



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Good Soil and Excellent fruits

Many of us may find it hard to connect to agricultural imagery when Jesus speaks of the Parable of the Sower or of the Fig Tree or the Mustard Seed. Yet, they are important means by which Jesus is able to win the hearts and minds of His followers allowing them to “listen” and ponder on the deeper significance of His messages.

Indeed, what we miss living in an urban city is our connection with nature and the countryside. When I visit other countries where I can see land full of orchards with exotic fruits like cherries, pears, persimmons, kiwi fruits, peaches and apples -- without fail my face will light up with joy and my eyes would gaze at them with delight and wonder.

The adage is still profound, “Good soil bears good fruit.” Yet, we know that not all the seeds that the sower throws will fall on good soil and survive. Some of them will be lost on path edges, on rocky patches and others, among thorns. These are the unreceptive places where the seeds will be in danger of being eaten by birds or not taking root or scorched by the hot sun.

It is only the seeds that fall on good, fertile soil that will bear fruits eventually. We know that God is the one who sows the seeds of faith and goodness in our hearts. It is up to us

to accept or reject them. We can decide if we want them to take root in our hearts and bear fruit of virtue. Conversely, we sometimes unwittingly allow the enemy to sow seeds of vices in our mind and we end up bearing rotten fruits in our lives. If they are bad seeds and bad plants, don't be afraid to weed them out!

We must be discerning and receptive to be partners of God and get good seeds from Him to sow seeds of kindness and goodness in our world. Indeed, what we sow is what we will also reap. Let us not be afraid to sow the seeds of faith, hope and love around us. If a good person with a good heart is ready to receive them, God will see to it that they will bear fruit.

On this note, I would like to ask you to invite anyone — friends, family, colleagues to consider joining the RCIY and RCIA programmes for this year which I will be conducting for the first time. They begin on 25 July and 4 August respectively. Registration is now open and for more information, contact Teddy (9745 8313) or the church office (6466 0625). Or just submit the names of your friends who wish to know more about the Catholic faith and begin the exciting journey of discovering God's love for us and we will follow up.

Sometimes all it takes is to ask, “Would you like to know more about



ONLINE FEAST DAY MASS

Join us in person or online for our Feast Day Mass at 12.15pm on Sunday 26 July 2020. This Mass will mark the opening of our Jubilee year (St Ignatius Church will be 60 years old in Singapore). A short celebratory video and address after Mass will be available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiRylonn1ZL2ARrfxOEO6Q>

God's love for you and the Catholic faith?” Dare to sow this seed of faith among your friends and family. If they are ready, they will respond. If not, let God patiently do the watering and waiting until they are ready to respond. May God give you good soil, good seeds and an abundance of excellent fruits!

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

Bible Sunday 12 July 2020

Join one of the many bible study groups in our parish. Check them out at <http://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/faith-formation/bible-apostolate-team-bat-ministry/the-pilgrim-group>.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 early this year, many ministries including bible groups under BAT@Stlg had to suspend bible sessions at church. Nevertheless, bible groups feel that it is important to be fed by the Word of God during this troubling period. Many groups took up the challenge of starting or resuming bible sessions virtually via Zoom. Even those who were not IT-savvy, took on the challenge of joining the virtual bible sessions as they see the importance of breaking the Word together with friends.

This weekend we celebrate the gift of the Word of God who is with us even if we are unable to go to church for Mass. Here are some thoughts of those who have found how Scripture study has helped them during this period.

“It’s been a very enriching experience of being able to connect through tough times when social distancing is necessary.

It is the bible study that provides the necessary social connection via Zoom and community for our ongoing learning and study of God’s Word. Two in one.”

Vanessa Samuel

I feel rather blessed to have the Word of God to keep me centered during the weeks of “isolation”.

The retreat study also taught us to entrust ourselves to Jesus through Mary, accepting her help to bring us back to the Fountain of Mercy. So apt during this time of uncertainty.

I spent time pondering on Ecclesiastes thinking I should get some wisdom from Solomon especially since I seem to be even more busy than ever! I was reminded my work, my talents are gifts from God for His purpose, so we must receive them with joy & humility giving praise and thanks to God. For stripped of God’s purpose our toil is in vain. **Juliana Ding**



“We have a positive virtual bible study experience. Meeting online is not difficult using the Zoom platform and even our pioneer generation participants learnt to join online. Our weekly meetings provided a sense of normalcy in these anxious and trying times, keeping our hearts and minds focused on our Lord. He graces us by providing the means for us to continue to support one another on our faith journey in the safety of our homes and without the hassle and dangers of venturing out to meet one another.”

Vivienne Foo

The Word of God strengthens my faith and helps me to trust in God fully, especially in this unprecedented situation. **Venessa Anggono**



the day to spend on the Word (and related books and videos). This has turned out to be an empowering experience as I come to a deeper understanding of Him, of who we are as His

beloved creatures, and of how best we should live our lives even in challenging times like now. God is my strength.”

Charly Kojongian

“I realise the lockdown is short compared to Noah’s. Helps me to realise what really matters in the end. Keeps me rooted and busy.” **Jennette**

“Wonderful, spiritually igniting and finding lots of time to have a relationship with the Good Lord.”

Anita Tye

Gives me the hope that everyday is a chance for a fresh new start, and not to fear the arrow (Covid-19) that flies by day nor the terror by night. **JJ Gonzales**

“I’m happy to be studying the Word of God even during this pandemic. We are able to learn from Scripture and that shows Covid-19 cannot stop our desire to want to learn more about God.”

Florence

We are studying Acts right now and it reminds me of the scattered early disciples — they were writing letters to each other! And yet they were one with God and each other through their reverence for Jesus’s Holy name and with the intercession of the Holy Spirit. What they went through is immense compared to what we are currently experiencing. And yet they kept the fire burning. **Jeremiah Yeu**

“Studying God’s Word has provided an immense sense of hope.” **Vanessa Samuel**

“Provides comfort and consolation, and sustains my faith in spite of the fact that we’re not physically able to go to church.” **Joyce Ang**

“I have always started my day with the Word of God. But the current situation offers me more time during



Take the Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate (ABA)'s Bible Quiz quiz by going to the ABA website at <https://biblicalapostolate.wordpress.com/>



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

IGNATIAN PILGRIMAGE

Follow The Footsteps of St. Ignatius in Daily Life

Join Fr Pham for an 8-day online retreat via Zoom about what we can learn from the journey of St. Ignatius to Rome. He will guide you through a series of daily exercises, reflection questions and more, all leading up to St. Ignatius' Feast Day!
Date: July 23 – 30, 2020
Time: 8pm – 10pm
To sign up, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ignatianpilgrimage>
For questions, contact Gerard: csi.youth1@catholic.org.sg

PARISH NEWS

LATEST UPDATES ON MASS RESUMPTION

Please go to [www. https://stignatius.org.sg/](https://stignatius.org.sg/) and our church Telegram channel for updates and guidelines for the resumption of Weekend Masses.

PARISH OFFICE OPERATING HOURS

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.

YOUNG ADULTS FORMATION

16 July Thursday 8:30-10pm via Zoom. Calling all Catholic young adults! DVC Crossing is organizing a series of formation sessions for young adults seeking to deepen their faith. Join us for our inaugural session on "Making Sense of Our Restlessness" led by Fr. Ravi, SJ. Email youngadultsformation@gmail.com to sign up.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Fr Eugene Lee, CSsR, shares about "Gratitude Spirituality". An awareness on the importance to understand and practise gratefulness in our journey of faith. What

are our "Thank You" moments that we often overlook in our lives? All are welcome this Wednesday, 15 July, 8pm. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for more details.

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/>

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

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).

SPONSOR



INQUIRER



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 who has a desire

to serve with the spirit of Christ and work in a faith based organisation, 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 inter-personal relationships and networking with parish ministries and external stakeholders
- Ability to multitask and work well under pressure.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.

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

Interested applicants to submit resume to csi.hr@catholic.org.sg