



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Hospitality Given and Received

When we hear the account of the feeding of the five thousand, we often marvel at the great show of God's power in the light of human need. I'd like to suggest looking at this from a slightly different angle. Jesus feeding of the multitude is an example of God's great hospitality, a virtue that we see in myriad forms all over Scripture. We hear how the Israelites were brought out of slavery into a land flowing with milk and honey and how Elijah was provided with food by the widow at Zarephath, who was rewarded for her generosity with flour and oil that would never run out. God's hospitality is clear and Jesus just made it that much clearer as he welcomed the sick, the lame, the outcast, and everyone who were at the margins of society. His concern for others was a constant during his public ministry, even to the point of welcoming the good thief into Paradise while they were hanging on the cross.

Hospitality is all about attentiveness to the needs of others — recognising that everyone, even those whom we are not so familiar with, are also children of God and have the same needs as we do. Jesus was deeply moved by the large crowd he met after getting off the boat and stayed with them to heal the sick. That's the initial movement of hospitality, which was the immediate attending to their needs. Then this hospitality got deeper as they came to the later part of the day. Instead of sending them away as his disciples recommended, Jesus saw to their immediate needs of food and rest. Jesus, the Son of God, was attentive to the needs of all those who followed him, to the extent that he did all in his miraculous power to ensure that these needs were met. For us, even though we

can't multiply fish and bread as he did, it's well within our power to be attentive to those around and to render assistance that is necessary.

The other thing about hospitality is that it recognises the vulnerability of the other, and that at some point we're all vulnerable. I remember several years ago when I was on a walking pilgrimage with a Jesuit companion along the Camino Ignaciano in Spain, feeling quite vulnerable as we were exposed to the elements and the smallest and most insignificant things on the trails. We passed many fruit orchards along the way, looking longingly at the ripe fruit. At one orchard, we heard a friendly voice calling us in and though we spoke no Catalan and he spoke no Italian, he managed to get us to give him a plastic bag, which he promptly filled with the plump and juiciest pears he could find. We were immensely moved by this act of hospitality and kindness, prompted partly by our tired and bedraggled state. That farmer saw our vulnerability and sought to give us aid. Just as the crowds put themselves in a vulnerable state in their desire to follow the Lord, we too would find ourselves in similar situations in our faith lives, needing the hospitality of others, and being humble and grateful enough to accept it.

Thus, we see that hospitality is something that has to be given and received. There's a beauty in

the reciprocity that emerges from being hospitable and receiving it, recognising that we all have gifts that we're invited to share with each other. We've received all we have from God, and received abundantly as the prophet Isaiah so beautifully reminded us — Come eat and drink without cost, delight in the richness of God's providence! Our being hospitable and sharing in the gifts that we've received is very much like the disciples offering the five loaves and two fishes — they participated in the hospitality of Jesus through their own sharing, allowing Jesus to amplify that small gift to something that's truly amazing. They couldn't have fed the crowds themselves, but by being generous and sharing the gifts they had, they were able to participate in the power of God to help feed the multitudes.

And so, perhaps this can be a timely reminder to us all, to be attentive to the needs of others, to recognise who are the ones who are vulnerable, and to share what we have with those who are in need. Even though our current situation does not allow physical contact and non-essential movement, I believe it's still possible for us to reach out, in small ways, to show this hospitality, so that we too can participate in the Lord's generosity and providence for the world and all those around us.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

PUBLIC HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed and there will be no Mass on NATIONAL DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY on Monday 10 August.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN – DAY OF OBLIGATION

Friday 14 August, 7.00pm, is the Vigil Mass of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COLUMBARIUM NICHE APPLICANTS

Parishioners who have booked niches with receipt nos: **0561, 0320, 0306** or **0289**, please contact Angela at church office 6466 0625. Or email csi.admin@catholic.org.sg as soon as possible for further details.

MASSES DURING PHASE 2

myCatholic.sg is open for Mass bookings for August.
Mass timings for St Ignatius:
WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm.
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 3.00pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm
Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 3.00pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm.
Parking is ONLY at the King's Road basement car park.
Go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/> and our church Telegram channel for updates, guidelines to the resumption of Masses.

PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

St Ignatius Church Singapore will be 60 years old in 2021. A short celebratory video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiRylnrn1ZL2ARrfxOEO6Q> to mark a year long celebration of our Diamond Jubilee.

ST IGNATIUS YOUNG ADULTS' FORMATION

Do you know Catholic young adults who are looking to deepen their faith? Join us for our Young Adults' Formation that's open to all regardless of parish affiliation! The first series on "Living Water" is ongoing until 2 September, fortnightly on Wednesdays, 8.30 – 10.00pm via Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/30aZJAv>. For information, email youngadultsformation@gmail.com

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. 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). Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

SPONSOR



INQUIRER



CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

All are invited to a Bible Sharing this Wednesday 5 August, 8pm. In 1 Kings 3:5, God asks King Solomon what gift he would want from God. Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom, and his reason pleased God. How would we respond if God asked us the same question? And why? Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for 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/>

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Fr Colin Tan, SJ, for this weekend 2 August, is available at Weekly Sunday Reflection: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home>

WEBCAST MASSES

Starting from 3 August, with the resumption of weekday Masses, webcast Masses will be shifted to 6.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Presided by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ. Go to www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj. The webcast will come online 3 minutes before 6.00pm. Videos will not be accessible after the Mass.

CONFESSION IS available by appointment only. Please call the church office (Angela/Suzie) at 6466 0625 or email church@stignatius.org.sg

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Pilomena Chan Gek Sim – 83 years old
Departed: 26 July 2020

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

"The minute you walk outside your church on Sunday, you're in mission territory." *Bishop Robert Barron*
This week, find opportunities to Tell Others About Jesus.



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