



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Vol 91 No 01
Sunday
29 November
2020

I think many of us would have pulled an overnighter at some point in our lives, staying awake for an entire night because of work, school, or other related reasons. I've had my fair share of such experiences, and I can attest to the fact that they're neither pleasant nor very good for us. Sometimes we put ourselves in such situations because of procrastination or poor planning, but sometimes, they're part and parcel of the responsibilities that we have, things we endure because the objectives warrant them or because we just need to get the job done. Here, staying awake takes on a very practical bent, and we are willing to go through the trouble and discomfort because it's the pragmatic thing to do. We hear the common Advent theme of "staying awake" and being ready for the coming of the Lord in today's Gospel, but this comes from a very different place and it would make sense to consider what being awake and ready could actually mean to us during this season.

We stay awake for a variety of reasons, not just the practical, and when we look at what it means to stay awake in the light of the season of Advent, I believe it's important to consider the quality of our staying awake. This quality has two aspects — our intentions and our dispositions. When we stay awake, we

need to think about why we do it, being aware of our desires and objectives as we sometimes have to fight the urge to go to sleep. Additionally, our dispositions are also important as how we go about staying awake can have effects on the quality of our actions and interactions with others as well.

In approaching our intentions for staying awake, it's important for us to recognise that ours is not a pragmatic faith. The celebration of Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation, God coming to live among us as a human person. This occurred not out of any practical reason, but out of God's love for us — God wanted to accompany us in a real and very concrete manner. Given that God's intentions were not pragmatic but born out of love, our intentions for staying awake and being prepared for God's coming among us should be the same. Having love at the heart of our intention for staying awake would make all the difference because the difficulties that would come with being alert and not falling asleep would pale in comparison with the love that one would feel for the one we're waiting for. All our Advent practices would have a much deeper significance if we are clear about our intentions and focus them on our love for the coming Saviour.

The dispositions that we have while staying awake flow from our loving

intentions. I'm a person who keeps a fairly regular sleep schedule and because of that, I tend to get grumpy and fairly cranky when I lack sleep or have to stay up past my normal bedtime. Without the proper intentions, one's disposition would follow one's normal inclinations but when our intentions are pointed towards the Lord and welcoming his loving presence into our lives more fully, our disposition towards him and others would change. There would be a big difference in disposition between one who grudgingly stays awake to perform a task and those who choose not to sleep in order to await the arrival of their loved ones. The crankiness gets transformed into care as we orient ourselves towards God and those we love, better disposing ourselves to welcome them and to return their love.

Our waiting and staying awake makes sense because we're irrevocably drawn to God, creatures drawn to the Creator. The prophet Isaiah so beautifully described this as the relationship between the potter and the clay, and that we're all the work of God's hands. We all have the Lord's imprint all over us, and that makes us want to orient ourselves towards him, staying awake and waiting patiently for him to come, knowing that the potter's loving hands will continue to shape, mould and comfort us now during this season of Advent and beyond.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

ADVENT

THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING AWAKE AND READY

PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER MASS BOOKING SCHEDULE

myCatholic.sg is open for Mass bookings for December on **Tuesday 24 November**.

Bookings open at 3.00pm for First Weekend Mass and all Weekday Masses, (except Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day).

Tuesday 8 December

Second Weekend Mass booking opens at 9.00am.

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.

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/>

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

JESUS AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES REFLECTION SERIES 5

All are invited to pray together as a community in Prophetic Intercession and explore through Sharing how Intercessory Prayers lead to fulfilment in prayer, the Word, love of community and evangelisation. This Wednesday 2 December, at 8pm. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

YOUNG ADULTS' FORMATION

Calling all young adults! Our new series, "The Joy of Discovery" explores our identity, and the discovery of our gifts and mission. The session dates are 2 and 16 December, 6 and 20 January, 8.30pm – 10.00pm via Zoom. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/youngadultsformation>

PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

To commemorate our Diamond Jubilee, our church is selling special edition T-shirts and reversible umbrellas. We are also giving away commemorative car decals and mask holders at the Place of Gathering. Love offerings are welcome.

As part of our celebrations, we have adopted Morning Star Community Services as the beneficiary for our Walking with the Poor project. Go to jubilee-stignatius.com for details. Let us celebrate our Jubilee by blessing the less fortunate.

Please go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/upcoming-events> to watch a video address by St Ignatius Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan, SJ on the JUBILEE DOOR OF GRACE and the PAPAL INDULGENCE for our Jubilee Year, in celebration of 60 years as a Jesuit parish in Singapore.

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Sundays, 9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, and 1.00pm-1.45pm; and Saturdays, 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.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

There will be a penitential service to prepare for Christmas 2020, at St Ignatius Hall and classrooms, 8 Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492. You will need to book your confession slot (10 minutes per slot) before coming, using the online form: <https://forms.gle/3n7RcnLiTBfX3UYz9> or the QR code. A booking is compulsory.

If you have a problem with the online form, please call 6466 0625 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm) or email csi.admin@catholic.org.sg

Please arrive NO EARLIER than 10 minutes before the time slot you have booked. There will NOT BE any communal prayers and scriptural readings.

Monday 7 December	8pm to 10pm
Tuesday 8 December	8pm to 10pm
Wednesday 9 December	8pm to 10pm
Thursday 10 December	8pm to 10pm
Friday 11 December	10am to 12pm OR 8pm-10pm



CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKING

(ONE BOOKING PER PERSON)

Tuesday 15 December

Third Weekend Mass Booking also opens at 3.00pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: 4.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm and 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

All parishioners can book only one Mass for Christmas 24 or 25 December and any other Weekend Mass that is still available. 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.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

GIFT 2020: PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

This weekend, the Catholic Foundation is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Share the gift of faith and support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge – the most reliable source of funding for the archdiocese. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). Pick up the GIFT 2020 brochure or visit catholicfoundation.sg for more info.

2021 ACMI SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

All migrant workers are invited to sign up for English/Mandarin, Baking and Cooking courses on Weekdays starting in January 2021. Other Foreign Pass Holders are

SSVP MILK AND DIAPERS PROGRAMME currently help 180 children by delivering them much needed milk and diapers on a monthly basis, yet there are still many more children out there. Help us help them by participating in our Toast to Tots fundraising campaign!

SSVP LTD
MILK & DIAPERS PROGRAMME

TOASTS TO TOTS

A PROGRAMME WHICH PROVIDES MILK AND DIAPERS TO CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

----- 2021 TARGET -----



\$110 PER BABY
PER MONTH



230 BABIES



\$300,000
PER YEAR

DONATE \$100
1 BOTTLE OF WINE

DONATE \$500
5 BOTTLES OF WINE PLUS
1 BONUS BOTTLE



GIFT WITH DONATION





Let's send our cheers to the little tots in our community! Please scan the QR code or go to the link below for more details.
<https://bit.ly/toastfortots>

also welcome! Courses are conducted in English at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264. Registration is now open until December 15. Call 6801 7444 or 8600 3583, or email sd.acmi@catholic.org.sg for more information.

JESUS4EVERYONE

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming - Mark 13:33-37 This Advent, reflect on the areas in your life that you need to awaken from, such as being more intentional at prayer time, and in what ways you actively wait for the coming Word during this season. Then, go out and share these thoughts with a friend.

Alternatively, you may use our 2020 Advent Weekly Reflection video for your reflection using the following link:

<https://bit.ly/Advent2020Week1>

Tell others about Jesus.

