



Showers of Living Water

The importance of water to our lives cannot be understated and that translates into the main theme of this week's Gospel reading of how the Lord continually offers us living water. The most obvious connection as we listen to the Lord's conversation with the Samaritan woman is that of baptism, of how the living water is that which comes from the spring that wells up to eternal life. That is a truth important to us as Christians, but I'd like to consider water in its myriad forms, how the contradictory nature of water fits in with our experience of faith and life. This reflection on the nature of water looks at three aspects — water as refreshing and purifying; water in its fluidity and flexibility; and water in its strength and creativity.

As a child, I didn't like showering as it seemed too much of a hassle given that I would just get dirty and sweaty again. That bother soon transformed into something that I looked forward to, even to the extent of getting strange looks from people I lived with when they saw me going to shower in the evening in the dead of winter. The feeling of water washing off the grime and dust of the day was physical as well as psychological. It had the effect of signalling to me that the day was done and it was

time to allow the water to wash the difficulties of the day away, ready to rest and recharge for the next. If a little shower can do so much, what more the living waters of baptism? That's something powerful to think about the next time we dip our hands into the holy water font to bless ourselves — how that little reminder of our baptism can serve to refresh and purify us in our times of need.

Water is often used as a symbol of fluidity and flexibility because it can move anywhere, flow around and over obstacles while keeping its integrity intact. Think of how rivers always find their way through the land to reach the sea, and how water can be channelled and directed, but never fully controlled. We talk of fluidity and flexibility being good qualities that can help us in our approach to modern society, of not being overly rigid as we live in these times of constant change. The gift that the Lord gave the Samaritan woman and that he wants to give us today remains the same — himself as the living water. This is an invitation for us to be flexible and flow not with the world but into it, bringing the living water to renew and refresh those whom we meet, allowing the love that the Lord gives us to wash over all.

The last aspect of water that's important to this reflection is its

creative and agile strength. Granted that this strength can sometimes be expressed in catastrophic ways like tsunamis and floods, we should also recognise that water has the immense power to create natural wonders like the Grand Canyon in the USA and the Mulu Caves in Sarawak, Malaysia are testament to this creative power. The power of water to shape its environment can come suddenly but can also be a subtle yet persistent force that shapes canyons and caves over the millennia. It's the same with the water that the Lord brings. It can come as a raging force, irresistible in its strength such that we cannot help but listen and be converted. It can also come as a subtle suggestion, slowly bringing us closer and closer to God as it creates a space for God within us, sometimes without us realising it.

I feel that these aspects of water truly animate the gift of living water that the Lord gave the Samaritan woman and continues to offer to us today. However, more than just focusing on what the water can do, it is important for us to feel how this water is like a spring within us "welling up to eternal life". What this points to is the fact that with our baptism, we are sources of this living water and that we need to recognise how we are always able to bring refreshment, be flexible and creative in all that we do, embracing and allowing this living water to flow through us to animate how we engage with God and with others.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

ONGOING SUSPENSION OF MASSES

In view of the Archbishop's latest decision to rescind the decision to resume Masses because of the worsening situation of COVID-19 as a pandemic, we will abide and follow the instructions accordingly. We have also drafted a new set of advisory and guidelines for all the ministries and activities in our parish and about the closure of the church. Please refer to it in our website or download Telegram (App), and click on <https://t.me/stignatius> for more details.

INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 12 April at 3.00pm

Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 5 April, 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) and Chiah Li (9738 0293).

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR CHILDREN

In light of the COVID-19 situation, the EAC team has decided to CANCEL the EAC session in March. We will commence when catechism lessons resume.

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, flyers and via the QR code.



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.

MASS OFFERING

During the suspension of all church Masses, all Mass Intentions will be offered by the priests during their private daily Masses.

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.

CARITAS SINGAPORE – CHARITIES WEEK 2020

The season of Lent is the time when Caritas Singapore conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2020. Your donation will provide much-needed funding to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family, to journey with the vulnerable and marginalised in our community such as low-income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and people with mental health issues. Please pick up an appeal envelope, and give generously. All Donations are eligible for 250% Tax Deduction. More information at 6337 6197 and 9271 3335, or email pamela@caritas-singapore.org

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 2) Enter our parish code 4904ed on the homepage.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Shirley Chung – 82 years old

Departed: 11 March 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