



# Transfiguration

## An Encounter with the Divine Presence

**S**ometimes, I wonder what it would be like to meet God in my life? I would have three questions for him. The first is “Why did you have to create mosquitoes?” (I have a long standing war with them — they are not exactly my favourite insects!). Question 2, “Why is it that so many people cannot stand the sight of each other (i.e. they hate each other) when you can love us regardless?” And the third question, “When are you going to get rid of the COVID-19 Virus?”

Well, I am not sure if God will grant me an audience, let alone give me an answer. But frankly speaking, I don't think I am ready to meet God yet — I am too busy getting ready for the resumption of Masses. And when will the official announcement by the Archbishop be? Only he knows. We still live in hope. As one parishioner shared, “We wait in obedience”. It is so insightful to see this period of Lent as a time of patient waiting and waiting in obedience even as we are thirsty and hungry for the Eucharist. Indeed, we are fasting even from Holy Communion to strengthen our faith and disciple our bodies to battle sin in our lives. Indeed, we can identify with these words: “Your endurance will win you your lives.” (Lk 21:19).

I have come to the realization that

our lives are centred around the desire to see God. Our souls, being made for God, long to encounter Him. What is deepest in us is also truest. Sometimes we feel a bit lost and listless in the desert. We are made for God and our soul is orientated and drawn to Him like a homing pigeon flying in the wilderness on its way home. In these recent days, many of us feel like we are accompanying the Lord in His forty days and nights, fasting and praying in the wilderness. Sometimes we feel a bit lost and listless in the desert.

While we have that eternal longing in our heart for God, we know that humanly we will not be able to see Him face to face in this life. There is long-held Judaic understanding that no one can see the face of God and live. This simply points to the mystique of God who is All Powerful (Omnipotence) and All Present (Omniscience). In all humility, we have to recognise that we are creatures and not the Creator. We cannot and dare not look directly at the “fire of love”, coming from the Burning Bush, lest we die of shock or be blinded. A simple analogy is that no one can look directly into the Sun without risking blindness and damage to the eye. The light that emanates from God is certainly more powerful than that of the Sun. Indeed, Moses

in his encounter with the Lord God Yahweh in the Burning Bush, not only was he asked to take off his shoes, he also “covered his face for he was afraid to look at God”. (Ex 3:6)

We have a similar gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent to remind us of the transfiguration of Our Lord and Peter's uncharacteristic response to it. “It is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Mt 17:4). I am not sure if I will trust a fisherman to become a builder of tents, especially as Peter had often proven himself capable of being impulsive in his responses without thinking things over first .

Foolish as Peter may look to us, his response was an instinctive act of faith before the presence of the Divine. He too had to take off his shoes of ignorance, of fear and presumption. The best attitude to have before the Divine Presence is to bow down in reverential silence and holy solitude. We wait in obedience too for Our Lord to finish His prayer, touch us and say, “Stand up and do not be afraid”. With Jesus by our side, we need not to be afraid, for all fears are gone and faith returns!

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

### RESUMPTION OF MASSES

Sunset and Sunday Masses will resume on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March, when all churches would have put in place the necessary precautionary measures. Weekday Masses may also resume on Monday 16 March. The resumption of Masses is subject to the prevailing MOH guidelines and advisories. More details at catholic.sg For more Information on Masses at St Ignatius Church, please read our Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan's letter to parishioners which can be found on our church website at [www.stignatius.org.sg](http://www.stignatius.org.sg)

Do take note that our **Mass times** during the COVID-19 situation are:

**Saturday: 6.00pm.**

**Sunday: 8.00am, 10.15am, 12.30pm and 6.00pm**

### VOLUNTEER CLEANING TEAM

Volunteers are needed to help clean and sanitise the Church after each Mass to facilitate a quick turnaround for the next Mass. Volunteers are needed, especially for Saturday 6pm mass, Sunday 12.30pm and 6pm masses. Sign-up at <https://forms.gle/zaq7LS37BKpbDbnU8>

The **ADORATION ROOM** at Sacred Heart Hall is closed until 16 March for renovation.

### MASS OFFERING

During 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

We are awaiting the announcement from the Archdiocese and the Office For Catechesis, to inform us when catechetical sessions can resume. We are hoping and praying that we can start after the March school holidays (Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March). In the meantime, the Catechetical Ministry is working towards making the Catechetical Space safe for all children and teens. Parents are to look out for emails for the start date. We will update once we have confirmation from the Archdiocese and Office For Catechesis.

### MAKE YOUR LENTEN PLEDGE AGAINST SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

We produce more than 350 million tons of plastic every year, with plastic pollution becoming a major problem affecting our rivers and oceans, marine life, with microplastics ending up in our food chain. Make your Lenten pledge for our common home as Pope Francis has called on each of us to do. Details are available on Green Movement Ministry page at [www.stignatius.org.sg](http://www.stignatius.org.sg), flyers and via the QR code.



### 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.

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