



The Body of Christ Christ For, In and With Us

Eating is necessary to staying alive. Angels do not need to eat because they do not have a body. This should be obvious and yet we forget that Jesus has given us what is needed to sustain our life — not just for our body that needs food, but for our soul to be given spiritual food — the Eucharist.

We also know that hunger remains a problem in this world as many people do not have enough of the food they need to live an active, healthy life. According to Mercy Corps, 821 million people still go to bed hungry each night. That is one in nine persons. 20m million people are currently at risk of famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Nigeria.

Such a concern has being incorporated into a way of greeting and caring for the wellbeing of the other in the Chinese way of asking someone they meet: “Have you eaten?” (*nǐ chī bǎo le ma?*) Since young I have been puzzled by this way of greeting. If I say no, does it mean that I will be given a free meal? My grandma would always see to it that I had a meal before I started any work when I used to help her. For me, it was an expression of not just care, but of love as well.

Isn't this the whole point of what Jesus is telling us in giving us the living bread? “I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life ...” (Jn 6:53). There is a deeper realisation that Jesus gives us what is essential for our salvation and wellbeing. His love is shown more in deeds than in words. Indeed, it is the supreme expression of love and total self-giving of Himself so that we might have life, and an

abundance of it.

I remember a fight I had with my brother when we were children. We should have been punished by our parents by being deprived of our meals. Yet, their love for us always outweighed our hurts, and the grief that we had caused them by our bad behaviour. God is like that too. God does not allow the infidelity, the insults, the doubts, betrayal and stubbornness of His people to withhold His care in feeding them. Moses struck the rock to break and bring forth water for the people to drink in the desert. When they murmured and complained that they had no meat, God sent them manna (bread) from heaven until Joshua and the people with the priest carrying the Ark of the Covenant had touched the waters of Jordon and crossed into the Promised Land. From that day, on the Passover, they were to eat the produce of that land of Canaan “unleavened bread and roasted corn and the manna stopped falling.” (Jos 5:12)

When manna was halted, there was a hiatus for over 1400 years (the year that they crossed into Canaan) until the coming of Christ into our world to resume a new feeding with his body and blood given up for the life of the world. It is incredible to think that we now have the privilege to receive the Body and Blood of Christ again in the Sacred Liturgy of the Church when we celebrate

the Eucharist. It is this divine and human action coming together in Christ acting through the ministry of the ordained priesthood, in Persona Christi, that bread of heaven is made present and real to us in that Sacrament of Love. In the words of my Professor, Fr Raymond Moloney, SJ, who taught us Sacramental Theology, he said at the Presider's (ie the priest or bishop) consecration with the invocation of the Holy Spirit at Mass, “What appears as bread is no longer bread but the body of Christ; what appears as wine, is no longer wine but the blood of Christ.” The meaning for us is that Christ is present and acts to transform the host/bread and blood into the Eucharistic food for our pilgrim journey to heaven.

Indeed, we are already given a foretaste of the heavenly banquet here on earth. This is the great gift and privilege of baptised Catholics to become what we eat — to be **alter Christus**, another Christ to others in the world. This is how we are called to be feeding the Body of Christ to the hungry; giving water to the thirsty; visiting the sick and lonely in hospital and prisoners in prison, and clothing the poor — all because we have been first fed by Christ Himself. This is our mission given to us by Christ and it has made all the difference because Christ is — *for us, in us and with us.*

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

Come and experience the fullness of life

at St Ignatius Church

Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

**RCIA 2020/2021 Journey begins on Tuesday, 4 August 2020, 8pm ★ Registration opens 1 June
Signup at: tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia ★ Contact: Angela (6466 0625) or Teddy (9745 8313)**

PARISH NEWS

Due to the stringent requirements imposed for the re-opening of churches by MCCY, please be reminded that St Ignatius Church will remain closed until further notice.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited this Wednesday 17 June to a "PRAYER THROUGH ART" WORKSHOP by Nicholas Lye. Be nurtured and renewed by the Lord through art and creativity, and experience His grace at work. Prepare blank sheets of paper and writing/colouring materials for the virtual session. Begins 8pm. Register via email at cpg.cosi@gmail.com

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.

Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

Registration opens 1 June for inquirers of the Catholic Faith, sponsors and facilitators.

Enrol at tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia at stignatius.org.sg. Contact Teddy (9745 8313) or Angela (6466 0625).

RAISE THE PRAISE, an evening concert with Jesse

SPONSOR



INQUIRER



Manibusan, Villimar Jansen and featuring Fr Derek, Fr Kamelus and Fr Edward. Video footage is available at our parish website, <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/gallery/video-gallery>

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISHIONERS

Our parish priests, Frs Colin, Jerome and Ravi would like to thank all parishioners for their thoughtfulness and generous donation to the Church, even though the Church is closed and all Masses have been suspended.

SUNDAYS WITH JESUS is a Liturgy of the Word for Children session, with homily by Fr Leslie Raj, SJ. It is available at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/>

All are invited 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 14 June, 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

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

Joanna Heng Gek Keow – 98 years old
Departed: 6 June 2020

John Lim Kim Quee – 70 years old

Departed: 10 June 2020

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CHINESE RCIA AT NOVENA CHURCH

Novena Church is starting a new Chinese RCIA programme 2020/2021 on 15 August. The online RCIA is on every Saturday at 3.15pm. Those interested may download the application form at <http://novenachurch.com/rcia/>
Registration closing date: 31 July

PARISH CER#3 (21-25 OCTOBER 2020)

Upon the advice of Archbishop William Goh, all CERs including PARISH CER#3 will be cancelled for the rest of 2020. We will keep you updated once we have the CER schedule for 2021.

CBN CAREER COUNSELLING 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.

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