



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

For God Is Able

How does God see us? Does God judge us with rulings that make our blood run cold? The ancient world of the Israelites understood that a ruler was one who could rule, and not because she or he was born into it, or came into such position by political means. A ruler ruled because she or he was able to care for his people, to lead the people through all the uncertain times and crises that might threaten to overwhelm all they had worked for. Similarly, a judge judged because she or he was able to not only judge fairly, but also carry out the judgment that would right all the injustice laid bare in the light of day. When the Israelites appraised Jesus as the Messiah, they recognised him for what he did, and not for any promises he made. Do we recognize the Messiah in our present time?

Take a moment of quiet, away from the buzzing that distracts us. Ask yourselves if you really have all you want, or are you seeking, just looking around, to find more? Over here in Boston, it's very quiet. On campus, there are couples, families or solitary figures who walk through the empty spaces. A baby stroller stands askew in the middle of the car park while a father trails and watches over his toddler and other children running in glee in that empty lot, glad to be out in the open. I gather that little family has what they want, at that time, a little time in the sunshine on a wintry spring day. What about ourselves? Do

we see ourselves in the light of day, as light for others, or swallowed up in the dark of night?

Night is coming for each of us, when we will no longer be able to do the work that God has sent us to do. That is unavoidable. While we are not able to work miracles like Jesus did, there are greater hurdles and challenges that might haunt us, even in the little spaces we find ourselves in. In the house, can I talk to the brother, who is fearing for his life, as his compromised immune system leaves him fearful of an untimely end to his young vocation? Dare I linger and accompany the brother who is ready and willing if it is his time – he's lived past 80 but still chugs along – and know what to say? It is difficult and sometimes, it is not for me to take such positions. They might present themselves to me, but I cannot force the issue. Or can I? Should I? Must I? Sometimes, despite keeping each other at arm's length, we must strive to be closer.

I am not God who is able to do what is best for each person, in their own time. I am ready to follow as meekly as sheep to the shepherd. That, somehow, was not quite how God wanted it. There is a reason and season for everything, and being open to that fecundity of God's generosity calls on all my resources, creativity, goodness, generosity and, especially discipline. We cannot be ready at a moment's notice if we're not prepared. Thus, I try to be faithful to being the

brother who is there, who witnesses the ups and downs, who does what is necessary, and wait on God's grace if and when there is more asked of me. That is more than enough, just as God's grace is more than enough for any challenges I face. And sometimes, even in such interesting times, grace overflows, should you choose to believe and see with God's eyes.

Out of the blue, I literally bumped into a former directee from California who is now a doctoral theology student in Boston College. In the surreal and physically distanced catch-up, I was able to share about Raimon Panikkar, a Catholic theologian who can be very philosophical yet grounded in approaching all life, especially in our multi-cultural, multi-religious setting. I modified a recipe and baked muffins for the first time, giving my brothers some joy (though my rector thinks I'm bribing them). A brother picked up courage to foray beyond the one recipe for dinner he had used for all the years he had to cook. Life calmed down to a certain degree, as schedules to keep the community safe sprung up, classes resumed online in the past week.

When grace flows in your life, and I am sure it does, may you see that you have all that you want. For Jesus came so that all who were blind may see again, what was before is now illuminated, and what seemed to be bright and shiny in the past, no longer tempts and waylays us. This is the power of God, sent by Jesus Christ into the world through the Holy Spirit, to make us see that God has the power to rule the world, and make judgments of humanity, for God is generous, merciful and just, and is able to carry out all these works.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

ONGOING SUSPENSION OF MASSES

In view of the Archbishop's latest decision to continue the suspension of Masses, we will abide and follow the instructions accordingly. Our parish has also drafted a new set of advisory and guidelines for all ministries and activities in our parish, and about the closure of the church. Please refer to it on our website or download Telegram (App), and click on <https://t.me/stiggys> for more details.

EASTER REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Easter in English, Mandarin and Tamil. The theme is "Singing Alleluia in Communion". Please take home a booklet for your family. Also available online at tinyurl.com/20easterbooklet

CATHOLIC NEWS and our parish bulletin are available at the Place of Gathering and in front of the Church office.

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).

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.

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.



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

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Michael Ong – 82 years old

Departed: 16 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