



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Lent

Our Sorrow and Joy with Jesus



Whenever I watch a person walking on a tightrope, I have to hold my breath as each step is taken steadily. Life seems to me like walking on a tightrope. We are strung between Heaven and Earth, between our Fear and Faith, between Sickness and Health, and between Life and Death.

We seem to walk gingerly in between each of these polarities, trying to maintain a healthy tension and balance without losing our footing too much. That is always a struggle — trying to maintain a balance and be poised in the face of strong headwinds blowing in our face, especially in dealing with the current onslaught of the COVID-19, and the irrational anxieties and fears created among, and by us. We try not to blink and to lose our composure, compassion and faith.

With Lent round the corner, we know that it is a time where we are given

a chance to make supple our spiritual muscles and be strengthened by prayer, fasting and good works. It is a time — **40 days of preparation** to the Passion of Christ in Holy Week, since the earliest of tradition in the Catholic Church, going back to the Council of Nicea in 325 CE. The length of the 40 days is also an imitation of Jesus who spent this time in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry: *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was famished.* (Matt 4:1-2).

Indeed, Lent is a time to be famished, lean and poised for battle not so much with the external forces as with our inner selves — the taming of our negative thoughts, our inordinate passions and entitled emotions that draw us away from God and God's love for us and our love for others. How often do we create obstacles for ourselves

with our uncharitable thoughts by thinking badly and critically of others and judging them unjustly?

I am sometimes guilty of judging people too quickly and harshly. For example, when I see work that should have been done, or is not done well or on time, I conclude that these workers are lazy, sloppy and slow. It is at these times that I find myself losing my cool and tilting too far to the extreme end of the rope, and frantically trying to regain my foothold and equilibrium when I catch myself being too hard and judgemental.

On another level, Lent is seen in the context of the seasons of change and transformation with the “lengthening of the day” — with the coming of spring after the cold of winter. I remember my time in Ireland when I looked forward to Spring with joy and delight, to see the emergence of new shoots of the yellow daffodils (narcissus) or jonquils that bloom during late winter and spring.

If Lent is a time when I am asked to be patient and bear with the “**hibernation of life**” — to put on hold what seems to be good and life-giving and pleasurable even — all the comforts of life which I seem not able to do without. Even the reception of the Holy Eucharist with the current suspension of all Masses imposed by the Archbishop.

Lent

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Many are angry, uncomprehending, and complained to me. Perhaps, we are asked to die to ourselves — to our pride, our impatience, our anger, our unruly and unhealthy attachments to all things that enslave us — our addictions and freedoms. There is humility and freedom in obedience.

Only then can we hope to emerge from the ground of death to a new life in Christ who by His obedience to the Father's will and love, is that grain of wheat that dies in order to bring a rich harvest in all the seasons of our lives, both in sorrow and joy.

In fact, this twofold dimension of Lent – joy and sorrow/sacrifice – that is elaborated in the Second Vatican Council's decree on the Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, 109-10). The passage is worth quoting in full: 109. *The season of Lent has a twofold character: primarily by recalling or preparing for baptism and by penance, it disposes the faithful, who more diligently hear the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery. This twofold character is to be brought into greater prominence both in the liturgy and by liturgical catechesis.*

In short, Lent is an invitation to pray, to do penance, and to hope in God's providence in our new life of grace with our baptism into the life of Christ. Even when we are too fearful and panic-stricken to walk and move, do not worry. Jesus invites us to be pushed by him in a wheelbarrow across the tightrope! And all we have to do is to sit quietly, praying beneath our breaths and enjoy the ride, even when we do know where we are going and when we will reach the other side. **“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”** (Psalm 46:10)

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MASS OFFERING

In view of the suspension of all church Masses, all Mass Intentions will be offered by the priest during their private daily Masses.

THANK YOU PARISHIONERS

Our parish priests, Frs Colin Tan, Jerome Leon and Ravi would like to thank all parishioners for their thoughtfulness and generous donation to the Church, even though all Masses have been suspended.

DONATION TO MASS COLLECTION

If you wish to donate to the Mass collection, you may do so as follows:

1) PAYNOW

Go to your mobile application eg DBS Digibank, UOB Mighty, etc
Select: PayNow
Select: Unique Entity Number (UEN)
Key-in: T08CC4052A
It will display: MAKE A TRANSFER in RED; Tap
It will display: PayNow to UEN
CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS
UEN: T08CC4052A
Key in the amount: SGD (in numerical)
Enter in UEN/Bill Reference No: Mass collection
Tap: NEXT
Review Transfer: details of your transfer – please check and if correct; tap on TRANSFER NOW
Confirmation of payment will be displayed.

2) CASH

a) Drop in church Mass Offering Box located at the church vestry or office
b) Office – a receipt will be issued.

3) CHEQUE

Issue to “CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS” and indicate behind cheque: Mass collection and drop in Mass offering box, office or mail to: Church of Ignatius, 120 King's Road, (S)268172

4) VIA INTERNET TRANSFER

Please call the church office for details of bank account.

LENTEN PREPARATION

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent in English, Mandarin and Tamil. The theme is “Communion in Growth”. Please take a copy of a booklet for your household. It is also available at: tinyurl.com/oneLent2020

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

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

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!

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Josephine Tan Lee Kheng – 95 years old
Departed: 18 February 2020

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