



Friends of Christ

Today's passage from Peter's first letter is speaking of the ultimate part of our being united to Christ, the highest form that it might take, short of what our life will be like in heaven.

A basic way of following Christ is simply becoming a Christian, having faith in Him and seeking to grow in that faith by obeying the commandments, ridding ourselves of our more obvious faults, getting in some prayer: basic. It is approximately equal to John's baptism and all that some people do or can do. The negative side of this can be because it is not hard, because it is the path of least resistance in our family and in our culture.

Some, more profoundly moved by faith, try to do what Christ does: trying to heal others, to form a community of love, and to care for those who are in any sort of need or who suffer injustice. The negative side here is that this gives us a good feeling, is visible, and gives us a good reputation: what is our real motivation here?

Still better is working hard at our personal perfection and spiritual life, learning to follow the Holy Spirit in big and little things. Even here there is a negative side: this can be a source of pride and of disdain for others and is filled with traps. Read the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis to see some of the

dangers at this level of following Christ.

Then there is suffering injustice in the name of Christ and for Christ, beyond reason or awareness of our own desires and safety. Peter refers to it here as "the Holy Spirit has come to REST on you." And here too we face dangers: do we really do it for Him? Or do we use it as proof that we are holy? Do we seek to suffer simply for the reputation of holiness? Do we do it because it makes us feel holy? Rare, but it happens. And too often "justice" is what I think I deserve, so this suffering can be a complete lie and a delusion.

We might describe this same passage as our growth in love, our seeking to be identified with Christ instead of merely serving Him: "I no longer call you servants but friends." This identification with Christ means entering into His passion so as to enter His Resurrection.

I might need to point out that we are never simply on only one of these steps: as in the process of maturing, we can be living on several steps at once, sometimes even seemingly moving

backwards.

The question is whether we have any awareness of what we are doing, what we are trying to do, whether we make any progress and seek for higher things.

And do we press on, trusting God, in spite of the dangers, traps, and diversions?

In today's Gospel, Christ sends us into the world and prays for us, not just because of the exterior problems that we will have, but also because of the problems that we will face in staying really faithful to Him as we grow in the faith through its various stages and move towards a real spiritual maturity.

All of this will move us into the life of the Trinity because we are now so like Christ and have had the same experiences.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

COLLECTION FOR WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Mass Collections received through PayNow, cash or cheques during the week 24 to 29 May 2020 will constitute receipts for our Archdiocese Media Apostolate.

During this **CIRCUIT BREAKER** period, the entire grounds of the Church of St Ignatius is closed to the public. For your health and safety, please do not enter church grounds. The pedestrian passageway/staircase next to the main church building is also closed until further notice.

If you have any business to transact with the parish office during this period, please first contact us by telephone (6466 0625) or email (administrator@stignatius.org.sg) and we will advise you on how to proceed.

A **LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN** session entitled *Sundays with Jesus* is available at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/>

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Fr Colin Tan, SJ for this weekend 24 May, is available at Weekly Sunday Reflection: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home>

WEBCAST MASSES at 12 noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Presided by Fr. Jerome Leon, SJ. Please go to www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj The webcast will come online 3 minutes before noon. The video will not be accessible after the webcast.

All are welcome to join Fr. Ravi, SJ and our youth community, De Vita Christi, for **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** "live" on YouTube, every Wednesday, 8pm -10pm. The link will be posted on Telegram.

Fr Colin Tan, SJ is available for **TELE-MEETING** with 10 parishioners daily. Call the office (6466 0625) to leave your name and number. He will be happy to return your call. Or email him at csi.pp@catholic.org.sg

THANK YOU CHERYL LEK

Cheryl joined us in August 2017 and during her time as a Youth Co-ordinator, she has been a tireless worker who was involved in the formation of many of our youths in the DVC group and other youths as well. She has been a very dedicated, committed staff member who inspired many to have a life of prayer and faith. We wish her God's blessings and joy in serving in another ministry in the Catholic faith.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SUPPORT CHARITIES WEEK

Every year Caritas Singapore aims to raise \$7 million during the Charities Week campaign to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family. With COVID-19, donations to the campaign this year have been severely reduced due to the closure of churches and businesses working from home. Charities Week envelopes are not reaching the community as before. Caritas Singapore appeals to you to share their work with your family and friends, and invite them to support their Charities Week campaign. Details of the campaign are available at <https://www.caritas-singapore.org/donate>. Please help Caritas Singapore reach their target on giving.sg. Go to <http://bit.ly/2FVwqab>. Your support will enable them to support people in need, especially the poor and vulnerable, through these uncertain times.

BANNS OF ORDINATION

Due to the current circuit breaker measures in place, Brother Justin Yip's diaconate ordination which was scheduled for 25 May will be postponed until further notice.

JOB OPENING FOR PROJECT/ADMINISTRATION MANAGER FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ASIA (CHCA)

CHCA has been established canonically by The Vatican (Holy See) at the request of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM) and is currently in the process of becoming a civil, legal entity in Singapore. There are Canonical Statutes and Civil Constitution that outline the structure and responsibilities of CHCA. The Project/ Administrative Manager role is to support the administration and management of CHCA, and it will grow and evolve with time. Currently the job is part-time and flexible. Applicants should be proficient in use of the full range of Microsoft programmes. This is a Contract for Service. Interested applicants can send their resumes to: reginalim.chca@gmail.com. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

ANGELICO ART AWARD

This may be the perfect time for artists to stop, slow down, reflect on and give expression to this theme "I Will Recount all Your Wonders." Psalm 9:2.

Even if you're are not an artist, it may be a good prayer space to contemplate with drawing or image.

- Deadline 15 August 2020.
- Open to all (regardless of religion), 14 years and above.
- Organised by Heartspace, in support of the Catholic Foundation.
- Please go to www.angelicoart.com for more details.

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 ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator ★ Robert Ong Sacristan

David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager