



Anything Can Happen, But Not So With God

"For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen"
(NABRE Romans 11:36)

How have you weathered the ongoing pandemic? Are circumstances good at all? Is God "in charge" when we think everything is falling apart?

Peter's context is quite the opposite; topping events such as Jesus feeding four thousand and more with seven loaves and a few fish, and dismissing the Pharisees and Sadducees succinctly (Mt 15:29-16:12). Or is it?

Jesus rebukes Peter as Satan in the following verses. Anything can happen, if the world is left to itself for just a moment, as Peter demonstrates woefully, acting from his human perspective. Indeed, quantum physicists seem to have mathematically concurred recently, that a "radical relativity" can prevail. (<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/08/quantum-paradox-points-shaky-foundations-reality>) This means that facts might not be the same facts for two observers. Does that make fake news real for some? No, it shouldn't be.

Such a musing assumes that there is no God. Think about it. In leaving the world to its own devices, anything can happen if there isn't a plan and actors to carry it out. That's what that mathematical conclusion indicates. In the absence of God, nothing is certain.

Let's think about this for a while. In

the absence of love, nothing is certain. In the absence of mercy, nothing is certain. In the absence of hope, nothing is certain. If there is love, hope and mercy, is there certainty about the world? Maybe. We need more than that; we need to act in order to create a greater possibility of certainty. But it seems like God really holds the trump card for certainty more so than us, as He is more able and intentional than all of us.

Just to be clear, God is unbounded by this simple thought experiment. God's ways are not ours, and certainly not for us to dictate and to predict. Oftentimes, our discernment works in hindsight, and very narrowly and with limited insight into the future. Thus, what might seem certain — as Peter might have thought so — can be radically different in God's estimation.

This sense of certainty of God's can only be proposed by us for one moment, and only discerned in hindsight; sometimes revealed years after the actual events, like peeling back layers of an onion. What tradition and theology have shown so far is that God is in charge, and yes, unexpected things do happen; like the small little miracles we might come across everyday, those little coincidences and surprising joys, or prayers answered.

God has a position and opinion. He's not neutral, nor does He leave us to our own devices. How many times have we had an "a-ha" moment? When was the last time you had an inspiration, or sudden feelings of gratitude or peace came over you?

I think that the quantum physicists have indicated that such fortuitous happenstance has a great probability not to happen. Radical relativity means that there would be more confusion, misunderstanding, and chaos. Unsurprisingly, the world — despite these foundational quantum shenanigans — has been pretty supportive of us, in being quite predictable and good to us. Or maybe, radically speaking, the world is good according to God's design. In all that, we are very good indeed, according to God in the creation story of Genesis.

What follows from that creation story shows what can happen when we're left on our own, and it's not so good. Or, as in the USA, what happens when greed and ego trump the common good and other virtues.

Yet, with God's initiative, we can be inspired to great heights, as Peter was. It's not a great surprise, as Peter was living with Jesus, and literally close to Jesus. What about us?

Even if it seems chaotic, God can

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still be present, "hidden" from our limited perspective. The "pattern" of God in our lives is for us to discover. Do you know yours? Or would you prefer to chance chaos, and find (or not find) God in the moment? If you have a plan and intentions to carry it out, you'd want to avoid chaos. Being aware of God, praying and being in relationship with God where He can inspire and inform you, is key, not only for your plans, but for a good life.

May that be a reason to pray, pay attention to the Holy Spirit, and generally be close to God — not just in the Sacraments or reading the Bible, but mindfully in life too. Unlike medicine, this is not a singularly unpleasant task. There are many spiritualities to suit diverse temperaments and contexts. Explore, find a way of prayer and relating to God that is life-giving, and be blessed by the Spirit. May your path with God unfold graciously as you desire to be with Him.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ



ART-NATIAN — HAND IN HAND WITH GOD
Let go, and let God!

Michael Phung, SJ, is inviting you to an online gathering to pray visually, manually, and creatively with daily scripture readings. Wednesday 9 September – Sunday 29 November. You will be led through a core experience of a prayerful and simple non-verbal creative exercise, such as doodling (Monday, 9-9.50am EDT), mandalas (Tuesday, 7-7.50pm, EDT), zendoodles or zentangles (Thursday, 1.30-2.20pm, EDT), or paint sketching (Saturday, 3-3.50pm, EDT). Participants are NOT required to join all sessions (pick only those that fit your schedule and interest). Artistic and creative skills are NOT required. All faiths and backgrounds are welcome.

Cost: Free
Instructor: Michael Phung SJ, a Jesuit scholastic from Malaysia, belonging to the Malaysia-Singapore Jesuit region.
For more information and registration: <https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/offices/mission-ministry/sites/center-for-ignatian-spirituality/workshops.html>

Note that session times are according to Boston, USA which is 12 hours behind Singapore.



PARISH NEWS

MASSES DURING PHASE 2

myCatholic.sg is 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 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Infant Baptism will resume in September at 3.00pm.

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.

TO AMEND YOUR DETAILS AT MYCATHOLIC.SG

Please send an email to mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg with:

1. Email (that you use for registration)
2. Name
3. Contact number that the parishioner used when he/she signed up for an account
4. Amendment required

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

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 is open for visits on Sundays. There will be 3 sessions each Sunday until further notice: 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.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COLUMBARIUM NICHE APPLICANTS

Parishioners who have booked niches with receipt numbers 0561, 0320, 0306 and 0289. Please contact Angela at church office 6466 0625 or email csi.admin@catholic.org.sg as soon as possible for information required.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

At the Annunciation, God's messenger addresses Mary with "Hail Mary, full of grace". When Mary said "YES!" to

the will of God, her faith was concentrated on Jesus, the Son of God, who from her took flesh and in whom the promises of Salvation are fulfilled. All are invited this Wednesday 26 August, 8pm, for Intercessory prayers through Mary, our Blessed Mother. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

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.

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

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

Do you know youth who are seeking God? Or do you feel called to journey and help non-Catholics find God? Sessions are every Saturday, 4-6pm. Find out more at 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. 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).



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/>

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
The webcast will come online 3 minutes before 6.00pm.

Videos will not be accessible after the Mass.
DAILY REFLECTION with Fr Jerome, SJ
Please go to www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj

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/UCiRyIonn1ZL2ARfxOEO6Q> to mark a year long celebration of our Diamond Jubilee.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

If you have big questions about Christianity or know someone who does, Alpha is a series of sessions with a safe environment to ask questions or to discuss. Join us online every Thursday 8pm, from 10 Sept for Alpha in the Catholic context on Zoom! Believers and inquirers are all welcome. Interested or know someone who is? Please contact Michael at michael.chiam@alpha.org.sg

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
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. A nominal fee charge of \$10 to cover administration cost.

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