



Seekers of the Light

Last week we considered how the Lord loves the little ones, the lowly, and especially those who choose to be weak in the eyes of the world so as to better rely on God and His values alone. All three texts of today continue the themes of those readings, and although in the first one we move from Zephaniah to Isaiah, the second and the third take up just where last week's readings left off.

In our first reading, then, Isaiah calls us to care for the "hungry, the homeless, the naked, and the oppressed". He does not ask us whether we are wealthy, nor does he ask us whether these people deserve what they are getting, whether they are good people or not, whether we will have a long-term effect on their lives or not: He simply says to take care of them. In doing so we get closer to the Lord, who makes His light shine on the just and the unjust, who lets the weeds grow up with the good seed. Because we are so much closer to Him, and so much like Him and who He is (or at least we want to be and try to be), it is "easier" (you might almost say) for the Lord to hear us and to come to our aid – and to help us do what He Himself is doing.

In last week's second reading Paul was speaking about how we are, on the whole, not wise people, not powerful or exalted. Today he goes on to speak about how he preaches a Christ crucified, but not simply Christ on the cross: this is the Christ who sought out sinners and who turned His back on the wise and the powerful, the ones who led well-ordered and socially acceptable lives. He approached the outcasts, identifying with them, as

well he might have done in view of the Crucifixion to come.

Paul himself says, "I came among you in weakness and fear and with much trepidation." Why? It was not because he was not sure of the contents of his message, but because following Christ the lowly, looking to an apparent loser as our only hope and salvation, was not likely to be a popular message. Nor

did Paul trust himself as a speaker: telling the simple and full truth is not as easy as producing glittering and superficial happy talk. But he also says that his message depends on the convincing power of the Spirit: it was not so much what he says but how the Spirit affected his listeners through his words. I would hope for the same in my preaching: not "he did a good job today" or "he finally had a short homily", but "he had something to say that touched me".

And in our gospel, following on the Beatitudes of last week, Jesus speaks of us as the salt of the earth and as light for the world. He warns against our going flat, in the case of salt (and chemists do assure me that it can indeed go flat), or of hiding our light.

The sense of all these readings taken together is that the Lord has chosen us, little and weak, to reveal Him to the world through our works and the purity of our lives, through the love that we show others in all circumstances, but especially in our seeking out the weak, the poor, the broken, the twisted and maimed – but we ourselves have to choose to be "little and weak", accepting and cherishing the fact that every one of us is poor, broken, and maimed yet seeking to live the life of the Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-12) on that basis and finding all our joy there – right beside Jesus.

Guidelines for Catholic Churches in tackling the Coronavirus Outbreak

All parishioners are encouraged to read the recommendations for infection control issued by the Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore at <https://coronavirus.catholic.sg/>

In addition, parishioners are requested to observe the following:

- to be socially responsible and stay at home if they are feeling unwell;
- to receive Holy Communion by hand only;
- to bow and not shake hands at Masses and services, during the 'Sign of Peace'; and
- maintain good personal hygiene at all times like sanitising your hands with alcohol-based rubs and removing all your used tissues from the pews.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

Next weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation.

The **ADORATION ROOM** at Sacred Heart Hall is closed for renovation from 10 February to 16 March.

You can drop off last year's **PALMS** in the basket near the vestry. Final day of collection is Sunday 23 February.

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAMME FOR LENT

Walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mt Calvary this Lent with **NO GREATER LOVE**, a bible study programme focusing on the last hours of Christ's life. You may join **EITHER (1)** Sat Rockers on Saturday starting from 29 February, 1.30pm at Room 02-02. Register with Magdalene at 8905 6765 (whatsapp). **OR (2)** Young Adult Bible (YABbies) group beginning from Sunday 23 February, 10.30am at Room 01-09. Contact Amanda at 8322 5130 or Resa at 9828 1928.

The **INFANT BAPTISM MINISTRY** is looking for facilitators! Come and share the joy of baptism with the community. If you are interested, please contact Brian & Lisa Ling (sflchoo@yahoo.com or info@brianling.com). Individuals and couples are equally welcome.

PARISH CER

We are looking for ex-CER Retreatants to join our parish CER Praise and Worship team. We need bassists, keyboardists and singers. Contact Angela Low at 9819 6886.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

The gift of Healing is a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit when He came upon the Apostles at Pentecost, releasing the healing grace of God through prayer and laying of hands. All are invited to this sharing on Healing by SACCRE, this Wednesday 12 February at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner begins at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

ST IGNATIUS CHURCH 60TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Jubilee Committee invites you to submit photographs of your fondest/most significant moments in church for our St Ignatius Heritage Gallery. Please place your photos in an envelope in the church office with your contact details. We will scan the photos and return them thereafter. Deadline: 31 March. Multiple entries are welcome! We look forward to receiving your best shots – let's share a part of ourselves and celebrate our memories together!

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY

Parishioners are advised that if anyone has fever or respiratory symptoms, they will not be required to attend Mass. With immediate effect, communion will be received on the hand only. For the sign of peace, greet with a polite bow and not a handshake. It is likely that many church events and activities planned for February will be suspended until further notice. Finally, maintain good personal hygiene at all times e.g. like sanitising your hands with alcohol-based handrubs.

→ Leading Little Ones To God, Liturgy of the Word for Children, CCD classes and all Weekend Catechetical programmes have been postponed and will only begin on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 March.

→ Eucharistic Adoration for Children on 21 February is also cancelled.

→ Mass with Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is cancelled due to health precautionary measures against the Novel Coronavirus.

Updates for all programmes will be provided as soon as possible.

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?

Go to the Help Stand to check photos of the many items left behind at Church to claim your belongings.

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Caroline Hannah Lee Chin Fung – 60 years old
Departed: 2 February 2020

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 20 February Room #02 SH-F
Programmne: 1) Daily Word of God; 2) FORMED.org
Lectio: Mary with Dr Brant Pitre
Episode 1: The New Eve

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

“Chaos is humanity’s propensity for running itself out of and away from God’s loving and harmonious plan.”

How do we remain sane when surrounded by chaos? Civil unrest, climate catastrophes, economic disparity, drug-resistant diseases, and abuses of power by leaders who are supposed to protect the most vulnerable. The list seems endless. How can we live from our religious and spiritual convictions in the midst of this turmoil?

It is helpful to understand the theological meaning of chaos. Chaos and

may enter into pandemonium knowing we will remain safe and sane. Jesus, who descended into hell for three days, has the power to transform the most harrowing turmoil. With Jesus Christ, chaos is transient, and harmony prevails!

Throughout history, mystics and spiritual figures have surmounted unbearable odds, and faced chaos with solid, and even optimistic, faith. St Ignatius faced the chaos of his inner demons in a cavern as he progressed in recognizing how his desire for holiness

psychology, art and the evangelists. She struggled with sensuality, disordered attachments and petty sufferings, which progressively morphed into self-surrendering love as she learned to trust God, and kneel in humble prayer. She was engaged in a profound spiritual transformation which resulted in her decision to work and later die with her people in concentration camps. Etty’s journals and letters, imbued with religious and artistic sensitivity, articulate her spiritual journey as

SPRITUALITY IN CHAOS

disorder are what prompted God to intervene as both a creator and savior. In Genesis, God makes order out of chaos as he creates the heavens, the earth, and human beings. In the meditation on the Trinity in the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, the three persons decide to send one of them to save the world. Jesus is a response of loving mercy from our Trinitarian God to save humanity from its hellish turmoil.

In his book on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, James Keenan, SJ, says that “mercy best conveys the actions of God who creates by bringing order out of chaos and who redeems by lifting us out of the chaos of sin”. It is clear that chaos is related to sin, division and hell. Chaos is humanity’s propensity for running itself out of and away from God’s loving and harmonious plan. God’s response to chaos is the desire to give of himself more fully. This revelatory giving of God’s self through Jesus Christ is the ultimate motivation to move into chaos as a loving response of self-gift through works of mercy.

Jesus is our close companion so we

could be distorted by the evil one. He learned to let go of dangerous ascetic practices powered by self-reliant pride and ego, and open himself to God’s loving mercy as a humble child of God.

In the 14th Century, Julian of Norwich, proclaimed in her Showings a gentle God of mercy and an enduring trust in God’s benevolent will. Much of Europe had seen three plagues, and protracted religious and political conflicts. Julian refused to give into the widespread view that disease and war were divine punishment due to lack of religious practice and dissolute moral living. Her life, devoted to prayer, yielded an intimacy with Jesus that flooded her soul with hope: “But Jesus ... answered with these words and said: ‘It was necessary (useful) that there should be sin, but all shall be well, ... and all manner of thing shall be well.’”

Etty Hillesum was a young Dutch woman from a middle-class Jewish family who studied philosophy,

she grapples with the evils of Nazism, anti-Semitism, and the inhumanity of genocide.

This transformation begins, as it did with Ignatius, Julian, Etty, and many others, with the ability to face inner demons and rely entirely on God. In time, it blossoms into selfless service.

Contemplative prayer is the pillar offering us certainty in our capacity to hold and transform inner and outer chaos. There is no fruitful action without contemplation. In it lies the resilience to meet the chaos of the world with God’s strength and hope. Without it, the revolution we seek in changing the chaos surrounding us remains naïve wishful thinking or frenzied activism powered by pride and fear.

FR DANIEL RENAUD, OMI
is a religious, writer and itinerant preacher with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of the US province

JESUIT NEWS

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES (FSE) RETREAT

Opening Session: Sunday, 1 March, 1.30 to 5.00pm

Closing Session: Sunday, 29 March, 1.30 to 5.00pm

During this period, there will be 4 sessions of individual spiritual direction and guidance. The FSE retreat is made in daily life over 4 weeks to help us be more attuned to God in our daily living. This retreat is for anyone desiring spiritual nourishment for their interior life during this season of Lent. Beginners in the spiritual exercises are welcomed.

Facilitator: Kingsmead Centre's team of spiritual directors

Contribution: \$200 (inclusive of SD Stipend)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/fse2020>

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, Fr James Tan, SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Leslie Raj, SJ, Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ, Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

2020 BRAVE – CATHOLIC YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Due to the current evolving situation of the Novel coronavirus, 2020 BRAVE Conference has been postponed.

HAPPY IN MY SKIN

(Parents' version) Presented by Family Life Society

Saturday 15 February, 9.00am – 12.30pm. Be equipped with a deeper understanding of the "know hows" on discussing gender identity and sexuality with children and youths. Register now bit.ly/himspvb or call 6488 0278. Only \$15 per pax.

GOTTMAN SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING MARRIAGE WORK

22 February, 9am to 5pm, and 23 February, 2pm to 5pm (Covered in 2 sessions). A weekend of discovery

and learning about what it takes to have a great relationship.

CNY SPECIAL DEAL – Refer a friend and you both receive S\$50 OFF. (Email fls@familylife.sg to do an offline registration.) Contact Jessie at 6805 1783 or jessie@familylife.sg for information.

PIETA

Day of Reflection for Bereaved Parents. If you have suffered the death of your child, come and draw comfort from our Lord through prayer and reflection. Saturday 29 February, 9.30am to 4.30pm at SFX Seminary Building, 618 Upper Bukit Timah Road. Register with your name and contact details before 18 February via PietaDayOR@gmail.com or SMS/Whatsapp Audrey at 9299 0113.

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