



The Holy Spirit At Work Around Us

Just as the early Christian community some 2000 years ago waited patiently for the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the Singaporean community here awaits patiently for 2 June to welcome the lifting of major restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to greater freedom of movement — to relish things that we miss during this period of “lockdown” — visiting parents/grandparents, going to the office and school, healthcare services, etc. In short, to experience the new “normality” of life, after having stayed at home for two months.

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates one of the most important solemnities in its liturgical year, the great Feast of Pentecost or the Descent of the Holy Spirit among us, followers of the Risen Christ. What does the Solemnity of Pentecost have to do with this time of the pandemic that is gripping some of us with fear and uncertainty of the future? The words and message of Jesus on this day of Pentecost have much to offer and comfort us, amidst this pandemic. Jesus says, “*Peace be with you*. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “*Receive the Holy Spirit.*”

The two important words for me in this passage of the gospel are, “*Peace*”



and “*Receive*”. Both of these connote the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit, in giving and in receiving. This Feast of Pentecost is Jesus’ gift to all of us, reminding us that He is still with us

today through the Holy Spirit, working tirelessly among people of good will, even in the midst of this pandemic.

How do we know that the Holy Spirit is well and alive in and among us? Just take a walk outside your home (be not afraid, and not walk too far away), and you will witness the presence of the Spirit at work. I usually take my evening brisk walk around the estate, and these days, I see more parents with their children out for some form of family exercise activities, couples walking together and talking, people taking responsibility for their own health, and for others by wearing their face masks outdoors, family members and friends taking turns to buy and send food for their elderly parents, essential workers continuing to serve the community in spite of the threat of infection, especially for those working for the migrant workers in quarantine areas or in hospital, scientists and researchers working earnestly to develop a vaccine to combat this COVID 19, and even some of our selfless priests, going around to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to those most in need, and celebrating Masses for the recently deceased.

If only we have the eyes of faith to see the presence of the Holy Spirit ever at work around us, then our fears and uncertainties may gradually subside. And in the midst of this pandemic, we must continue to support and remind each other of the message of Pentecost, “*Peace be with you*” and “*Receive the Holy Spirit*”. A peace that the world cannot give, and with the Holy Spirit within us today, we can do immeasurably more than we can possibly imagine during these tiring times, for the good of our family and the community. As we wait patiently for 2 June, I would like to leave you with a lovely saying from a Sufi mystic, “*Fear knocked on the door, love answered, and no one was there!*”

FR CHARLES SIM, SJ

PARISH NEWS

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) 2020/2021

Begins 4 August (every Tuesday, 8.00pm to 10.00pm). Introduce friends or family to our Catholic faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors.

Registration opens 1 June for Inquirers of the Catholic Faith, and Sponsors and Facilitators. Enrol at tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia at stignatius.org.sg. Contact Teddy (9745 8313) or Angela (6466 0625).



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 in their donations. You may mail a cheque to 120 King's Road, Singapore 268172. The cheque should be made payable to SSVP - Conf of St Ignatius. Cheques, addressed to 120 King's Road, Singapore 268172. 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.

RAISE THE PRAISE, an evening concert with Jesse Manibusan, Villimar Jansen and featuring Frs Derek, Kamelus and Edward. Video footage is available at our parish website, <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/gallery/video-gallery>

With the end of **CIRCUIT BREAKER** on 1 June and entering into Phase 1 of the Gradual Resumption of Business Activities in phases starting from 2 June, the Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore has decided that churches will remain closed for private worship during this phase. Refer to Archbishop William Goh's latest letter at <https://www.catholic.sg/>

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/>

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.

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Fr Colin Tan, SJ for this weekend 31 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.

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

RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Mrs K. Rajalingam – 91 years old
Departed: 23 May 2020

Kathleen Helen Gabriel – 91 years old
Departed: 23 May 2020

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ST GABRIEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL E-OPEN HOUSE

In view of the COVID19 situation, St Gabriel's Primary School will be having an E-Open House instead from 30 May to 6 June. Details at www.stgabrielspri.moe.edu.sg

CBN CAREER COUNCELLING SERVICE is now available via Zoom. You can have discussions with a trained counsellor on Career Exploration, Career Planning, Career Transitions, Workplace Challenges, Job Search Strategies etc. Call 9111 7335 or email admin@cbn.sg. There will be a nominal charge of \$10 to cover administration costs.

CLARITY'S STAY-HOME SERIES ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Obtain self-help tips and mental health support.
INTRODUCTION TO OCD: Breaking the Cycle, 8 June (Registration closes 4 June)
INTRODUCTION TO AUTHENTICITY: Becoming, 15 June (Registration closes 11 June)
INTRODUCTION TO DEPRESSION: Lighting the Way, 17 June (Registration closes 14 June)
All lessons are free, via Zoom, 2.00pm – 3.30pm.
Visit tinyurl.com/claritybtcweekday

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