



Feasting and Relationality

What would it take for us to reject an invitation to a big event from a close friend? In these times when social contact has become scarce and gatherings remain small, many of us may be yearning for the large parties or family feasts that we had a year ago, but the question remains — what would cause us to want to reject an invitation? Very little I imagine because, if the friendship is a close one, it would take precedence over ordinary errands and work. We treasure our relationships by giving time to our family and friends, celebrating with them when major events occur. It is with this in mind that we look at the puzzling situation described in this week's gospel.

Granted it was a king who invited, and there is a power differential between the host and those invited, but I would imagine that a subject who loves and respects the king would jump at the opportunity to attend the wedding feast of his son. The responses to the invitation are surprising in that they paid no attention to the king's servants who came to bring them to the feast, but instead went off to their own devices, some going so far as to insult and harm the messengers. These seem to me like lame excuses to get out of something that should actually be one's priority. And it's no wonder that the king became annoyed and called these people 'unworthy', largely because their lack of attention to the relationship made them unworthy of the king's attention to them. What happens next is also surprising in that the king's servants went to gather people of all sorts, good and bad, to come to the feast. After all, the banquet was prepared and the food should not go to waste.

Practicalities about food aside, this

parable of the feast and invitations is an interesting way to look at how our relationships develop and what it takes to keep them going. We're familiar about how all relationships are about give and take, where receiving from others can be as important as our ability to give and sometimes, new relationships may emerge where we least expect. Those who were originally invited by the king must have had good relations to begin with for them to receive the invitation, but were unwilling to receive what was offered. One might go so far as to say that they were too wrapped up in themselves to be able to spend some time to celebrate with the king. The turn to the self, therefore, harms the relationship and causes the king to look elsewhere. As farfetched as this might seem, I would suggest that the invitation of the random group of people to the wedding can be a way that new relationships are formed. These may begin tentatively, but with proper nurturing, there can be new ways in which these new guests can relate with the king.

The parable of the wedding feast definitely has broader eschatological (that which pertains to the end times) implications but for the moment, I feel it's good for us to consider how this can help us look at our relationship with the Lord. Jesus is always inviting us to one feast or another as a means of nurturing our relationship. These invitations are always

freely given, in spite of our perceived shortcomings or unworthiness. What we need to do is to be open, and to discern how these invitations come, and how we can best respond to them. But sometimes, we forget how valuable our relationship with the Lord is and instead, put ourselves first. We try to find excuses to wiggle out of these invitations. The relationship suffers as a result, but the good thing is that this downturn in the relationship is not permanent. In His infinite mercy, Jesus continues to invite us, waiting at the door of the banquet hall for us to come to renew the relationship that was damaged by our self-centred nature.

One way that we can be more focused on our relationship with the Lord, and to be less willing to reject invitations is to follow His advice in another part of this Gospel (Mt 18:3) to be like little children. We've seen how excited children are when they receive invitations to birthday parties, unable to sleep the night before. For them as it should for us, the event gives a wonderful space to renew relationships and to build bonds of love through fun and feasting. So perhaps it's a good reminder not to take ourselves too seriously, and to focus on the Lord who invites us to be with Him, finding the space and time to receive the invitation to build our relationship with Him who calls.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

PARISH OFFICE OPERATING HOURS

The church office is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, strictly by appointment only. Closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Communications via telephone, email and Telegram will be as usual. The King's Road church gate will remain closed until further notice.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

The Church celebrates World Mission Sunday on 18 October. COLLECTIONS from all masses next Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October will be set aside for the spread of the Gospel. The total amount collected will be placed at the disposal of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

WEEKEND MASS SEATINGS UP TO 100

- ★ Seating capacity at weekend Masses in St Ignatius Church will increase to 100 parishioners with effect from Saturday 10 October
- ★ On Tuesday 13 Oct, from 9.00am, parishioners may book one additional weekend Mass for October, subject to availability.
- ★ the seating capacity for weekday Masses for October will remain at 50 parishioners. It will be increased to 100 parishioners in November.

MASSES DURING PHASE 2

Please book your Mass slot at myCatholic.sg now open for Mass bookings for October. 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.

Covid-19 Safety Management Measures For the safety of everyone, please comply with the following:

- Wear a mask at all times.
- Remain in the seat / sector you are assigned to. Please do not cross over to the other sectors.

For Holy Communion

- Remain seated until directed by the ushers.
- Keep your mask on when receiving the Eucharist from the priest
- Step aside, remove your mask to consume the Eucharist, put your mask back on and return to your seat.
- If you are feeling unwell, please leave the church premises.

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.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ.

Please go to <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.

CONFESSION is available by appointment only. Please call the church office (Angela/Suzie) at 6466

0625 or email church@stignatius.org.sg

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Sundays, at

9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, and 1.00pm-1.45pm; and Saturdays at 5.00pm-5.45pm. For Sundays, make your bookings at <https://forms.gle/o3b1KN1nLS5d9zNf7> and for Saturdays at <https://forms.gle/fj76SLpxtUAdV3Sv6> Only 30 visitors are allowed per session, so please do not visit unless your booking is confirmed by the parish through phone call or WhatsApp. If you need help in booking, please call the church office 6466 0625 (Angela/Suzie). 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 Saturdays and Sundays. Please WhatsApp 9675 6621.



CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

With God's grace, we ordinary beings can be transformed to do extraordinary things for God's greater glory. All are invited this Wednesday 14 October, at 8pm, to a talk on INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

LISTENING TO GOD BIBLE STUDY GROUP is embarking on a 3-year program titled "Bible Pilgrimage 2023" to read the entire Bible. Programme outline and materials are adapted from Fr Bobby Emprayil's "Bible By Pentecost 2021" with his consent. Contact Elaine 9679 2876 or Richard 9781 7228.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2020

INVITATION TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Saturday 17 October, 9.00am - 11.30am. Fr Colin Tan, SJ, cordially invites parishioners to join him as we chart our way towards our New Reality during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your presence is also deeply appreciated during the PPC Exco Elections. Registration at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXifp54MOGVMN2K9IO8Y8bdNGW4jN1X9nwHfPQtmxos1SzyQ/viewform?usp=send_form Please use the same name to register for Zoom login. Deadline: 14 October.

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

October: Month of The Holy Rosary

Hail Mary Full of Grace...



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC WELFARE SERVICES (CWS)

EMMANUEL SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION (ESCE) PROGRAMME

The ESCE supports people who have encountered adversity through social issues, past failures, or mistakes, and desire a second chance for a brighter future through further education, including financial assistance. A personalised mentor is mandatory. Participants may pursue a course of his or her choice either at college, university, vocational, or technical school, on condition that the course of learning must lead to employable skills. The programme is available to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents regardless of race or religion. More information can be found at <https://www.catholicwelfare.org.sg/ESCE.html>

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE (CTIS) is inviting applications from Catholics for the Certificate in Theology Programme for Semester 1, 2021. The application forms are available on CTIS website and also from CTIS Office.

Financial aid is available for students who require it. Information Night is on 5 November (Thursday) at 8.00pm. For more information and registration please email CTIS at admin@ctis.sg or call 6902-8700. Please submit your application by email by post, or in person before 5 December.

THE 3'P'S OF EVANGELISATION

PREPARE – Write a testimony of God's love in your life
PRAY – Pray for opportunities to share and for the other person to listen
PROCLAIM – Share your story simply and sincerely with respect to the other

