



The Mystery of

Life

One of the most heart-breaking news amid the Covid-19 global pandemic is that of people dying alone, without being able to say goodbye to their loved ones. The death toll of Covid-19 continues to rise globally because of the limited resources of healthcare providers and underlying serious medical conditions of those infected. Most of the healthcare workers are overwhelmed and exhausted. Many countries try to slow down the rate of infection in order to stretch their limited healthcare resources and protect human life. Another heartbreaking moment for me was watching a plea from the tearful NHS nurse, Dawn Bilbrough, who urged the public “to stop panic buying”. After her 48-hour shift work, she discovered that there were no more fruit and vegetables in the supermarket to sustain her healthy living and to serve in the frontline battle of Covid-19 outbreak.

As we begin the Fifth Week of our Lenten journey, we meet Jesus,

who “wept”. His heart was moved towards his friends, Mary and Martha, who were mourning the loss of their brother, Lazarus. Earlier, Jesus had told his disciples about the mystery of life — that Lazarus’ sickness will not end in death, but in God’s glory, and through it, the Son of God will be glorified. Likewise, Jesus assured Martha, “Your brother will rise again.” He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” Martha is called to put her faith in Jesus Christ. She responded with her profession of faith that each one of us has, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.” This faith connects us to the mystery of life, in which Jesus would soon undergo in Jerusalem — his passion, death and resurrection, where

“the Son of God will be glorified”.

Jesus acknowledged Martha’s faith by raising Lazarus, his beloved friend. He also assures us in this miracle of life that the God Abba, Father, will always hear our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ. Amid our present life-challenges and confusion, do we have strength and courage to believe, pray and put our trust in Jesus Christ, whom God has sent to become the God-with-us?

A friend shared the touching story of Dr Julian Urban, who serves in a hospital in Lombardi, Italy. In the past three weeks, Dr Urban had seen and experienced his darkest nightmares; “Now, we are no longer doctors, but sorters who decide who should live and who should be sent home to die ...” Nine days ago, a 75-year-old priest, who had serious breathing problems, was admitted into the hospital. “He had a Bible with him and impressed us by how he read it to the dying as he held their hands. We doctors were all tired, discouraged, psychologically and physically finished. When we had time, we listened to him.” Encountering this priest became a life-changing experience for Dr Urban. He ended his story by sharing, “Yesterday, the priest died ... He had managed, despite his condition and our difficulties, to bring us a PEACE that we no longer had hoped to find ... I haven’t been home for 6 days. I don’t know when I ate last. I realize my worthlessness on this earth. I want to use my last breath to help others. I am happy to have returned to God while I am surrounded by the suffering and death of my fellow men.”

My friends, where do you and I encounter “this peace” in our everyday living?

Reflection on 5th Sunday of Lent, Year A (Jn 11:1-45)

FR AGUSTINUS TANUDJAJA, SJ

PARISH NEWS

Regulation pertaining to Church ministries, activities and events are available at:

MASS SCHEDULE: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/mass-schedule-offering/mass-schedule>

COVID 19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/all-events/849-covid-19-precautionary-measures>

INFANT BAPTISM: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/infant-adult-baptism>

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** for this weekend, 29 March by Fr Colin Tan is available at:

<https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/upcoming-events/859-new-weekly-bible-reflection> or <https://youtu.be/HQ5AJv-o360> and

PARISH BULLETIN is available at the Place of Gathering and in front of the Church office.

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 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 mail a cheque, made payable to: SSVP – Conf of St Ignatius Cheques, to 120 King's Road, Singapore 268172, or dropped off at the Church office. Please indicate the 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 for details of SSVP bank account number. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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

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 overall theme for the Lenten Reflections is "Communion in Growth".

Please take a copy of the booklet for your household. It is also available at: tinyurl.com/onelent2020

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

Agnes Choo Poh Geok – 76 years old
Departed: 25 March 2020

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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. Due to the suspension of Masses, response had been slow. 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

JESUS YOUTH invites you to join Cruels Singapura, a virtual Way of the Cross, on Saturday 4 April, 3 pm. There will be a guided reflection with testimonies, interactive prayers and worship music. Link will be provided upon registration. Register for free at <https://singapore.jesusyouth.org/cs-jy-2020/> or call 9087 4674/8328 6194 for details.

CATHOLIC NEWS, HAI SING PAO and **EASTER REFLECTION BOOKLET** are available at the Place of Gathering and in front of the Church office.

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