling angry, confused, helpless, distressed and shamed. Yes, that can be our initial reactivity with all the emotions above. But when the level of anxiety dissipates, we might take an objective and reflective view to sift and discern where the good spirit is at work as opposed to the bad one that tries to divide, disparage and destroy our faith.

I believe that healthy and open acknowledgement is needed — to name, claim and shame, and tame the problem will be a good starting point. Some may instinctively want to deny such evil crimes and immediately assign blame that it is the “work of the devil” to attack the church. To deny is to bury our heads in the sand. Covering up is not an option. And before we drag the devil into this, it may be necessary to recognize our culpability and responsibility in dealing with this shameful exploitation of innocent children by the brothers and priests, and lay people who colluded with the perpetrators of this crime.

There is no doubt that the leadership failure among bishops, rectors, and religious heads of orders in the church has contributed to the sustained and vicious abuse of children placed under their care and protection in Catholic schools, orphanages and churches. They have failed to provide adequate safeguards, protocols and checks to prevent these abuses of power and sexual depredation.

Existing protocols makes clear that there is no place in the church and its institutions for these criminal offenders, be they priests or lay. In the US, there is the Dallas Charter which takes a tough stand with a zero-tolerance policy against abusers. The law will take its full force

and they will be reported to ensure accountability and responsibility.

The Archdiocese of Singapore has implemented the Professional Standard Office guidelines published in two handbooks *Keeping Communion* and *Restoring Communion*, which can be found online. They have been disseminated to church groups and parishes since 2012. This is to ensure everyone especially children below 18, has a safe environment when dealing with church members like priests, full-time church workers, volunteers and catechists. In St Ignatius Church, there are also two Catechists teaching in each class. In addition, CCTV cameras are installed in offices and classrooms for security and safety.

With regards to selection process, candidates who apply to join priestly and religious life are now given adequate and thorough psychological screening and tests to remove those who are potential predators. This was not the case in the past. Hence, this is one obvious failure in the membership recruitment process that since has been tightened by the Vatican and seminaries around the world. It is necessary to prevent as far as possible those who have been abused as a child from entering into the clerical life. They would not be emotionally fit and should not be given access to children or be placed in positions where they could become abusers themselves. The majority of priests are good and holy men, and it is heart wrenching when people paint them with the same brush as the predators are painted. Every calling or profession is made up of individuals. It shouldn't be assumed to be corrupt or cruel because of the actions of a few rotten apples.

Similarly, those in authority cannot compromise the responsibility and authority vested in those who are formators and Rectors of Seminaries. They have a responsi-

bility to root out undesirable and unsuitable candidates from their ranks – those who have unhealthy psychological pathologies to become potential abusers. If not, it will be akin to letting a wolf into the chicken coop.

Perhaps, I summarise our response in the apt words of St Augustine: “**Hope** has two beautiful daughters; their names are **Anger** and **Courage**. **Anger at the way things are**, and **Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.**” Let us not be paralysed by anger or by pain, but let us do everything we can to make changes to give us hope to restore justice and goodness, and stand up for the victims and their rights, and ensure all perpetrators, even if they are priests, are reported to the police and face the consequences of their wrongdoing. It is only then that we can find a God whose heart bleeds for the innocent children and victims who have suffered for far too long in silence. We must break this silence of abuse.

It is also a time for us to strengthen our faith in the midst of crisis. Some may be tempted to jump ship when it is sinking. If we do abandon the sinking ship, we do well to ask ourselves like Peter, “**Lord who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.**” Yes, we will need to examine our faith in times of crisis. We need to be courageous, faithful and uncompromising in our love for Our Lord and his church. As one priest, Fr Mike from Minnesota implored, “**Don't leave but lead the Church.**” True leaders and good shepherds are those who do not turn away in times of crisis, but dare to stand up for the truth, for the victims, for the weak and vulnerable.

(Watch Fr Mike's video on youtube. “The Pennsylvania Sex Abuse Scandal” <https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/the-pennsylvania-sex-abuse-scandal/>)

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next weekend.

### THEMATIC MASSES

Next weekend Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September.

Saturday, 6.00pm – Family Mass

Sunday, 8.15am – Children's Mass

Sunday, 12.15pm – Youth Mass

We want to encourage greater participation of children, youth and families so that they can take ownership of the Mass, and together make all feel at home in St Ignatius Church. Please make a special effort to join us.

**SPECIAL INVITATION** to parishioners who are new to our parish to meet and chat with our Parish Priests over drinks and snacks at the Place of Gathering after the 10.15am Mass, next Sunday 2 September.

### RESPONDING TO CONFLICT

PARISH-WIDE FORMATION SESSIONS

St Ignatius Hall, 7.45-10.00pm

**Session 2:** Responding to Conflicts in the Workplace (25 October)

**Session 3:** Responding to Conflicts in School (8 November)

Details and registration: [www.stignatius.org.sg](http://www.stignatius.org.sg), scan the QR code, or get forms at the Place of Gathering.



### TUESDAY LADIES STUDY GROUP

Every Tuesday 10am to 12 pm at the Annexe Hall

Upcoming bible study programmes:

**18 September to 6 November** *Wisdom: God's Vision For Life* by Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith

**13 November to 26 February 2019** *7 Deadly Sins and 7 Lively Virtues* by Bishop Robert Barron

### CER FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome including non-CER retreatants to learn more about this fellowship. Thursday 6 September, 7.30pm-9.45pm at St. Ignatius Hall with Fr Colin. Register at [cerfellowship.stig@gmail.com](mailto:cerfellowship.stig@gmail.com)



**INFANT BAPTISMS** on Sunday 9 September at 3.00pm.

Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing next Sunday 2 September, 3pm at La Storta Room.

Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valerie (9026 6170) or BC Chong & Anthony (9815 9889) or Mariana Heng (9270 8213).

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Every Friday: 7 September to 30 November, 7.45pm to 9pm

7 September: La Storta Room (next to Parish Office)

From 14 September: Room SH-F (above Sacred Heart Hall)

Families and children need our prayers always, and especially as the exam season draws near. The Magis Family

Ministry and the Charismatic Renewal Commu-

nity will be including special intentions for

children in our prayers during September,

October and November. Parents, Grandparents,



Godparents, Aunties, Uncles and all concerned are welcome. If you'd like us to pray for your child, please send details to <https://tinyurl.com/StIgsPrayforourchildren>

### CCD 2018 – 2019 REGISTRATION

*CATECHISM CLASSES FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS*

Online registration for year 2018-2019 is now open until 31 August. All students (new and returning) have to

register online at [www.stignatius.org.sg](http://www.stignatius.org.sg) or google "St Ignatius Singapore CCD" for more information.

### WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Please note that there will be NO CATECHETICAL SESSIONS over the next two next weekends due to the Term 3 School Break. Sessions resume on Saturday 15/ Sunday 16 September. We wish all children, youths and catechists a blessed holiday!

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

*GISS: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT*

Walking in the Spirit means living a life of faith, living the life of a disciple, and the only way is to follow Jesus, and put our trust and hope in Him. In Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus commissions us "Go make disciples." How does a true disciple live out his faith? All are welcome this Wednesday 29 August, at St Ignatius Hall. Start with light dinner at 7.30pm, and end the evening at 9.30pm.

### RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

David Aw Soo – 70 years old

Date of death: 17 August 2018

## DVC NEWS

### DE VITA CHRISTI YOUTH COMMUNITY

*GOING OVERSEAS FOR STUDIES?*

The DVC Youth Community invites all youths and young adults studying overseas to join us for an afternoon of prayer and fellowship this Sunday 26 August, 2.45pm-5.30pm at the Annex Hall.



### NS FELLOWSHIP

DVC invites all NS men, or those who are soon to enlist, to join us for our monthly fellowship next Saturday, 1 September, 6pm-8pm. Join our Telegram chat: <https://t.me/nsfellowship> or contact Gerard for more information: [gerard.stigs@gmail.com](mailto:gerard.stigs@gmail.com)

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE A DISTRICT 1- ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday, 12 September SH-02-E

Programme: Symbolon: The Eucharist – Source and Summit of Christian Life

### ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 August, room 01-04

Programme: 1) Gospel Sharing – Daily Word of God

2) History of Christianity



# Becoming A Green Community



The first Saturday Farmers Market, a new parish initiative by the Green Movement group, will be launched next Saturday 1 September.

**O**ur Green Movement grew in response to Pope Francis' call to each one of us in his Encyclical Letter of 24th May 2015 – Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home. In the Encyclical, Pope Francis tells us, "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvement and talents. We need an approach to ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world, and our relationship to our surroundings." Father Colin shared this at our first talk in June.

We have now a community of gardeners tending our Edible Garden around Sacred Heart Hall, and hope to grow a community which believes in caring for God's creation, and being a part of our green movement in creating awareness of what we are doing to our environment, and all that God has provided for us.

We hope to share with each other

how we can individually and collectively do our part, no matter how small, toward sustainable good practices within our homes, for our families, for our health and wellbeing. If we value what we have been blessed with, we need to make changes to our lifestyles, and how we consume.

Our first Saturday Farmers Market is a first step by our community in this direction and we hope that this green marketplace will be a gathering place for each of you and your families. We will have seed exchange, saplings, edible plants for sale, fruits from our parish edible garden, fruit based products, herbal drinks, all grown and prepared by our Gardening group and fellow parishioners.

Through our Saturday talks and workshops, we hope to invite speakers to share their knowledge on topics focusing on environmental issues, health and wellness, caring for nature, our



flora and fauna. How we can make simple changes in our lives to help make a difference.

Do we think about the food that we eat and what we drink? Are we stressed? Do we make time to enjoy our gardens and nature? Do we even stop to think about how much waste we generate? Whether we are polluting our homes and environment? Do we adopt sustainable practices in our businesses?

We are a global community, with a shared responsibility for our common earth. St Francis of Assisi lived "in simplicity, in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace."

Through our Farmers Market, and upcoming events, we hope to share with you the fruits of the earth that we are so richly blessed with.

## FARMERS MARKET Talk on Fruit Enzymes and Farmers Market

Come find out about Fruit Enzymes: Its Uses and Benefits at our first Farmers Market. Visit our Edible Garden and green marketplace. There will be seeds, saplings and plants to share and purchase. Saturday 1 September, Talk on Fruit Enzymes, 9am, Annexe Classroom #01-04/05. Farmers Market, 10am to 12pm. To register for the talk and get details on the Farmers Market, contact Patricia Cheah at 96200085, or email [cheah.patricia@gmail.com](mailto:cheah.patricia@gmail.com) before 30 August.



## ◉ JESUIT NEWS

### CONNECTED COUPLES, STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Learn how you can create deeply satisfying and long-lasting relationships through effective communications skills, and an understanding of emotional and relational issues in a comfortable and positive way.

Date/Time: Saturday 22 September, 9am-6pm

Contribution: \$180 per couple

Facilitator: Lissy Puno

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/couples18>

**Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356**

Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, Fr James Tan, SJ

**Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225**

Fr Gerard Keane, SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng, SJ, Fr Charles Sim, SJ, Fr Leslie Raj, SJ,  
Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ, Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

**Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022**

### Church Office

120, King's Road, Singapore 268172 or  
8, Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

### Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

### Weekday Masses

Monday – Friday: 7.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday: 7.00am

### Confessions

Every Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Every Sunday Mass: 20mins before Mass begins

### Infant Baptism (each month)

Briefing for parents & godparents (compulsory):

1st Sunday, 3.00pm

Baptism: 2nd Sunday, 3.00pm sharp

Registration forms are available at front of Church office

### Weddings

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least 6 months before the wedding. Contact: Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614)

### Visiting Hours (Columbarium)

Open daily from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm (including weekends & Public Holidays)

Memorial Mass at the Main Church every

4th Friday, 6.00 pm for all deceased

parishioners and families, followed by prayers in Columbarium.

### Inigo Bookstore

Wednesday to Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm and during Sunday Masses. Closed on Monday and Tuesday

### Sick elderly and homebound

Please contact the parish office if help is needed for parishioners hospitalised (regardless of hospital).

In emergencies, you may also contact priests' residence at 6466 3225

### Bereavement

Please contact the parish Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614) for help and advice before contacting the funeral director.

**Church of St Ignatius has no official social media accounts.**

## ◉ ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### JESUS 4 EVERYONE – EVANGELISATION 101#3

Invite a family member or friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ to a simple meal. Or connect by calling to find out how he/she is doing. Just create opportunities to share your faith journey and life with them.

**PIETA** is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is Tuesday 28 August, 7.30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email [pieta.singapore@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.singapore@gmail.com) or facebook <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

### FORUM ON SEXUAL RISKS – HOW TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

A forum that brings together experts, parents, teachers, youth workers and youths to discuss the sexual risks

surrounding the children today and what parents, teachers and youth workers can do to protect the children from sexualised influences.

Date: Saturday 22 September

Time: 9.30am-12.30pm

Venue: Lifelong Learning Institute (near Paya Lebar MRT)

Fee: \$10

Register: <https://sexualityforum.peatix.com/>

Enquiry: 6488 0278.

### YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION

CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 10)

Creed On The Street (COTS) invites

young adults to join in a conversation with each other, to lend perspective of their faith on social issues. Wednesday 5 September.

7.30pm to 9.30pm, Level 3 Agape

Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh,

Singapore 319264.

Topic: "Education — How level is the playing field?"

### WEEKLY

#### Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, except first Friday of the month

#### Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Catholic content online, login:

[www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org); parish code: 4904ed

#### Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am – 12noon in St Francis

Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am – 12noon in Sacred Heart

Canteen (Room SH-A)

#### Divine Mercy Devotion

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the Main Church.

#### Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier

Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

### MONTHLY – in Main Church

#### Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8.00pm (No 6.00pm Mass)

Followed by

**Eucharistic Adoration by Generation CHRIST!**

#### Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

#### Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 6.00pm, followed by prayers in Columbarium