



The Worthiness of Martha's Choice

It's easy to understand that the first reading, psalm, second reading, and the Gospel of Luke this Sunday speaks of a person who is close to God, in that the person knows when God is close by, acts not to serve himself, but listen to what is present at that moment, and chooses to serve God accordingly. So figures like Abram and Mary, as well as St. Paul come to mind.

What about Martha then? Is she the lesser for her choice? That is not what Jesus says, or more importantly, does. Jesus chides her. He does not rebuke her strongly. He helps her avoid create dissent and confusion. He takes care to let her know her error of perception or more accurately, her expectations. He does not judge or penalize her, and more surprisingly, he does not ask Martha to join Mary.

The scene, their lives, must continue on. What happens next? Mary continues her rapture with Jesus, giving him her full attention. Martha gives the rest of the household and its objects the attention that she sees is necessary. This is Martha's skill, her vocation. The other choice it may be, but it is no less valuable or meaningful to Martha. And indeed, in God's eyes too.

For doesn't God leave ninety nine sheep alone in the field to look for the one who is less skilled, less obedient, who took the lesser choice? And who can forget about the prodigal son? No, Martha is no less cherished by Jesus - hence the chiding tone we hear. Hence the variety of jobs and interests, abilities and skills, viewpoints and opinions, that add colour to our days, enriching, completing, even surprising us.

Who knows what God intends for

the other, for we are not traveling in the other's shoes, especially for all their lives. The message today might not be to pass comments like Jesus did, or to point out the difficulties our own vocations might be in following Jesus - and hence expect others to do the same. No, we have our own journeys to contend with, our struggles and misconceptions. We have our own crosses on our shoulders, and loved ones to bear in our hearts. And we will never really know how anyone else bears their journey, no matter how close we are to them. All we might be is to be like Mary and contemplate God in their lives, and possibly then, by God's grace, have a little part of their journey to walk with them.

It surprises me how easily we tend to ignore other persons on their journeys, especially if we think we have made the better choice. Being in a school over my summer break has brought home how easily we don't understand the struggles children have to contend with. We've made the world scarier, tougher to deal with, very real - perhaps too real.

My parents were not rich, but they certainly knew how to hide any sense of need from us. I knew we weren't rich, but I only knew of past financial difficulties when I was about to enter university. In a way, I am grateful for the childhood allowed by my parent's diligence and discipline, fostering a calm and harmonious household most of the time. In a way, they knew what their vocations were, and didn't grumble about it, but helped each other, and us all as a family, to live ours too.

We can do our part best when we journey with God, knowing ourselves

**Come join our Parish Community
in Celebration of the
Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola**

IGNACIO DE LOYOLA

Saturday 20 July, 7.45pm to 10pm

Movie screening of Ignacio de Loyola with Introduction of the Ignatian themes in the movie by Fr Greg Tan, and a brief explanation of the Examen by Fr Colin Tan.

FEAST DAY TRIDUUM

Tuesday 23 July to Thursday 25 July,

7.45pm-9.45pm, main church

Facilitator: Fr Pham Hung, SJ

DAY 1: Creating space for encounter with the Divine

DAY 2: Creating space for reconciliation with God, with others, and with oneself

DAY 3: Creating space for discipleship with Jesus Christ

FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

The Parish Feast Day Music Fest is next Saturday 27 July, 8pm in the Church. All are invited to register now to celebrate our Feast Day with home-grown talents featuring Kenneth Ngo, Ollie Lim, Genevieve Toh, Joseph Tan and Stuart Lee, with the SDG and Family Choirs. Fellowship over light bites and wine will follow at the Place of Gathering.

For catering purposes, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/MFES2019>

FEAST DAY FARMERS MARKET & AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 27 July, 3 - 5pm, Sacred Heart Hall

Celebrate our Feast Day over afternoon tea, with homemade sweets and savouries. Bring home herbs, organic fruits and vegetables, and plants to "green" your homes.

Organised by the Gardening Group, Green Movement Ministry.

FEAST DAY MASS

Sunday 28 July 12.15pm, main church

Celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop William Goh

better and listening to the echo of God's presence in all things. And we can be the best for others when we support them on their journey, giving them the benefit of doubt, always trying to nurture unity, diversity, good feelings of peace, calm and joy. Just like Jesus did, not explicitly with Mary, but with Martha.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION WITH FR VICTOR CANCINO, SJ

Discover how Herod can help you enter the Kingdom of God at a day of scriptural reflection with Fr Victor Cancino, SJ. Date: Saturday 3 August
Time: 9.00am to 3.00pm
Venue: Annexe Hall
All are welcome. Register at <https://form.jotform.me/BibleApostolate/batstig-3-aug-registration>

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Date: Saturday, 3 August
Time: 9.00am to 12.30pm
Location: Annexe building, Attic
What is worship? Do I have an authentic posture of worship? How do I worship? Presented by Genevieve Toh, singer, songwriter and long-time music minister in our Parish, this seminar will present surprising, practical and revelatory insights on God's command for us to worship. In the face of a multitude of challenges in our daily lives, worship in music can serve as a powerful and effective way to place it all before Jesus.

ARISE! (A Renewal In the Spirit Experience)

This week, due to the St Ignatius feast day Triduum, ARISE takes a break. We encourage all participants and members to support our parish's feast day activities.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTHS (RCIY) 2019/2020

Invite non-Catholic friends and family aged 17-24 years to RCIY and share the joy of the faith today.
Introductory sessions: Saturdays 20, 27 July
Subsequent sessions: Every Tuesday from 6 August, 8.00pm
Contact: Aaron (8228 3419) or Debbie (9817 2118) Email: rciy.ignatius@gmail.com Website: tinyurl.com/stiggysrciy

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) 2019/2020

Begins 6 August (every Tuesday, 8.00pm to 10.00pm). Introduce friends and family to our Catholic faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Enrolment forms for Inquirers and Sponsors at the Place of Gathering and church website.
Contact Teddy (9745 8313)/Angela (6466 0625).



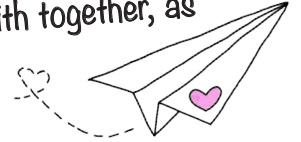
OPENING MY GIFTS

Meditating on scripture God's Living Word, for our eventful lives and praying through art making. The Open Studio warmly welcomes everyone, aged 21 years and above to join us.
Venue: Open Studio @ St Ignatius, room #01-09
Date: 6 weekly Fridays (19 July - 30 August),

A little love note

"Do I feel myself a part of the family of the Church? What do I do to make the Church a community in which everyone feels welcomed and understood, [in which] everyone feels the mercy and love of God who renews life? Faith is a gift and an act that affects us personally, but God calls us to live our faith together, as a family: as the Church."

POPE FRANCIS



Time: 9.00am to 12noon
Sessions, though linked by a theme, are also independent, so you may attend all or any of the sessions. Art materials are provided and no art experience is required. A love offering will be collected for each session. Participants may also register on the day of the session. Contact Anne at anne.eighteen@gmail.com for enquiries.
Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6bMromrjrn2>

MOTHER MARY'S MISSING HANDS

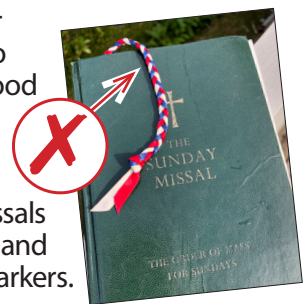
Do not be alarmed: the hands on the statue of Mother Mary will be removed for restoration from next week.

BOOKING FOR WEDDINGS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Couples intending to enter into marriage in the Catholic Church will be required to book the date of the church wedding one year in advance. The booking will be confirmed upon the couple signing acknowledgment of the necessary requirements, which the priest will explain to them.

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S HOUSE

Help keep the church a sanctuary for peace and prayer for all who come to rest in God's house. Please dispose food crumbs, wrappers, soiled tissues and other litter in the bins outside at the Place of Gathering. Please remind your children to treat the Sunday missals and hymn books with consideration and to refrain from plaiting the ribbon markers.



NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE B DISTRICT 2

Thursday 1 August. Contact: lennard.thean@gmail.com
Programme: Gospel of Matthew by Jeff Cavins

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest
Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Robert Ong Sacristan
David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager



Ramadan provided the opportunity for parishioners and our Muslim brothers and sisters to reach out, make friends and foster understanding at the recent collaboration with the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles (IRCC) of Ulu Pandan and Al-Huda Mosque MBB

Friends Among Neighbours

On 1 June, nineteen St Ignatius parishioners helped distribute porridge to needy families around Block 2 Ghim Moh Road with MP for Ulu Pandan Christopher de Souza and later, to our neighbours around Al-Huda Mosque with members of Al-Huda mosque.

According to Azman Kassim, Chairman of Al-Huda Mosque, this was a collaborative effort of service to needy families and building relations with neighbours around along Jalan Haji Alias. The rice for the porridge was donated by the Singapore Buddhist Lodge, and the porridge cooked and packed by Mosque volunteers, while Catholics visited homes to distribute the porridge.

The following evening, 11 parishioners and friends, with parish priest Fr Colin Tan visited the Al-Huda Mosque and were briefed on the Mosque's history. Later, all broke fast together with our hosts and listened to Ustaz Harun Hasan Akhtar's talk on "Spreading Compassion: Ramadan with Neighbours, Celebrating with Family & Communities".

Letter To Our Neighbours

Through our breaking of fast together, your community has shown me how you have fasted this month to appreciate what your God has bestowed upon you in terms of goodness. Through fasting, your faith allows you to learn self-control and – in a very noble way – develop an empathy towards what the poor undergo in terms of adversity and hardship, on a daily basis.

Knowing these fundamentals of your faith gives me such confidence in our interfaith interaction here today, despite the efforts of extremists plus many divisively destructive elements in the era of terror we live in today.

Our interfaith bond will be the cornerstone of how I take pride in being Singaporean and why every Singaporean child must grow up knowing they are enriched, empowered and educated by our multi-cultural heritage and multi-religious spirit. As our future generations strive and care to keep this interfaith spirit united, alive and blossoming, I warmly wish you and your families a very Happy Hari Raya Adil-fitri.

Roshni Bernadette Abayasekara

It was an eye opener for Jolene and me to visit the mosque and take part in iftar. It gave us a deeper appreciation of the organised and concerted efforts of fasting and almsgiving during Ramadan by the Muslims. We could also see more merits of fasting. Besides repentance, fasting is an opportunity to purify oneself, physically and mentally. It is a time for self-cultivation, to be mindful and stay away from the "seven deadly sins" and embrace positive thoughts.

WILLIAM TAY

JESUIT NEWS

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LANGUAGE

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius help us understand God's language, so that we can encounter and distinguish different movements of the Spirit.

Facilitator: Fr. Phum Hung, SJ

Dates/Times: Friday 19 July (7.30pm) to Sunday 21 July (5.00pm)

Contribution: \$270 (non-AC), \$330 (AC). Registration: tinyurl.com/hpsj19

THERE AND BACK AGAIN: A RETREAT ON THE HOBBIT, CONVERSION AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien, a masterful account of a journey of growth and maturity, gives insight into our own spiritual life and journey of conversion. By accompanying Bilbo's journey of growth and conversion, and illuminated by Scripture and the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, learn to deepen your own faith journey.

Facilitator: Deacon Stanley Goh, SJ

Dates/Times: Friday 2 August (7.30pm) to Sunday 4 August (4.00pm)

Contribution: \$260 (non-AC), \$300 (AC)

Register by 26 July: tinyurl.com/ta19

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION is organising a dinner hosted by His Grace, Archbishop William Goh to raise the needed funds to fulfil the vision of our archdiocese. Table tickets are on sale at this fully sponsored dinner. Wednesday 11 September, 5.30pm - 9.30pm, at the newly-opened Village Hotel on Sentosa. To book a table or for more information, contact Caroline Kung at 6338 0348 or email cfddinner@catholic.org.sg or visit www.catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner

QUIETING THE SOUL CHIANGMAI 2019

By Cenacle Sisters and Team

A silent 8 or 5-day retreat set in the beautiful environment of the Seven Fountains Retreat Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Three choices of dates (includes travel time):

1) **8 days** (29 November - 8 December)

2) **5 days** (2 - 8 December)

3) **5-days** (8 - 14 February, 2020)

Closing registration date: 31 August

Contact the Cenacle Sisters at 9298

5808/6565 2895

email: cenaclesingapore@gmail.com

website: <http://www.catholic.org.sg/cenacle>

CROSSINGS CAFÉ SPECIAL

To celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius, all parishioners of St Ignatius will enjoy a 15% discount off the food bill (excluding drinks) during the month of July. Please inform the wait staff the name of church when you patronise the Café. Located at the Catholic Centre on Waterloo Street, this is a social enterprise started by a group of Catholics, which provides employment to the disadvantaged and is committed to donating all profits to charity.

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

Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

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 one year before the wedding.

Contact: Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Inigo Bookstore Opening Hours

Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am to 2.00pm, 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Monday to Friday.

Enquiry: Peter Hong 9749 3702

Sick, Elderly and Homebound

Please contact the parish office if pastoral help is needed for a parishioner who is homebound or hospitalised (regardless of which hospital). In emergencies, you may also contact the priests' residence at 6466 3225.

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 the Columbarium.

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 account.

WEEKLY

Rosary Devotion 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; 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. No session in June and December

Memorial Mass

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