



My Soul Rejoices in My God

In last week's first reading, Isaiah charged someone unnamed to announce the time of salvation, the coming of Jahweh's Kingdom, and now (in Isaiah 61, "Third Isaiah") we have the song of that individual, whom we know to be Jesus. It is for this reason that we call today Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, but the words of Isaiah also describe us when we are at our best.

In today's second reading (1 Thess 5), Paul says that we should rejoice in Christ's coming, and also in our own mission, which is part of that coming. Being Christian is far more than just following the Ten Commandments and going to church on Sunday: it is a standing back from total control of our own lives, an emptying of ourselves. It is letting God come to fill us and to direct us as He wishes.

Think of Mary in the words of today's Psalm reading (I translated some of her words into more modern terms, and these are in the parentheses):

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord (Who and what I am gives praise to God) and my spirit exults in God, my Savior, Because He has looked upon His lowly handmaid (He looks favorably on my nothingness).

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed

(because) the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy His name!

His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him.

And the rest of Mary's words are fairly clear in that light.

Taking seriously what Paul and Mary say leads to our becoming ourselves the same sort of heralds of God's Kingdom which Isaiah describes in what we are, what we choose, and what we say. That is our becoming lights in the darkness of this world by our emptying ourselves in our following of Christ and becoming

mere human vessels bearing God's light to the world – and in doing that we reach out to become more truly human, more actually our true selves.

Advent is the time when we celebrate God's coming to us in human form and interacting with us in a most human manner; at the same time we seek God in turn by opening ourselves to receive His coming, not only by recalling and celebrating His coming to us once in history, but even more in His doing so specifically today, in who and what we are, each of us. There is no better way to do that than to let down our defenses, to lay all that we are before God, and to ask Him to change what He wishes. He will of course indicate (very gently) what that is, and He will make subtle changes in us, but He will not do that work of changing our lives all by Himself; He will help us to discern His will, and He will help us to make that change as best we can with His help.

In our loving submission to God's love we will discover Him in discovering the deepest truth about ourselves: that we are the most blessed children of God – created specifically to devote ourselves to grow lovingly into the image of the Firstborn – constantly forgiven and called to life in Him.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

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

PARISH NEWS

COMPULSORY USE OF TRACE TOGETHER

From next Saturday 19 December, all parishioners attending Mass are ONLY to use the **TRACE TOGETHER app** or token to perform SafeEntry check-ins. As Mass capacity increases to 150 people, this will allow more parishioners to attend, especially during Christmas.

All parishioners must download the **TraceTogether app** OR bring along your tokens for SafeEntry when you arrive for Mass. Please continue to bring your NRIC/ Work Permit to verify your Mass booking before you can be admitted to the Church Hall.

Download the TraceTogether App: tracetogogether.gov.sg
Collect TraceTogether Token: token.gowhere.gov.sg

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.

Advent and Christmas 2020

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.

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.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ.

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

Join **ALPHA ONLINE** at Catholic Church of St Ignatius, Singapore

Register via email: 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>

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Our CRC Community will be taking a break and will be back in January 2021. We want to wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Spirit-filled New Year!

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>



Beginning from 2021, please make your bookings at: <https://forms.gle/Fi5m69PvL8e2U6k9A>

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.

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.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

2021: IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH

All Catholics are invited to light a fire in our hearts and to charge up our faith lives as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Singapore. The year-long celebration, under the theme of "Ignite and Shine with Faith", invites us to deepen, discern, renew and celebrate our faith as evangelising disciples of Christ.

CATHOLIC 200 SG PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son commissioned His apostles to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our founding missionaries left home and country so that we in Singapore may receive the Good News and Your loving salvation. Thank You for this gift of faith, and for all those who laboured to keep it alive and burning these two hundred years.

Lord Jesus, our faith is in danger of becoming irrelevant because of secularism, materialism, individualism and relativism. Grant our communities a renewed missionary zeal and courage to proclaim Your name and Lordship. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew Your people with the conviction and courage of our early missionaries. Rekindle our faith so that we can be beacons of light in a world darkened by sin, hopelessness, and ignorance. Protect us from the snares of the evil one and grant us the grace to remain faithful to You.

May our families be models of love and unity; our workplaces be sanctuaries for justice and integrity; truth and charity be taught in our classrooms; parishes live out their mission in communion; the poor, sick, and abandoned see the face of God in us, and may peace and harmony reign among peoples of every race, language and religion in our land.

Blessed Mother, you were the first disciple and evangeliser to announce Jesus as Saviour to the world. Intercede and grant us your maternal guidance and protection as we navigate the uncertain future.

Father, may Your love and grace ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that we may once again be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



GIFT 2020: PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

Next weekend, 19/20 December, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. You can also give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). More info at catholicfoundation.sg

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>