



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

ENVY

Once a priest friend of mine said to me, “It is better to be envied than to be envious.” I was a little puzzled by what he said until I thought about it, and realised that it is true that it’s better “to be envied than to be envious”. The latter can lead to covetousness, while the former leads to gratitude.

If I have a healthy appetite and I can enjoy my food, I will be envied by another who is unwell and has no appetite. Without doubt, I will be grateful to God for giving me a good appetite.

Similarly, if I have good eyesight past middle age and can still read without glasses, I will be envied by people who need glasses to read. In this case, I am also extremely grateful to God for the gift of good eyesight!

Our gospel for this weekend, gives us a rather interesting insight on the parable of the Kingdom of Heaven, about envy and generosity in the hiring of workers from the early hours of the day to the eleventh hour. When the day is done and the wages are to be paid, the first who got employed earlier in the day was given the same amount as the one who was hired last and who worked only for an hour. Naturally, the worker who came in first would

instinctively think that he should be paid more since the last worker was given one denarius. But that was not the case.

In Australian lingo, it’s called, “fair dinkum” a term which attests to the truthfulness and fairness of the words of the landowner of the vineyard who hired the workers. “My friend, I am not being unjust to you, did we not agree to one denarius?” It is fair and square. The landowner honoured his words, but had chosen to give the same amount to the workers who came later. He is envied for his generosity and kindness in employing even those whom nobody else would want to employ because they were the leftovers with defects and limitations. They were not chosen, nor taken, nor employable. In spite of this, the landowner did not discriminate against them. The first workers were envious of the landowner for his generosity. While the last, “leftover” and unemployable

workers were naturally filled with gratitude at their good fortune.

In this parable, we are given a glimpse of the goodness of God and His generosity towards all, especially those who are the poor, the unwanted, the undeserving and those who are the “leftovers” in society. God is telling us that these people are His people as well, and we should not look down on them or treat them with disdain or with discrimination. They are loved by God, who is a fair, generous and merciful God.

If I were the last worker who got employed, I would be eternally grateful to him for giving me a chance to prove my worth and in giving me a chance to restore my dignity, self worth and self confidence.

Hence, I will be grateful to God for not writing me off. I can see that God is one whom we can be envious of and should inspire us to imitate His goodness and lead me to live a life of gratitude. Our envy must lead us to imitate His generosity as our Creator, and not to be covetous, jealous or greedy of the things that he has given to us as His creatures. For He knows what we need and what we do not need.

Indeed, it is better to be envied than to be envious, to be grateful than to be covetous.

FR COLINTAN, SJ

GENEROSITY

PARISH NEWS

MASSES DURING PHASE 2

myCatholic.sg will open for Mass bookings for October on Tuesday, 22 September, 3.00pm.

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 your NRIC or email address, you will need to email mycatholic@catholic.org.sg directly.

NO-SHOW FOR BOOKED MASS

If you are unable to attend the Mass that you had booked, please email csi.admin@catholic.org.sg with your name as in the registration, last four digits of IC, date & time of Mass.

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.

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.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ.

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

THE HOLY MASS — REVISITED AND EXPLAINED

If we understood the Mass, we would die with joy. – St Jean

Baptiste Marie Vianney

A mini-series of online talks on the Holy Mass by Ian de Vaz,

conducted by The Order of Malta.

Part 2: A WALK THROUGH THE MASS

Thursday, 24 September, 8.30pm -9.45pm

Register via <https://forms.gle/8vwx3XycNLZfbNM6>

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

WHAT DOES A DEEPER SPIRITUALITY BRING? Psalm 103

reminds us to "Bless the Lord all my soul and do not

forget the benefits". This Psalm inspired the popular

P&W song 10,000 REASONS. We can realise our full

human potential only by getting closer to God. Only

He can complete us. All are invited this Wednesday 23

September, at 8pm. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

INFANT BAPTISMS

Rites registration forms for baptisms

from October 2020 onwards are available at [https://](https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/infant-adult-baptism)

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).

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/](https://forms.gle/o3b1KN1nLS5d9zNf7)

[o3b1KN1nLS5d9zNf7](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.

RIP NEWS— RISEN IN THE LORD

Maria Wong –65 years old

Departed: 7 September 2020

Raymond Kee Swee Boon – 84 years old

Departed: 11 September 2020

Joseph Mah Ten Kui – 83 years old

Departed: 15 September 2020

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

Be Not Afraid

This year 2020 must seem to many, the darkest of times, what with the entire world gripped with fears and foreboding. Yet in these murky times, we can always find messages that bring hope and light. And as we celebrate the centenary of the birth of St John Paul II, we recall the example of his life, and his striving to live beyond fear

Pope John Paul II ended his solemn inauguration homily on 22 October, 1978, with the words "Be not afraid". It resonated, becoming his rallying cry, exhorting the world to open up our hearts to Christ.

These words do not mean that he was fearless. On the contrary, George Weigel observed in his second biography of the pontiff, *The End and the Beginning* that he "did not live without fear; still less did he deny fear. Rather, he lived beyond fear, and his courage was an expression ... of his faith."

Young Karol Wojtyla lived most people's worst fears, losing his family. His mother died when he was 8, just before his First Holy Communion, his only sibling when he was 12, and his father by the time he was 20. When he was 19, his country Poland was occupied by Nazi Germany. He survived years of Nazi, and then Soviet, persecution. During these years, young Karol was part of the resistance, taking an active part in underground religious and cultural activities. He faced danger; he must have felt fear.

As pope he bore responsibility for a Church of more than a billion members, thousands of whom were suffering for the faith. He bore responsibility for a clergy and laity grown lax in discipline since the free-for-all of the 1960s. He bore the burden of a man commissioned to speak for Jesus Christ on earth.

So when he said, "Be not afraid" — he was speaking from experience.

He knew that fear, in fact, is essential for self-preservation. A truly fearless person would be insane. But he was able to order his fears: he subordinated all earthly fears to the biblical "fear of the Lord".

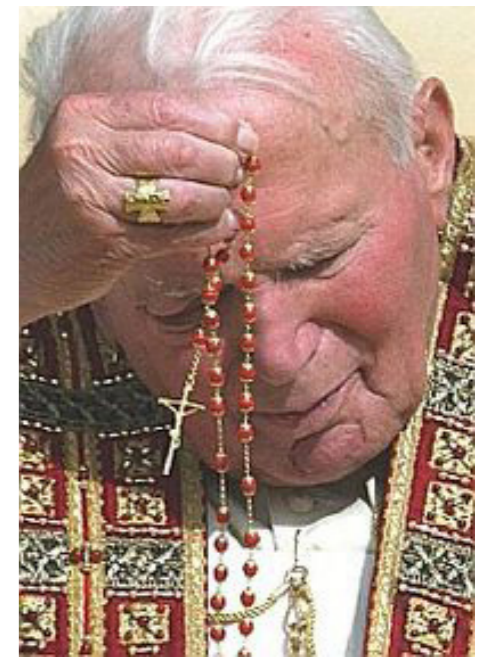
He spoke of this phenomenon in a General Audience on 15 November, 1978. He acknowledged that the virtue

of fortitude "always calls for a certain overcoming of human weakness and particularly of fear". Human beings spontaneously fear "danger, affliction, and suffering", but the courageous are those who "are capable of crossing the so-called barrier of fear, to bear witness to truth and justice".

Such people can be found on battlefields, hospital beds and deportation camps. Those who act rightly in spite of fear are "real heroes", going beyond their own limits, and facing risks in spite of anxieties and dangers. The virtue of fortitude proceeds hand in hand with the capacity of sacrificing oneself ... For a just cause, for truth, for

100th Birth Anniversary of Saint John Paul II

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Singapore presents an anniversary website dedicated to the life and deeds of Pope John Paul II, Great Pole and Saint of the Catholic Church. As 2020 marks the 100th birth anniversary of Karol Wojtyła, you are invited to visit the site to explore an online exhibition "The Pope of Freedom", and learn more about his contributions to peace and reconciliation, interreligious dialogue, transformation in Central Eastern Europe, and end of the Cold War, and with an interactive biography featuring archival photographs. The site is also an excellent source of information on Poland's unique religious treasures and 200 sanctuaries. Visit <https://bit.ly/3my1UYi>



justice, one must be able to 'lay down one's life.'" (John 15:13).

Years later, when asked about the source of his courage, he pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He spoke of Marian apparitions as "a sort of 'Be not afraid' spoken by Christ through the lips of his mother". As he began his pontificate, he dedicated his life to Mary. He took as his motto the Latin "Totus Tuus" or "Totally Yours", and is addressed to Mary.

Mary was his strength. She had heard the message "Be not afraid" from the angel Gabriel, and she moved beyond fear, trusting in God to change history.

The Pope constantly prayed the Rosary. He greeted thousands of guests every week, handing each a rosary. On the feast of Our Lady of Fátima in 1981, he was shot and critically wounded in St Peter's Square. Even then, he realized Jesus was telling him "Be not afraid" through Mary.

He was later diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, affecting the nervous system, causing stiffness and tremors. Gradually losing strength and motor control, his strong voice became slurred. The ubiquitous cameras caught him drooling during public appearances.

He still showed up. He continued in his work until he no longer could, and then he died.

He was never fearless. Yet he moved beyond fear, for the sake of others who looked to him. And to the end, he told them: "Be not afraid".

Adapted from article by Mike Aquilina, courtesy of angelusnews.com