



Going Beyond the Self

There are fundamentally only three people in the world – me, God and everyone else – and each of us human(s) is aware of how separate from all the others we are, how alone in our selfhood. God seems to call us to forget ourselves, to stop focusing on our solitude, and to yield to Him if we wish to truly join Him. Let us consider how “self” appears in today’s readings and how they suggest we each deal with our “self”.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus uses the expression “to exalt oneself”. My novice master has said that the proper place for all of us is at the end of the open hand of God, completely receiving ourselves and all we possess freely and without cost, gratefully and respectfully. God’s love is constant, His hand always open, and it is only our response that fluctuates. When I try to take control of myself, to take charge of getting what I “need” or “deserve” rather than simply and gratefully receiving what comes to me, I leave no room for God’s fatherly love, no room for God to speak a word into my life that will heal it or give it hope. Such an insistence on control is more than my taking personal responsibility, it is claiming autonomy and initiating a rebellion against God and His authority: we are, after all, the “righteous” and all those we judge are sinners, right? Think of the Prodigal Son’s older brother (Luke 15:25-32).

Luke describes what Jesus has to say as aimed at the “self-righteous”, those “holding others in contempt”, and there is a lot of that in our world: the larger and more “successful” countries

vs. other smaller and poorer ones, one political party against another, racial attitudes, illegal immigrants, other drivers, etc. We notice this primarily in others, rarely in ourselves.

St Paul speaks of his loss of self by saying “I am poured out, I have run the race”: imagine a runner with low blood sugar, one who is sweaty and dehydrated, one who has given his all. Ignoring his temporary state, the hot and empty sort of feeling we get from running becoming in St Paul’s case a sort of fatigue and a somewhat dearly bought experience, we can see that he is actually healthy and grace-filled as a result of God’s action in him and his own efforts. The second part of what he says is clearly not centered on what his self gets out of his exertions.

And then, beyond today’s readings, consider the state of soul which Mary describes in her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55): she is nothing but God’s servant, exalted only because of how the Lord has blessed her and decided to use her in His loving work with humankind. Or look at the non-violent and other-centered state of mind that Jesus calls us to in the Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-11) or in the Our Father (Matt 6:9-13). St Ignatius Loyola expressed this poverty of self well in his Suscipe, the prayer which caps his Spiritual Exercises (#234).

To return to where I began, the only way that I can love God is in an active love and service of my brothers and

Month of Remembrance of our Dearly Departed

Communion with the Dead

“In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them” (Lumen Gentium 50). Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 958).

In the month of November, prayers are offered for our departed loved ones who have joined

The Mass for commemorating the faithful departed (All Souls’ Day) is on Saturday 2 November, 7.00am. However, the 6.00pm mass is the vigil mass for Sunday. Note that there will be prayers and blessing of niches at the columbarium following both masses.

the communion of saints and angels. You can submit names of deceased relatives and friends and drop them in the box provided at the Place of Gathering. These names will be offered during All Souls’ Day Masses and weekend Masses in November.

sisters; anything else is just words. And the only way to truly love them is in my relationship to God; the rest is just politeness, common sense, and the right thing to do. The same sort of relation is true of how God loves me and how others love God.

God is not alone, not at all, and it is His love in all its power that is drawing us together. Nothing and no one else can overcome our solitude and our stubborn clinging to it in sin.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed on Monday 28 for the Deepavali public holiday. Daily 7.00am and 6.00pm masses are as usual.

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

ALL SAINTS' DAY – DAY OF OBLIGATION

This Thursday 31 October, 6.00pm

This Friday 1 November, 7.00am, 6.00pm and 8.00pm

THEMATIC MASSES

Next weekend Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November.

Saturday 6.00pm – Family Mass

Sunday 8.15am – Children's Mass

Sunday 12.15pm – Youth Mass

We want to encourage greater participation of children, youths 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.

GIFT OF TOOTHBRUSHES

ACTS Cambodia invites parishioners and their families, including children of St Ignatius, to donate new toothbrushes (new and still in package) to the needy in Cambodia. You may hand your gift to your Catechist during the Weekend Catechetical, CCD, Children's Liturgy, Leading Little Ones or CGS sessions, or leave them in donation boxes at the Place of Gathering, Catechetical office or parish office.

FARMERS MARKET

The 5th and last Farmers Market for 2019. Come feast on delicious home-made desserts and savouries. On sale are fresh fruits and farmed green vegetables, fruits, herbs, saplings for sale and seed exchange. Saturday 2 November, 10.00am to 12.00pm, at Sacred Heart Hall.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited to Praise & Worship and an evening of reflection, and a sharing on "What is Praise?" and "What is Worship?". This Wednesday 30 October at St Ignatius Hall. Fellowship dinner begins at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

THE LOURDES EXPERIENCE

Saturday 7 December, 2.00pm, Singapore Indoor Stadium. Admittance is free with tickets only. Please take them only if you are sure of going. Tickets are limited and First Come First Served, and only 2 tickets per family. For the sick and disabled, you do not need tickets, but you'll need to fill up a form to apply for access seats. Tickets and forms will be distributed at the Place of Gathering after Mass this weekend, Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October.

A Little Love Note

LOVING OUR FAITH

"I attribute all of my success to my Catholic faith. My faith has given me the ability to be a good father, a good husband and most importantly a good person." **ACTOR MARK WAHLBERG**



WELCOMING OUR LORD THIS ADVENT

Prepare your hearts this Advent and Christmas to make room for Jesus in our lives. At the Open Studio, we hope to create a space for our Lord and ponder the awesome gift of our salvation through meditation on Scripture and art making. Open to all, aged 21 and above. Sessions although linked by a theme are also independent. Art materials are provided and no experience is required. A love offering will be collected for each session. For enquiries, email anne.eighteen@gmail.com. Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/E2CZMK6bMromjrn2> Venue: St Ignatius Church, Classroom #01-09 Time: 9am to 12pm Dates: 4 Fridays, 25 October – 15 November

DIVINE MERCY MINISTRY is organising a Mission Trip to Miriam Home (run by Canossian Sisters) in Kluang, Malaysia as part of our social mission outreach on Saturday 16 November. Signup forms are available at the Place of Gathering or register at the church office (Angela Kurnadi at 6466 0625) or online registration at <https://forms.gle/vzhScrX2yfN2QvB87>

JUMBLE SALE BY HOMEMAKERS

Saturday 23 November, 9.30am to 3.00pm and Sunday 24 November, 9.30am to 1.00pm, at St Ignatius Hall. In support of the Parish Social Mission Fund. Ensure all donations are in good and saleable condition. NO bulky furniture or electronic items like TVs, printers, video, cassette tapes, and textbooks. Place your donations by 10 November at the drop-off point outside the Sacred Heart Hall canteen.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY FIESTA

The staff and pupils of St Anthony's Primary School are at the Place of Gathering to sell tickets to their School's Fiesta on Saturday 16 November, in aid of the Hong Kah North Community Care and HOPE House, a non-profit organisation run by the LaSalle Brothers of Singapore, that supports at-risk youths from all racial and religious backgrounds. Please support them generously.

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Darryl Michael Rodrigues – 56 years old
Departed: 19 October 2019

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Administrator

Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

Sacred CROSSINGS

P*iper*, Disney Pixar's 2016 Oscar-winning animation film, has captured many hearts. In the short animation film, a hungry baby sandpiper is fearful of the ocean waves, having been drenched by incoming surf. The adorable chick finally overcomes her fear by observing a baby hermit crab. Piper's willingness to take risks results in her discovering the delight in finding and hunting a bounty of clams and freeing herself from her fear of the ocean.

Piper resonates with many as it is a realistic depiction of the challenges we face in our lives. Life circumstances often put us in a daunting place. Whatever they are, we know that we can't remain where we are, and yet we are too frightened to take the next step, paralyzed by the dread of uncertainty and of losing control.

This apprehension is common. Fear of the unknown often veils our eyes and instills doubt in our mind. Just like Piper, we resist change because it requires us to live anew in an unfamiliar territory, and thus, we cling to what we have and stay where we are. It is as if we are stuck in a bad dream. Sometimes, out of despair, we cry out to the Lord. Yet, when a path is shown to us, we hesitate to walk the course. We are like the Israelites in Egypt, trapped between Pharaoh's army and the seemingly impossible to cross Red Sea.

It took the Israelites multiple crossings — the Red Sea, the desert, the Jordan River — before they reached

the land of milk and honey. Despite their complaints and failings — here we see how patient and merciful God is towards His beloved — they continued to take the next step, and the next. With each sacred crossing, they learned to trust God more. It was only when the Israelites reached the Promised Land, looking back, that they could see God's hand leading them from slavery to freedom.

God's hand is extended to us too. He loves us too much to let us be trapped in our Egypt, as He knows what awaits us in the Promised Land. He also knows how hard it is for us to let go of our fears, for He never tires of reminding us of His faithfulness. Scripture is filled with His assurances: "Do not be afraid" and "Do not fear" show up over 100 times from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation.

We can't be transformed if we insist on remaining where we are; we must make our crossings however hard it may seem. One way to transcend our fear is by reflecting on our past transitions. We might be surprised and marvel that we have passed through many crossings without realizing it; and that a bridge never failed to appear when we needed it, even though it may not have been in the form we had expected. The remembrance and celebration of such small victories and the deepening clarity fuel our confidence. We begin moving slowly from fear to trust, knowing in our heart that Jesus **always** catches us when we falter and fall. The impossible is **always**

possible when we walk with Him.

Sacred crossing is not about running away from fear but inviting the Lord to come and walk with us, willing to be led into the mystery of the Holy. Jesus respects our free will and never forces our hand. He is holding out His hand, assuring us that we are not alone: "Now is the time for you to awake from sleep. Arise, take up your bed, and go to your home" (cf. Rom 13:11, Mt 9:6). To go home to our Father's house. With Him.



Let nothing disturb you.

Let nothing upset you.

Everything changes.

God alone is unchanging.

With patience all
things are possible.

Whoever has God
lacks nothing.

God alone is enough.

St. Teresa of Avila



ROSINA SIMON

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1- ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday 13 November, Rm Sh-02-E

Programme: St Thomas Aquinas – The Theologian

Thomas Aquinas demonstrates that to believe is to think and that the life of the mind is integral to life in Christ.

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 31 October, SH-E

Programme: "What can we learn from the life of Padre Pio in his remarkable bearing of Christ's own suffering?" A discussion based on a documentary

JESUIT NEWS

COUPLE GOALS: A WORKSHOP ON RELATIONSHIP WELLNESS

Single and dating, in a new relationship or a long-term one and considering a deeper commitment like marriage? This evening talk will help you discover what is important to you in a relationship, who you are and the partner for your future.

Date/Time: Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Facilitator: Lissy Ann Puno, Counselling Psychologist

Contribution: \$30

Venue: Kingsmead Spirituality Centre, 8 Victoria Park Road, S266492

Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/cpgoals19>

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

"Marriage is a project to be worked on together ... and a process of growth."

- Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia, no. 218, 221).

Good marriages can always be made better and to deepen and refine your couple relationship, sign up for one of the upcoming Marriage Encounter

Weekends: 6 - 8 December and 3 - 5 January 2020

Contact David & Clara @ 96705390 or mewkend@gmail.com

CREED ON THE STREET (COTS 11) YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT OF DISCUSSION

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

Thursday 21 November, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, level 3, Catholic Centre, 55

Waterloo Street, S187954.

Topic: From Stigma to Solidarity – What more can we do to address the stigma of mental health issues?

Information and registration: www.caritas-singapore.org or

email: youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

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. 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