



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

## In Gratitude

**T**oday's Gospel is part of Jesus' teaching on being good and faithful people of God. Forgiveness is an obvious key, sandwiched in the middle of that larger narrative, that unlocks greater understanding of the verses before and after.

Jesus gives three stories that seem to be at odds to His teachings. The king didn't seem to forgive seventy-seven times, did he? Neither did the wretched servant, for sure. Though technically not about forgiveness, the servants who witnessed the wrong doings decided to report on that servant, rather than try to intervene or disrupt those injustices in a more merciful way.

Not surprisingly, forgiveness is not *carte blanche* to Tipp-Ex bad behaviour, or void justice. When did forgiveness happen? When there was remorse, an acceptance and acknowledgement of the wrong done, and a promise to reform or make reparations, forgiveness was extended to the servant.

A certain naiveté is realized, as if the debt did not exist, a concept woefully missing from our public sphere. It's a reason why imprisonment does not reform offenders, especially when their punishment continues outside of prison and takes away their humane options. To flourish, to be a human being, becomes a myth when surviving gets harder and demeaning.

Note that the memory of the wretched servant's loan was not forgotten. The king clearly remembered and drew comparisons when sentencing that servant. Yet, that memory did not prejudice the king until the wretched servant acted unjustly.

This is probably the hardest part of forgiveness, of maintaining that naiveté which clearly disturbs our emotions,

especially for wrongdoings that are personal and traumatic. Overcoming the effects of trauma, healing of memories and financial reparations, are difficult tasks or asks, especially if the injured party is also disenfranchised or rendered powerless in the forgiveness process, unlike the king.

Does this mean that the injured party should lead or preside over that process? Perhaps in a truth and reconciliation process, that seems natural. Our sense of justice as being blind might be too ingrained to leave behind immediately. Yet, if the king was blind to the wretched servant in the first place, that servant would not have experienced any forgiveness. Is this a problematic contradiction?

Leaving the parable aside, let us acknowledge two truths. One, God is incredibly generous and forgiving. Two, God does not suffer being made a fool. Or rather, God upholds justice and metes out justice accordingly. I would even propose that God's justice is wide-ranging in its scope, caring for the injured party and even the environment, which is God's creation and enabled by Him.

In comparison with our current justice system, how we forgive seems inefficient, or insufficient, or some may say, wishful thinking. Yet, isn't this an example of Jesus pushing us to grow as Christians? Justice, forgiveness and compassion do not preclude or replace each other, but should all be presently active in the world we live in. A maturity of conscience, love and trust in God is

needed. Forgiveness is key – not the only one – but also essential.

Strangely, I feel that if our relationships are based on this story, I'd be very sad. We're not God, we are not able to know a person through and through such that we can judge perfectly. I've had a recent experience of forgiveness that demonstrated how forgiveness papers over our deficiencies, and in its stead, facilitates love.

Parenting is unfair, someone said, because your children do not seem to love you as much as you love them. More precisely, they spoke about the difference in awareness, how children tend to be one step behind their parents in realizing the sacrifices made, until those children have their own offspring.

Likewise, forgiveness seems unfair, for the aggrieved party to not uphold retribution, for the king to exact such justice even though he is forgiving. The difference lies in the impact and effect of what is received and given. The compassionate king carries the personal burden of correcting injustices, a burden untouched by public accolade.

The model of Jesus Christ shows us as much. He loved, because He perceived that we all needed love, we needed to be saved. He bore the weight that injustices inflict, all too aware that these are not burdens offset on earth, but redeemed in heaven. He grew in maturity and loved us, unsparingly, unceasingly and with great compassion – more so than any parent. May we exemplify Christ to this muddled and complex world, and help care for one another just as lovingly.

**MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ**

## PARISH NEWS

### NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO PPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We are inviting nominations for candidates who would like to stand for election to the PPC executive committee or to nominate parishioners whom they consider suitable to serve the parish as PPC Exco members.

Elections will be held at the annual Parish Assembly on Saturday 17 October, 9.00am to 11.30am via Zoom video conferencing.

Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the parish office by Wednesday 16 September.

A letter from our parish priest and nomination form are available at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/about-us/parish-pastoral-council-parish-finance-council>.

**INFANT BAPTISMS** resumed in September every weekend at 2.30pm. There was an accumulation of many applicants due to the Circuit Breaker and Phase 2 restrictions. Infant Baptism Rites registration forms for baptisms from October 2020 onwards are available at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/infant-adult-baptism> OR from the church office.

Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contacts for October 2020 baptisms: Marilyn and Allan Redimerio (9697 9070), Brian and Lisa Ling (9760 0978 / 9818 5281).

### THE HOLY MASS — REVISITED AND EXPLAINED

*If we understood the Mass, we would die with joy.* – St Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney

The Order of Malta is conducting a mini-series of two online talks on the Holy Mass.

By Ian de Vaz

#### Part 1: GOING TO MASS – FROM DUTY TO DESIRE

Thursday, 17 September, 8.30-9.45pm

#### Part 2: A WALK THROUGH THE MASS

Thursday, 24 September, 8.30pm -9.45pm

Register via <https://forms.gle/8vwx3XyCNLZfbNM6>

A virtual **LANDINGS** run begins from Tuesday 15 September and every subsequent Tuesday, 8.00pm to 9.30pm until 27 October, with a retreat in the mornings of 24 & 25 October. Via Zoom, for details and registration go to <https://landings.typeform.com/to/AiLYx2Zn>

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Sustaining the Relationship: Many things drive us away from Jesus. We need to be constantly reminded to cling to the vine, for apart from Him, we can do nothing. He does not compete with us but sustains us. We need to do our

part to sustain the relationship through recognising our faults, reconciling with Him and developing good habits of holiness. All are invited this Wednesday 16 September at 8pm. Email [cpj.cosi@gmail.com](mailto:cpj.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.

### 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.

Looking for volunteers (below 60 years old, registered at St. Ignatius with MARS, and not already volunteering at weekday or weekend Masses) to help with safety measures at the Columbarium on Sundays, and possibly Saturdays if there are enough volunteers. Please WhatsApp 9675 6621.

### MASSES DURING PHASE 2

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.

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.

### UPDATES ON THE MASS ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION SYSTEM (MARS)

You can now cancel your Mass booking up to 48 hours before Mass begins

You may edit your name, date of birth and mobile number on the MARS profile page. However to edit

### Season of Creation 2020

#### JUBILEE FOR EARTH: *New Rhythms, New Hope*

1 September to 4 October

This Season of Creation is a time for us to renew our relationship with God, our Creator, and all creation. Amid the global crises, we are awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationship with creation and each other. This is a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our earth that calls for new ways of living with in a sustainable way, through prayer and action for our common home.

For more information, go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/season-of-creation-2020-banner>

**Season of Creation 2020 Prayer**

**Creator of Life,**  
At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life.

The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.

But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**SEASON OF CREATION**

your NRIC or email address, you will need to email [mycatholic@catholic.org.sg](mailto:mycatholic@catholic.org.sg) directly  
You may now book a second weekend Mass for the month of September, subject to the availability of slots. Booking will open on 15 September (Monday) at 9.00am. This second weekend Mass booking for unfilled seats is on trial for the month of September.

### 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.

**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.

Fr Jerome's **DAILY REFLECTION** is on hiatus due to other parish commitments. Please keep him in your prayers.

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

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### FAMILIES UNITE AGAINST OCD

An online support group for caregivers with loved ones affected by Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

How well do you know your emotions?

Join us for a tea session to interact with fellow caregivers and find out more about your emotions in your caregiving journey.

Date/time: Saturday, 19 September, 10am – 11am  
To register: [tinyurl.com/fuaocdtea](https://tinyurl.com/fuaocdtea) (closes on 16 September)  
Fee: FOC. via Zoom (more details at a later date)

### 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](https://tinyurl.com/BRAVEfestreg)  
W: <https://www.clarity-singapore.org>

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