



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

# Lent

## A Time for

## Spiritual Growth

**T**oday's Gospel reading (Matt 4:1-11) shows a certain parallel with the two chapters of Genesis in our first reading as Jesus responds to what the Father and Spirit communicate to Him at His Baptism: Jesus takes a very humble but positive attitude before the Father's love and gifts, not at all what Adam chooses in his innocence and immaturity.

The fact that Jesus appears at the Jordan seems to be the trigger for the Father's proclamation of "This is My Beloved Son. Listen to Him". It is also a trigger for the Spirit to drive Jesus out into a deserted place, where He fasts and prays for a very extended period (the "forty days" is more symbolic than literal). Notice that His response is fasting and prayer, a retreat, a time set aside from every other concern, a withdrawal from comfort and distractions, an exclusive focusing on the things of God. Philippians 2:5-11 is most apropos here: Jesus is most definitely not Adam.

I would not take the mention of "the tempter" here to mark the actual presence of Satan; the Greek root of that word equally means "to test", and I would say rather that Jesus is trying to discern (and for Jesuits that is the critical word) just who He is, and just what it is that the Father and the Spirit are calling Him to be and do. He does this by what Jesuits call "testing the spirits", considering the various "temptations" or motions in His human heart. Even Jesus spent time in prayer and fasting to be in constant communion with Their love and Their desires for Him.

Just what were those "temptations"? First there is the suggestion that Jesus take relief from His hungers in a material way, letting stones become His bread. This would be a major deviation from finding all things in God and God in all things (more Jesuit ideas), absolute trust that His Father would not only provide all that He needed on His mission, but in an appropriate manner and at the very right moment. Do we come anywhere near living that stance, as we pray to do in the Lord's Prayer?

The second temptation, throwing Himself down from the Temple heights, is a call to flashy and ultimately pointless action. Do we serve God in the hidden little ways, at every single moment, in every particular situation, or only in those high profile places when we are being pointedly religious? Do we find God – and respond to Him – only in the ways that He rescues us, or is He also present to us even in the most mundane parts of our lives: getting dressed,

walking down the street, opening the mail, meeting people in a supermarket, and all the little seemingly "empty" places in our days?

Christ's third temptation is to power and prestige. He faces what we all do: as humans we will never really possess power in the world nor all the safety, strength, and happiness that wealth seems to offer since we are and always will be at the mercy of aging, microbes, and our need for air, food, and sleep. The Kingdom which God offers us is eternal and true and takes care of all our needs ... if we are willing to enter it through His narrow door.

Let us join Jesus in His fasting and His discernment of the true will and love of the Father active in our lives, and we can trust that God and His angels will constantly minister to us if we let them. Let us make Lent a time of joyful and godly growth in the Spirit.

**CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ**

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

## PARISH NEWS

### DONATION APPEAL FOR THE POOR

Thanks to the monthly Second Sunday Collections for the Poor in our parish, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is able to give monthly cash assistance to 140 people, many of whom are the elderly, sick and/or disabled staying in HDB one-room rental flats at blocks 89 and 90 Redhill Close. Due to the suspension of Masses, SSVP would like to appeal to parishioners to send their donations. You may send a cheque, made payable to: **SSVP – Conf of St Ignatius**. Cheques can be posted to 120 King's Road, Singapore 268172, or dropped off at the Church office. Please indicate name and contact number of donor, and "Collection for the Poor" at the back of the cheque.

For online bank transfer, whatsapp Magdalene at 8905 6765 or email [ssvp.stignatius@gmail.com](mailto:ssvp.stignatius@gmail.com) for details of SSVP bank account number. Thank you for your generosity.

### MASS OFFERING

In view of the suspension of all church Masses, all Mass Intentions will be offered by the priests 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 donations 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.

### WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Barring any updates from the Archdiocese, catechism sessions for all catechetical ministries, except CCD, will begin from the weekend of 28 and 29 March. Parents of children in the CCD program will be informed separately of the start date.

### 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](http://tinyurl.com/one Lent2020)

### FORMED.ORG

Parishioners of St Ignatius can now access this online platform, which provides information on the truth, teaching and meaning of the Catholic faith. Explore links to renowned speakers, online movies and audio resources.

Go to 1) [www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org) 2) Enter our parish code 4904ed on the homepage.

### INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 8 March at 3.00pm

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 1 March, 3pm at La Storta room. Registration forms are available at the church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Michelle (9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

### RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Eileen Caroline Paley – 73 years old  
Departed: 26 February 2020

Agnes Lee Keow – 67 years

Departed: 26 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