



God Does Not Play *Hide & Seek*

In days gone by, a simple game like Hide and Seek was enough to entertain us in our childhood play. It was a fun way of trying to hide, and not be easily found after a count of 10. The trouble is that if you hid in a place that is almost impossible to find – you may not be found and will feel lonely after a while, as I had experienced once when hiding in a dark storage room behind some bags of rice. I started to wonder if my friends had given up on finding me! It wasn't a very nice feeling staying in darkness!

God does not hide from us. Instead he chooses to reveal himself to us in the radiance of his Son Jesus our Lord. The Prophet Isaiah tells us: **“Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you.”** (Isa 60:1). **“Lift up your eyes and look around ... At this sight you will grow radiant.”** (Isa 60:5). We can see the presence of God's glory and his light shining on and from his Son, Jesus. **Those who have faith will see him as Our Saviour, but to those who do not have faith, they will see him as a threat as did Herod.** He became perturbed at the news of the Magi who had told him, **“We saw his star rising and have come to do him homage.”** (Mt 2:2).

Jealousy, power and envy are the poisons that emanate from the heart of those who hate the light. Herod walked in the darkness of his fear and insecurity, and he would not stop to demean, threaten and cut down those who stand in his way.

As we start this New Year, we stand at the cusp of time to ponder with

faith the difficult and disruptive year that has just gone by, and we are poised with hope to embark on another year ahead.

What do you need to make this journey as it unfolds with surprises and God's many gifts given along the way?

As I also embark on the fourth year as the parish priest of St Ignatius on 1 January, I look back with gratitude for the strength to serve all of you in spite of my many faults and limitations. I too have had my share of pain, regrets and anguish in my heart as the Covid had amplified the stress for everyone. I do regret some of the things I have done and words that I have said which resulted in hurt feelings along the way. For these people who have been wounded by me, I apologise and beg your forgiveness.

At the same time, I am very grateful for the many people who have worked so hard and selflessly in doing what you believe to be good for our parish out of your faith conviction. For all of you and your support and love, I can't thank you enough and ask God to bless you with greater enthusiasm as you continue to serve in our community.

Some of us may feel that time is relentless and we are kept moving all the time. Sometimes we are at the entrance line and for others, we may be at the exit line. One thing is for sure, God does not play Hide and Seek with us. He has in this Epiphany, shown us his face. The problem is that we are still hiding from Him. Do we dare to “seek the Lord where He is to be found?” Jesus is found in our human frailty and poverty, in our

sinfulness and shame, in our brokenness and biases, in our grief and despair.

Rising above them, we kneel before the child and mother and offer him the Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They represent the three-fold office of Jesus – the gold of his kingship, the frankincense of his priesthood, and the myrrh of this prophetic life. We too are given a share of them when we are baptised into his life, death and resurrection.

Finally, this being our Jubilee Year, I invite you to renew your faith in the Lord's goodness and blessings for our parish by taking on board our spirit of the celebration. To “Above All, Seek God”, to be more “Discerning”, and to participate in all activities that we have planned for you. On a special note, we will have Deacon Stanley Goh, SJ who will be ordained priest on 28 January at the Good Shepherd Cathedral. We congratulate him and wish him the abundance of God's love and graces as he begins his priestly ministry. Kindly go to our website for more information for all these events.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year with Our Lord to guide and protect you. May his Star shine on you and his love and light radiate his goodness and blessings to all around you!

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

JANUARY MASS BOOKINGS

Mass bookings for January 2021 will be held in a 3-Stage process. In each stage, parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses**.

Stage 1 - 29 December, 3pm

Stage 2 - 12 January, 3pm

Stage 3 - 19 January, 3pm

Our Parish capacity for all weekday and weekend Masses has been increased to 170 pax.

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.

All Mass bookings are to be made through **myCatholic.sg**. Please note that the limited weekday Mass bookings system is currently only on trial in the Church of St Ignatius.

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.

COMPULSORY USE OF TRACETOGETHER

All parishioners attending Mass are to use the **TRACETOGETHER** app or token to perform SafeEntry check-ins.

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**

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

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.

NEW STAFF

We warmly welcome our new Parish Administrator, Pauline Khoo. We look forward to working with her and having her serve our parish family.



THANK YOU ANGELA!

Our parish office bids farewell to Angela, Parish Administrator. We thank her for her 9 years of service; for her dedication, patience, and for all the times that she went above and beyond in helping parishioners and non-parishioners alike. We will miss her quiet strength and presence in the office. We wish Angela all the best for her future endeavours and may God's abundant blessings be upon her and her family always.



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 20 January and 3 February, 8.30pm – 10.00pm via Zoom. Sign up at **tinyurl.com/joyofdiscovery**

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 2021 bookings, please book at **bit.ly/stigsolumbarium2021**



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 (Pauline/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/SMS 9675 6621.

PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

Our church is selling commemorative Jubilee T-shirts and umbrellas at \$20 each. They make excellent and useful gifts. 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.

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Pauline Khoo 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

Welcoming Jesus at Home

At the Inaugural West District Kids Bible Virtual Advent Camp 2020, 46 children and their parents used technology to welcome Jesus into their hearts and homes this Advent.

*“Come they told me,
Pa rum pum pum pum,
A new born
king to see,
Pa rum pum
pum pum”*



This famous Christmas song rhythmically resounded on computers across homes as children gathered in their Music Station breakout room during our inaugural Virtual Advent Camp held on Saturday 19 December, from 8.30am to 12.30pm. This popular song was paired with a video of the Little Drummer Boy and baby Jesus; and it was an invitation for children to “drum from home” in a virtual visit to the manger to share their gifts with Jesus and the world! Truly it was Jesus – the Word alive in us!

Our Virtual Camp themed “Jesus – The Coming Word” was run entirely on Zoom and facilitated by 14 volunteer Catechists and youth from parishes in the West. The children started with a virtual morning assembly to more deeply appreciate the meaning of Advent, and were then grouped and assigned to 4 break-out rooms for sessions of 45 minutes each. The effort was helmed by two technically savvy catechists who managed the Zoom platform. Camp materials were posted earlier via smartpac to the children’s homes so that all they needed was in hand.

At the Games station, our youth facilitators challenged the children to an online menti quiz on Advent to bring home the message that Jesus is the

Word that guides us. When the children were asked to key in their response to the final question “What is your favourite part of Christmas?”, their responses started to fill the screen; and fittingly, the word “FAMILY” took centre stage.

The key message at the Faith Station was Jesus – The Word with us; where the children were led through quiet meditation to make room in their hearts to receive Jesus. The scripture verses on



surprises as the new Liturgical Calendar, Advent Colouring Sheet, along with surprise Christmas gifts were presented as part of the package that the children received at home. By 12.30pm all the children, parents and catechists gathered full screen for a fitting closing assembly and heartfelt thanksgiving prayer.



the Annunciation were shared from the Gospel of Luke, followed by a story of St Martin de Porres (a model of humility and service) and finally closing off with the beautiful Magnificat prayer recited together. Complimenting the stations was the Craft Station breakout room themed Jesus – the Word who saves us. With patience and nimble fingers, the children creatively put together their very own Nativity Scene with resources so generously prepared and sourced from the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

The excitement did not end at the stations! It was still a morning of

It was an enlightening, fruitful and special virtual community time of preparation to welcome baby Jesus into our hearts. Christie de Cunha aged 6, so proudly announced to her godmother that she learnt new facts about Jesus and why she believes in Christmas. She learnt that everybody is “special”, and that Christmas is presents and blessings from Jesus, Mary and Joseph. She liked the meditation part as she connected this to Eucharistic adoration, without a bell.

LESLEY GOONTING