



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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Sunday
20 December
2020

Come, Let us

As you know, the word "advent" simply means the coming or arrival of someone or something, and during the season of Advent we focus specifically on how God comes and enters our lives. He wants to lift us up like squalling, dirty babies, to wipe away the tears of our hopelessness and our frustration with ourselves, to forgive us and to heal us, to repair what we have done to His creation, and to give us the life that He has always, always, wanted us to have.

Or we might say that He comes to continue His creation, doing what He had always planned, lifting what is seemingly only natural into the supernatural as He always intended to do. In His heart and mind, God has always had creation in His hand, under control, growing as He planned it - except for sin, but that is what happens when He gives us freedom.

For God, this is all one single action. I might underline and stress the fact that what we will celebrate in a few days is the birth of the Lord, not His Incarnation. If we are going to be consistent, in the most literal sense and in line with the Church's view of abortion, the Incarnation occurred at the Annunciation - but a broader view would say that the Incarnation takes place from forever, outside of creation and time, rooted in and already complete

Adore

HIM

in the eternal "YES!" of the Second Person of the Trinity to the desire of the First Person and the Third.

That single focus, that unique project of God's nature and existence and the whole point of creation, makes all of creation history the story of God's love becoming incarnate in His creation, and that history leads to the complete realization at the end of time of that incarnation in the climactic revelation of the Mystical Body of Christ for what it already is. The death and resurrection of Christ are only a critical moment in that tale of God's yearning for us, and how He advances the coming of Christ's Reign.

Advent is the season in which we recall these deeds of God, reflect on them, and recommit our selves to a life of active gratitude. Our resultant praise and thanks is at its best a relatively feeble recognition that He is perfect and "does it right," and even then our recognition is too often intermittent, when we think of it or as part of a ritual. When we see God face to face after death, we will be blown away in amazement at what He has done and how weakly, and even sinfully, we have responded. In our awe and our ecstasy, all that

we are, will involuntarily respond to God's love, and we will then adore unceasingly: our intelligence, will, desire, virtues, senses, emotions, and even our memory will be a source of joy and thanks and praise.

I say involuntarily, but it is the result of our constant small choices in our preceding life on earth, and at our death we will suddenly find that we really are doing what we had always asked for and tried to make real. When we get to that point we will glorify God for everything, even for our sins, since we have been led to finally and fully understand how we could turn to God and find His mercy and love. Only then will we truly understand and appreciate just what His love has done for us.

God comes to us in His Son's birth as if hidden and small and "weak," and we must respond now in our own small and weak ways if we wish to reach this bliss of understanding, thanksgiving and adoration.

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 ★ Chrestella Setiyadi Communications Manager

Making Room

for Jesus in Our Hearts



The PPC Exco,
Parish Staff and the
Jesuit Community at
Kingsmead Hall wish
all Parishioners a
Joyous Christmas and
Peaceful New Year!

PARISH NEWS

COMPULSORY USE OF TRACETOGETHER

All parishioners attending Mass are ONLY to use the **TRACETOGETHER** 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

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

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 stignatius.org.sg and our church Telegram channel for updates, guidelines to the resumption of Masses.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMINGS

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*

* The following Masses will also be livestreamed via our YouTube channel at bit.ly/stigslivestream

We apologise to all parishioners who were unsuccessful in booking slots for the Christmas Masses. We regret that we are not able to accommodate all parishioners due to the limited spaces available. You may continue to log in to myCatholic.sg and check from time to time should there be any slots made available.

NO-SHOW FOR BOOKED MASS (LESS THAN 48 HOURS)

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 stignatius.org.sg/home/

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 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 bit.ly/3mvaeqj
For Saturdays, make your bookings at bit.ly/2WqqG0x
For 2021 bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbarium2021

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

This advent, open your hearts to give to our Jubilee charity, Morning Star Community Services, to support underprivileged children from low income families.

Help us hit our \$60,000 target for our "Walk with the Poor and Excluded" initiative, as part of our parish 60th Jubilee celebrations, a reminder to recall the generous mercy of God, and share that generosity with those less fortunate than us. All donations above \$11 enjoy a 250% tax deduction!

Give now online at www.giving.sg/campaigns/stiggydiamondjubilee
Information: www.jubilee-stignatius.com/walking-with-the-poor

Our church is selling commemorative Jubilee T-shirts and umbrellas at \$20 each. They make excellent Christmas gifts and all proceeds will go towards the parish fund. You may purchase them at jubilee-stignatius.com/shop or go to the church office at any time during office hours to make your purchases and collect your items.

BAT – SATURDAY ROCKERS

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM "Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come", shows how the Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of Heaven. Discover what the mysterious figures and images of Revelation mean, and how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the "end times". On Saturdays at 1.30pm, starting in February 2021 (date TBD), on Zoom. WhatsApp Charly at 9100 7401 for details.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC200SG: 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. For more information, go to catholic200.sg

CBN CAREER COUNSELLING SERVICE is now available on Zoom. You can have discussions with a trained counsellor on Career exploration, Career planning, Career transitions, Workplace challenges, job search strategies, etc. Call 9111 7325 or email admin@cbn.sg to register. There will be a nominal charge of \$10 to cover administrative costs.