



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 90 No 12

Sunday  
16 February  
2020

## Law and Beyond

In Matthew's Gospel today, Jesus has a greater discourse on the law, compared to Luke (Lk16:16-18). Though Jesus denies divorce, a caveat exists – "unless [the marriage] is unlawful". (Mt 19:9) Matthew was responding to the evangelical need of the early Christians who were Jewish converts and Gentiles, and his discourse on the law and prophets is part of a greater move to help unify the Christians, as well as to have a common understanding about the way to salvation.

Though laws are necessary, a life defined by law alone seems incomplete, even bare. Just as a sacrament dictated only by liturgical rubrics seems dry (rubrics that spell out the necessary, but in effect are also the minimum), Christians live life as full as anyone else. This means with affection, with friends and families (and all that lie in-between), with all the messiness and scruffiness that life throws up in our way.

No matter which country we are in, or ethnic group we belong to, in God's eyes, we are God's people, and will be judged accordingly. That's not to say that we deserve judgment, but rather that we are loved enough to be considered seriously by God. As such, on no uncertain terms are we going to be measured up as Christians. We are told what we are judged on. That is only fair and loving, for no one wants to feel as if they are living under a microscope, especially if God is wielding the microscope.

Indeed, Matthew's Gospel reaffirmation of what Mark's Gospel mentions about love of God and love of neighbour as one's self (Mk 12:28-31) – that "the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments" (Mt 22:40) – is really an assurance to the Israelites that their ethnicity is not aberrant nor con-

trary to being Christians. Neither should we use the differences of ethnicity – or in the modern age, nationality – to paint broadly against those whom we don't yet know as neighbours.

Yet Matthew's Gospel readings indicate to us that our socio-political context matters in being Christian, because it shapes our actions and thinking. Hence, chapters 5 to 7 of Matthew's Gospel included many references to what was happening in Israel at that time. It mattered to Jesus, hence the commentaries on the socio-political practices – today's Gospel makes that abundantly clear. While we have some commonalities with the Israelites – swearing is what it is, how we are Christians in our own homes, communities, public spaces and civil society matters more. If we look at ourselves, and ask how like Christ are we today, would we like the answer, or even not want to answer at all?

Being like Christ is not a formula safely kept hidden like the recipe for Coca-Cola; nor is it unmalleable like the periodic table. The wisdom that the rest of today's readings speak of hints at an ageless treasure that continues in all ages. For us Catholics, that is the *kerygma*, the kernel of faith transmitted through all ages. This kernel resists our formulation and static binding of it, just like the inspiring Word of God. In fact, we

struggle with the formulations, because our world is changing.

Change, though unsettling, is a reality we live and have to thrive in. Hence, the post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Querida Amazonia* ([http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20200202\\_querida-amazonia.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20200202_querida-amazonia.html)) is of great interest and provoked reactions from those who endeavored to make themselves heard loudly. My friend and fellow student Gus Hardy wrote a quick review which seemed fair and I find agreeable (<https://www.facebook.com/gus.hardy.73/posts/10217117559835354>).

More importantly is that we try to read it for ourselves. Our own reading is important. This is a crucial part of the synodal process that Pope Francis encourages us all to take part in. All of us are the Church – not just those in Rome, or those serving the lay, or theology students or professors. In reading, in engaging with the world around us meaningfully as a result of it – whether in our actions or our influence in leadership positions – the *kerygma* of our faith is enlivened, made alive, vital and engaged.

Clearly, tradition remains important – the law and the prophets are to be fulfilled by Christians, just as Christ did. However, what did Christ really do? He loved unconditionally – just as God continues to love us unconditionally, as God provides for us absolution of our sins through confession, and thus reconciling with not only God but also our community. God loves us unconditionally, such that we can always approach him in the sacrament of the Eucharist, prepared in ways not meant to burden or obstruct, but fosters a really good and heartfelt relationship with him. To do as Christ did – do we really know, or have we just not been attentive?

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

Thank you for your generosity! February's **COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** amounted to \$24,970.85. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul uses your donations to support their programmes to help the Poor.

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. Register with Magdalene at 8905 6765 (whatsapp). OR contact Amanda of Young Adult Bible (YABbies) group at 8322 5130 or Resa at 9828 1928.

### REFLECTING ON LENT THROUGH ART

The Open Studio invites adults above 21 years old to the Lenten series "Come back to me". Participants will meditate on Scripture and respond through art making. Held over 6 Fridays from 28 February to 3 April, 9am to 12pm, at classroom #01-08. Art materials are provided and no prior art experience is required. If you cannot attend all the sessions, you may sign up for some of the sessions on the church website. Enquiries: [anne.eigteen@gmail.com](mailto:anne.eigteen@gmail.com)



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](mailto:sflchoo@yahoo.com) or [info@brianling.com](mailto: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.

### 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!

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

All Catholic Churches have suspended weekday and weekend Masses until further notice.

St Ignatius Church will be opened daily from 7.00am to 7.00pm for silent, private individual prayers only.

Please take necessary precautions and avoid coming to church if you are unwell, and see a doctor immediately if you have a fever and cough. Finally, maintain good personal hygiene at all times like washing sanitising your hands with alcohol based rubs.

All Mass intentions will be offered when Masses are available.

All visitors to the Church parish office are required to record their name and contact details in the Visitors' book and undergo temperature screening. Anyone who has a temperature above 37.6deg C or who are unwell will not be permitted to enter the office and Church premises.

For weddings and funerals, these are considered private services which mean only invited guests can attend. Arrangements will have to be made with the parish priest. All precautionary measures must be taken as per the advice of the Catholic Medical Guild (CMG).

For those who need the sacraments urgently, eg Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please call the parish office to arrange an appointment with the priests. Ministers of the sacraments must also take proper precautions when ministering to parishioners.

Please continue to follow the safeguards and precautions that the CMG have issued periodically (<https://coronavirus.catholic.sg>)

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 20 February Room #02 SH-F

Programme: 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



To all Parishioners of St Ignatius Church.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Re: **Our Response in Faith in Times of Crisis**

In the midst of this present COVID-19 crisis, we may be consumed by fear and worries that sap our peace of mind and our faith. In fact, it is in such times that God invites us to turn to Him with all our heart and mind.

I believe we can take away a simple lesson – to respect life and God's Creation and creatures, and not "consume animals that are unclean". We do so at our own peril as we have already seen the consequences when we buy and eat animals that are infested with deadly viruses and bacteria.

Some scientists have identified the carriers of the COVID-19 to animals like snakes and civet cats, and even monkeys, among others. The Leviticus 11:1-23 and Deuteronomy 14: 3-21 texts contain examples of what is forbidden for us. This law is applicable to everyone, not just to the Jews. We need to practise prudence and realise that "while God created everything good, not everything is good for us to eat". Let us be more mindful and respectful of not stepping over the boundaries. We sin because of disobedience and pride. Let us repent by returning to God and make amends for our wickedness.

What can we do? While it is not a good idea to come together and be physically present to pray and support each other, we can still be together in the spirit to pray in common for all who have caught the virus, as well as the health care workers and all staff at the forefront of the battle to contain the disease.

I propose that we as a Christian community, be united together in prayer as well as fasting. I invite everyone to pray individually or as a family and join in this intercessory prayer every day at 12pm beginning this Monday 17 February for at least Nine days, ending on Ash Wednesday (which is a day of fast).

For fasting, I propose that we fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, asking God to help us stop the spread of the virus and to bring an end to this outbreak.

I also suggest we pray the Rosary, the prayer to Archangel Michael and a Glory be at 12 pm daily.

May Mother Mary pray and intercede for us with Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

In the Lord,  
**Fr Colin Tan, SJ**  
Parish Priest





## JESUIT NEWS

### THE FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES (FSE) RETREAT

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

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>

Please check with Kingsmead Centre whether Retreat will proceed as scheduled.

**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

### AT HOME RETREAT

20 February – 23 April, Thursdays

Journey from Ashes to Easter — a 10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Choice of 2 time slots. Either

**MORNING:** 9.30am to 11.30am;

LaSalle Centre – St Patrick School; OR

**EVENING:** 7.30pm to 9.30pm; Cana –

the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St

Contribution: \$250.00

Register: call 9298 5808/9722 3148

W: [www.cenaclemission.com](http://www.cenaclemission.com)

E: [cenaclesingapore@gmail.com](mailto:cenaclesingapore@gmail.com)

### PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND WITH MARIAN FATHERS

September 22-29

Walk in The Footsteps of St John

Paul II, St Faustina Kowalska and Stanislaus Papczynski and be part of the Worldwide Congress of Lay Collaborators of Marian Fathers. Information: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xtsuvNnYZ0uhucUlo83L911h4u4Nhg>

### 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 before 18 February via [PietaDayOR@gmail.com](mailto: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](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. No session in  
June and December

##### Memorial Mass

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