



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Beyond The Long Defeat

I received a short email newsletter written by Justin McRoberts who described how it is in his failures or losses “that I find out who I really am”. (<https://mailchi.mp/radarradio/songrx-the-long-defeat>). It is in that deep dark of night, which we might not recognize as being anything to do with God, that our mettle comes to the fore. Did I give up on God? Did I seek comfort in earthly comforts?

These epochal times are showing us an opportunity unlike any other. The COVID-19 virus is creation, with its own impulse to life. We have our own impulses, but uniquely, we also have a transcendent dimension to ourselves. We reach out beyond ourselves in this transcendent dimension, trying to understand God, trying to think about ourselves thinking about ourselves. While God works within nature – God works with us, with His creation – it seems that we have an outsized influence on creation. (<http://anthropocene.info/>)

However, it seems like God, and creation, is showing us who has the last word. The central organizing ideology of most of our lives, of our current Anthropocene era, has been “the economy”. Yet, as Laura Basu acerbically pointed out, “what kind of a daft system means that if we put the brakes on and calm down for a few weeks the whole thing implodes?”

(https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/qj4ka5/covid-19-broke-the-economy-what-if-we-dont-fix-it) Does this mean we are working uphill against God and creation?

Maybe we have not understood this idea we cannot leave. Maybe we have misunderstood our being and the beings of God and of creation. Maybe we’re not in opposition – for that opposition is due to exclusion by another idea that has no place for God or creation in it. Exclusion means we’re implicitly agreeing to that idea, if we’re not actively working against it. #BlackLivesMatter has showed us some truth about staying silent.

So, what are we to do? Perhaps the psalmist has it right all along. Singing praise of God, being grateful for God and the good we have in our lives, help us to increase our senses of imagination (as we think over the good in our lives), wonder (as these experiences show God close to us) and compassion (as we are led to be more patient and accepting of other people when we are confident that God is with them too – if only they would “see”). Yes, doing as the psalmist proclaims will lead us to be more like God, to have God in our hearts, as Pope Francis tweeted. (<https://twitter.com/Pontifex/status/1273578708331192320>)

Looking back, just having God in

the center of our lives doesn’t mean we exclude everything else. That’s an impossibility – and also wilfully not letting God fully into our lives. I can tell you I’ve been moved to tears quite often due to #BlackLivesMatter even though I’m technically a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) over here in the US (<https://www.thebipocproject.org/>), as well as a visitor. Even then, I am still a human being – and so are many, many persons in all situations and contexts around us. That context is important for us to understand when we listen to them – not for us to box and circumscribe our actions and responses to them.

That’s the cross we have to bear, to be with others in difficult, vulnerable and complex situations, the idea we cannot leave behind. We come back to this idea time and time again, in the sacraments of the church like the Eucharist and other sacramental experiences such as our encounter with God in our prayers and in the eyes of the suffering. Walking with Jesus means having a share in suffering with his people, our people, all peoples – and creation.

We do not walk alone in this reality. God and creation has always been with us. Maybe now is the time to actively seek to dialogue with them, and with our brethren whom we have wilfully ignored. Part of dialogue means listening. The idea that is impossible to leave points to our freedom of choice, our infinite creativity and curiosity to engage with these new horizons, that is enabled by God that is always good to us, creation that supports us and the infinity of humanity in the people around us. Let us listen deeply, and journey together as God intended.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

While the Church is permitted to open for private worship, subject to MCCY guidelines, it is our priority to ensure that we provide a safe environment for our staff, volunteers and worshippers. Please go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/> for the latest updates and details.

CHURCH OFFICE OPERATING HOURS

From Monday 29 June, the church office is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, strictly by appointment only. Closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Communications via telephone, email and Telegram will be as usual. The King's Road church gate will remain closed until further notice.

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

WEEKEND MASS TIME DURING PHASE 2

On Tuesday 7 July, myCatholic.sg will begin allowing us to book a Mass to attend. For our parish, Mass timings are as follows:

Saturday 11 July 3.00pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Sunday 12 July 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 3.00pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Please note that carparking is available only at the King's Road Church basement carpark.

For more details, please go to stignatius.org.sg

Live streaming of Weekend Masses will be at these times:

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm.

WEBCAST MASSES at 6.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. 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.

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Fr Colin Tan, SJ, for this weekend 28 June, is available at Weekly Sunday Reflection: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home>

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.

Come and experience the fullness of life
at St Ignatius Church
Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

RCIY 2020/2021
Journey begins on
Saturday, 25 July 2020,
4.00pm
Find out more at:
www.rciy.sg

RCIA 2020/2021
Journey begins on
Tuesday, 4 August 2020,
8.00pm
Sign up at:
tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited via Zoom for an evening of prayer for the Conversion of Hearts and Peace in the World. Let us turn to the Lord and seek His graces so God's love and peace can reign on earth, as in heaven. This Wednesday 1 July, 8pm to 9.30pm. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for link details.

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 is now OPEN 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).

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest

Fr Jerome Leong, SJ Assistant Parish Priest * Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator * Suzie Wee Parish Accountant * Robert Ong Sacristan

David Saw Operations Manager * Steven Leong Facilities Manager

Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator * Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator

Therese Gian Communications Manager

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTH (RCIY) 2020/2021

Do you know youths who are seeking God? Or do you feel called to journey and help non-Catholics find God? New cycle begins 25 July. Sessions are every Saturday, 4-6pm. Find out more at www.rciy.sg

RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

James Joseph Oei - 89 years old
Departed: 19 June 2020

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

A CALL TO TEACH IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Attention all MOE educators! If you are interested in answering the call to teach in a Catholic School, or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, join our mailing list. Fill up the form accessible via the QR code. MOE Open Posting Exercise: The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) has compiled a list of vacancies in our Catholic schools in 2021. ACCS will email you the instructions to access this list. (29 June-24 July)



St Ignatius Church is looking for

YOUTH COORDINATOR

We are looking for a Christ-centred and dynamic individual to provide comprehensive and holistic ministry and formation to youth and young adults within our parish. You will be primarily responsible for journeying with and sustaining the development of our vibrant and growing youth community. As a leader of leaders you will have the opportunity to engage, communicate with and inspire individuals in their respective faith journeys. You will also collaborate across the community in the conduct of parish events and initiatives.

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Personal spirituality and ability to accompany and support individual youths through their faith journey
- Strong leadership skills with the ability to inspire others and lead by example
- High level of accountability and organisational skills
- Emotional competence and a good sense of healthy boundaries
- Ability to teach, lead worship, run cell groups
- Experience in social media communications, conflict resolution and facilitation

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

We are looking for a creative and experienced individual to lead in conceptualising, overseeing and coordinating all internal and external communications across our parish platforms, ensuring its message is consistent with the wider parish vision and goals. You will be primarily responsible for formulating and implementing effective communications strategies and guidelines. You will also collaborate closely with stakeholders to plan and manage the design, content and production of communication materials in meeting the parish communication needs.

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience in communications via social media and digital media platforms
- Experience in designing EDMs, posters and other digital marketing content
- Experience in planning and executing communications strategy and campaigns
- Ability to work independently while managing interpersonal relationships and networking with parish ministries and external stakeholders
- Ability to multitask and work well under pressure.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.

Interested applicants, please submit full resume with salary expected to csi.hr@catholic.org.sg