



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

*Psalm response: O God, let all the nations praise you!*

Jesus lived in a time of great cultural and religious diversity, and the Jews of His time tried valiantly to hold on to their identity in this situation. Keeping the Law and its strictures, and doing everything in a "kosher" manner, guaranteed that they were being faithful to God in a visible and measurable way. It is similar to attitudes alive in the Church even today.

We might keep that in mind as we consider today's Gospel (Matt 15:21-28). On the surface it appears that Jesus treats this pagan woman badly, but it is in the middle of a passage where He deals with pagans quite a bit. After walking on water (Matt 14:22-33), He goes to Gennesaret apparently to heal pagans; it is all that He does there. Then the Pharisees attack Jesus and He explains what

truth and cleanliness ("kosher") actually are, a matter of the heart rather than what passes into the sewer. Next comes this healing of a pagan woman's daughter.

We also remember that He heals the Samaritan leper ("Were not ten made clean?", Luke 11-19) and the centurion's son (certainly a foreigner, one who maintains Roman power over Israel, Matt 8:5-13), and He also uses a heretic in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

The point is that Jesus is nowhere near as negative about pagans as today's Gospel text seems to indicate. We need to remember that Jesus is a *teacher*, and He treats this woman with a certain respect calling her to confess her faith in Him.

As always, the question is how this

applies to us. Because of our sins we are not pure and holy, but are distant from God, at least partially by our own choice, yet that does not mean that we are not loved.

We do need to work at eliminating sin from our lives, but that should not be our principal focus. What is far more effective than that eradication is the positive work which we do to develop the virtues, and our concrete and personal practice of love and encouragement. Working on those virtues and practices, which are the opposite of our sins and failings, is actually far more effective than simply scratching and scraping away at what we want to remove from our lives. It puts a healthy life where there is decay and death, and that simply gives such things less hold on us. Working directly on our sins and focusing exclusively on them can give us the impression that we can achieve holiness on our own, that we can make ourselves lovable to God, but that is a pagan attitude. God loves us, and if we try to live in His grace we can trust Him to take care of our sin and guilt (consider the Pharisee and the Publican in the Temple, Luke 18:9-14).

Like this woman we also need to practise insistent prayer; Jesus Himself spoke of the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8). We also need to trust in God.

**CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ**

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

## Learning to Live in

# God's Grace

## PARISH NEWS

### MASSES DURING PHASE 2

myCatholic.sg will open for Mass bookings for September on 25 August.

Mass timings for St Ignatius Church:

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 for the resumption of Masses.

### LIVESTREAM MASSES

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm

Please go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/>

Tuesday and Thursday, 6.00pm. Presided by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ. Please go to [www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj](https://www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj)

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 6.00pm

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

Please note that livestreams will only be available during Mass time and will not be accessible after the Mass.

### VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium will be open for visits on Sundays, starting from 16 August. There will be 3 visit sessions each Sunday 9-9.45 am, 11-11.45am, and 1-1.45pm. The number of visitors per session is limited to 30, so do not visit unless your booking is confirmed by phone call or WhatsApp.

Make your provisional booking at:

<https://forms.gle/o3b1KN1nLS5d9zNf7> or use the QR code.



If you are not able to book through this Google Form, please call the church office 6466 0625 (Angela/Suzie) for assistance. After office hours, WhatsApp/SMS 9675 6621.

### SATURDAY ROCKERS

Come to better understand Jesus, become more familiar with Scripture, and realize your own priestly, prophetic and kingly mission received at Baptism. Saturday Rockers invites all to our next Bible study, based on Bishop Robert Barron's "Priest, Prophet, King" program. A 7-session study on Saturdays at 1.30pm via Zoom, begins October (date to be confirmed). WhatsApp Charly at 9100 7401 for details.

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

A Sharing on JOURNEY TO RESTORATION. In times of suffering and sickness, we earnestly seek healing from our Lord. But we often fail to search deeper into the

roots and to put our lives in order. Our Lord restores us to the person we are intended to be. All are invited this Wednesday 19 August, 8.00pm. Email [cpg.cosi@gmail.com](mailto:cpg.cosi@gmail.com) for details.

### 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! 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](mailto: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](http://www.rciy.sg)

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

Every Tuesday, 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Introduce friends or family to our Catholic faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors.

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

Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

**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/>

**DAILY REFLECTION** with Fr Jerome, SJ  
Please go to [www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj](https://www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj)

**WEBCAST MASSES** are NOW at 6.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Presided by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ. Go to [www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj](https://www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj)  
The webcast will come online 3 minutes before 6.00pm. Videos will not be accessible after the Mass.

**WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION** with Fr Colin Tan, SJ  
Please go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/>

### 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/UCiRylnrn1ZL2ARfxOEO6Q> to mark a year long celebration of our Diamond Jubilee.

### RIP NEWS – RISEN IN THE LORD

Donna Ann Wing Ping Wong – 69 years old  
Departed: 6 August 2020

Teresina Celeste de Silva – 94 years old  
Departed: 8 August 2020

Seline Lim Puay Sung – 92 years old  
Departed: 10 August 2020

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

**ALPHA SINGAPORE** welcomes you to Transforming Parishes 2020: An evening of talks and worship.

Registration is open to all and we have delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, India, France, America, Britain, Ireland, Thailand, Australia and Colombia. Friday 28 August, 7.00pm. Go to <https://joinnow.my/tp20> for information and registration.

### BRAVE – CATHOLIC YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2020

Date : 10 – 31 October

Tickets : \$20 (\$10 for students)

Youths, between 16-35 years old, are invited to this virtual festival via Zoom, to have raw, authentic and valuable conversations about our mental health, and how it coexists with our Catholic faith in our journey towards mental well-being.

To register: [tinyurl.com/BRAVEfestreg](http://tinyurl.com/BRAVEfestreg)

W: <https://www.clarity-singapore.org>

### ANGELICO ART AWARD

In view of the Covid-19 disruptions, the submission deadline has been extended to 30 September. Stop, slow down, reflect on and give expression to this theme "I Will Recount all Your Wonders." Psalm 9:2.

- Open to all (regardless of religion), 14 years and above.
- Organized by Heartspace, in support of the Catholic Foundation.

CBN CAREER COUNSELLING SERVICE is now available on Zoom. You can have discussions with a trained counsellor on Career exploration, Career planning, Career transitions, Workplace challenges, job search strategies, etc. Call 9111 7325 or email [admin@cbn.sg](mailto:admin@cbn.sg). A nominal fee charge of \$10 to cover administration cost.

# Coming Out Of Darkness

*It's shaping up to be a brand new world, a situation that I thought I'd never encounter again. Yet there's the danger of not recognizing the old terrors that still exist versus those that are hidden, unrecognized or disenfranchised, as racism, and other prejudices cloud our reason and sight. Yes, it will all pass, but because even death is given a new meaning by the Holy Spirit that continues to live in all living things. With the reduction of all human activity, it could be a cooler summer. A poorer place to be, as the very rich get richer, for sure.*

*Maybe this is a time for a socio-cultural revolution, seeing that there are so many inequalities in society now, so many unnecessary sacrifices of our time that so diminished our families and relationships. We don't have to go back to those old systems. Those video chats, telephone calls, letters and other means of communication should continue and enrich our in person communication.*

*We need to live through this as if we're now in a new normal, a normal where we should try to choose to live more humanely as much as possible. It is possible if all of us believe and want the same thing. It is possible when we know what we want, or at least what we don't want. We might not be dreaming when this new world, in the midst of very painful labour pains, eventually, slowly, emerges.*

*Will we know ourselves better then? I hope so. I hope people take the trouble to write diaries, journals, any records of their thoughts now, so that they have signposts for the future. This future is ours. Let us not lose hope, sight, nor each other, as far as we can.*

Michael Phung SJ

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 ★ David Saw Operations Manager

Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Sacristan