



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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2020

## WAITING AND WATCHING FOR

# Faith

**A**dvent is a time of in-betweenness. Ordinary Time has ended, and the coming of Emmanuel is ahead of us. It is also the end of the academic semester, assignments have to be handed in, and classes are ending, possibly even the end of a program of study. In the university, students have not escaped the reach of COVID-19. Some are in quarantine or isolation, for contact with a COVID-19 positive person or are COVID-19 positive themselves. Some are even graduating from such conditions. Economically, small businesses and manual workers risk losing their shops and homes, a devastatingly impossible setback for some.

In Massachusetts, the gathering darkness hastens each day with a growing cold in the air. Trees and plants have lost their leaves or dried up. Most of the birds have flown away. Daylight skitters quickly through the time we used to recognize as day. Bulbs lie dormant, the earth becomes bare and dry. Yes, on top of everything there is a drought in effect.

Weeping and wailing can easily scar this half of Advent, and the next. In the perceived darkness staining our observable human existence, weeping and wailing would not be out of place. We cannot be happy about the suffering that is happening. We cannot morally accept suffering that causes injustice to the self or to others. We cannot ignore the all-too-human costs of being pawns in a machinery that has run away from us, as each person claims only to be the next anonymous cog that does not make a difference, just a little dot amongst the

inky blackness of a dark and frightful abyss of our post-truth society.

For an atypical people, the people of God who are repenting, who await the coming of the Messiah, this weeping and wailing is not just a lament for the suffering of the innocent, the poor and the marginalized. More importantly, such remorse can be motivated by a fear of God, a fear of not meeting the promises of God. A fear of the judgment of God, who governs with justice.

Our God is also a God of loving mercy. This unity of paradoxes – God who serves justice with mercy – is one representation of the mystery of God. God who incarnated as Jesus Christ so

as to be among us, to take part in an irreplaceable and unique experience. God who remains just beyond our grasp, yet always inviting us to know him better through his life, death and resurrection. He who entered the dark of the tomb, the dark crevasse into hell, to know and wrestle with the darkness that has plagued human beings since Adam.

The psalmist seems to know what darkness is. For the first and second weeks of Advent we ask God for vision to lighten the darkness surrounding the people of God. While we strive for the light of Christ, do we ever realize what we pray for in our prayers for perpetual light in our afterlife?

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 ★ Natalie Ang Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator  
David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Sacristan

**WAITING AND WATCHING FOR** *Faith*

Do not be misled by pedestrian observations that being perpetually under a spotlight is uncomfortable. St John of the Cross described a darkness terrifying and total, a dark night of the soul that St Teresa of Calcutta might or might not have experienced. This darkness can only be so dark because the overflowing and full light that is God is so utterly overwhelming. Likewise, we condemn this profound darkness of our times because we know the blessed light-soaked life that haunts our memories.

The worst darkness is not always visible or felt. When a person doesn't show any sign of sadness or distress, no one can know his difficulties, let alone empathize with him. When people stay away from each other, who knows how the other person is doing? How do we give comfort to each other? How do we even know who to give comfort to when the people of God are out of our minds as they remain out of sight?

This season of Advent, especially in these challenging times, calls for greater community, greater solidarity, greater being Christ for each other.

The challenge is not to attend to such a call in-person, but more intentionally and specifically by physically-distanced words and actions.

The challenge is to be humble and accept these restrictions, to learn a new way of listening and speaking in order to reveal and share the life of Christ within us.

The challenge is to humbly face our uncertainties, and be more dedicated to risk more, not because the danger is there or the risk is to be disdained, but because the call to be Christ for others rings louder and truer than the silent fear in our hearts.

The challenge is to live our faith, simply, truly, without fanfare, with greater costs, with less returns.

The challenge is to exercise our faith, as a pinprick of light standing before a tide of blackness, and to reach out in solidarity to that other unknown, solitary and struggling light.

The challenge is to believe, again, that there will be light once more.

**MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ**

# Advent and Christmas 2020

## 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](mailto: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 <b>OR</b> 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.

**PARISH NEWS**

**DECEMBER MASS BOOKING SCHEDULE**

myCatholic.sg is open for Second Weekend Mass booking on **Tuesday 8 December 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](mailto:csi.admin@catholic.org.sg) with your name as in the registration, last four digits of IC, date & time of Mass.

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

**SSVP MILK AND DIAPERS PROGRAMME** currently helps 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!

Join **ALPHA ONLINE** at Catholic Church of St Ignatius, Singapore  
 Register via email: [alpha.stignatius.sg@gmail.com](mailto:alpha.stignatius.sg@gmail.com)  
 Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020  
 Time: 8.00pm – 9.15pm  
 Only confirmed registrants who are provided the Zoom link will be able to attend.

**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](http://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.



**ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS**

**GIFT 2020: PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH**

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](http://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 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](mailto:sd.acmi@catholic.org.sg) for more information.

**BOYS' TOWN FLAG DAY 2020**

For the first time in many years, Boys' Town will not be going out to do street collections for their annual Flag Day due to Covid-19, and will only conduct it virtually. We once again appeal to your kindness and generosity to help make a difference in the lives of our children and youth. Your donation will go towards supporting Boys' Town's programmes, operations, services and maintenance of facilities. You may wish to donate via: Giving.sg <https://www.giving.sg/boys-town/virtualflagday2020> or our website [www.boystown.org.sg](http://www.boystown.org.sg)

**FEAST DAY DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PROTECTRESS OF THE UNBORN**

Saturday 12 December, 2.30pm to 3.30pm via Zoom.  
 Organiser: Family Life Society  
 Register at: [bit.ly/pcs\\_olg2020](http://bit.ly/pcs_olg2020)  
 Email: [jessie@familylife.sg](mailto:jessie@familylife.sg)