



Baptism: the New Life in *Christ*

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted many difficult decisions to choose between life and livelihood. This New Year 2021, we are hopeful with the coming vaccines, and cherish the Phase Three (Safe-Nation) status for Singapore moving towards the “New-Normal”. Glancing back at 2020, we are grateful to the front-line workers who take courage in caring for life, and also the essential workers who tirelessly work to ensure safety for everyone. One underlying theme from all these is appreciating human life with joy and challenges.

This weekend, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord that marks the closing of the Christmas season, and the beginning of Ordinary Time. For Christians, Baptism is the foundational Sacrament. The Catechism tells us, Baptism “unites us with Jesus Christ, and incorporates us into his redemptive death on the Cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, to rise with him to a life without end.” (YouCat 194) Through our baptism, we possess and grow in the new life of Christ the Lord.

As baptised Christians, it is important for us to know the person of Jesus Christ as today’s Gospel tells us, when Jesus was baptized “...a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’” The second reading describes the testimony of the Father and the Spirit at Jesus’ baptism, together with the witness of blood which came in the gift of Jesus’ life on the cross as he accomplished his mission. God has given us Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, on Christmas.

Jesus’ life-mission is to reveal the truth about who God is and who we are in the eyes of God. Knowing this mystery of grace, we can live and grow in the fullness of life as a Christ-like person, God’s beloved children. Many opportunities will be given to us in Ordinary Time to reflect on the life and mystery of Christ as well as our life-vocation as Christ’s followers.

In 2021, we can be grateful for the upcoming festivities, like the Year of St Joseph, Catholic 200SG, the Diamond Jubilee of our parish at St Ignatius, and the Ignatian Year. The latter celebration which will begin on 20 May 2021 commemorates the 500th anniversary of the cannonball injury that St Ignatius experienced

Ignatius

while defending Pamplona. This unfavourable event disrupted his future dream to be “full of courtly riches and worldly exploits”. Despite his life-career failure, something new emerged as Ignatius went through a

process of conversion that led him to discover a bigger dream in his life. That dream was no longer centred on himself but on God alone. And so, the theme of this Ignatian Year is to ask for the grace “to see all things new in Christ”, which is also the call of conversion. This call invites us to return to our baptismal identity, a way of life that enables us to live a God-filled life in a human world. This new life in Christ is also a life of service, sacrifice, humility and love centred on God alone.

Taking this step further, Isaiah in the first reading challenges us to look at how we live and what satisfies our life today. We are called to repentance and turn our hearts towards God “who is rich in forgiving”. Isaiah assures us that God’s Living Word is like the rain and the snow that never fail to give life, growth and making the earth fruitful.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, can you identify your baptismal call and grace today? How can you grow “to see all things new in Christ” in your everyday living?

FR AGUSTINUS TANUDJAJA, SJ

PARISH NEWS

JANUARY MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 of Mass bookings opens on **12 January, 3pm** via **myCatholic.sg**. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses**.

Our Parish capacity for all weekday and weekend Masses is now 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.

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**

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**

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

CRC resumes this Wednesday 13 January. We start the year reconnecting with the Lord, praying for the year ahead and discerning our activities for 2021. Join us this Wed at 8pm. Email us at: **cpg.cosi@gmail.com** for details.

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

Support our 60th Anniversary celebration by buying a commemorative Jubilee t-shirt for yourself and your family. It's a double celebration as our 60th anniversary on 12 February 2021 falls on the first day of Chinese New Year. Be proud to celebrate as one parish by wearing the t-shirt this Jubilee year! The Jubilee t-shirts and umbrellas will be on sale in the confessional room at the Place of Gathering immediately after each weekend mass, or you may go to the church office at any time during office hours to make your purchases.

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.

Join the weekly Intercessory Prayer every Tuesday at 8pm via Zoom. Please register via **https://forms.gle/wfFXjDe7XaynMUQ26** to receive the Zoom details.

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.

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

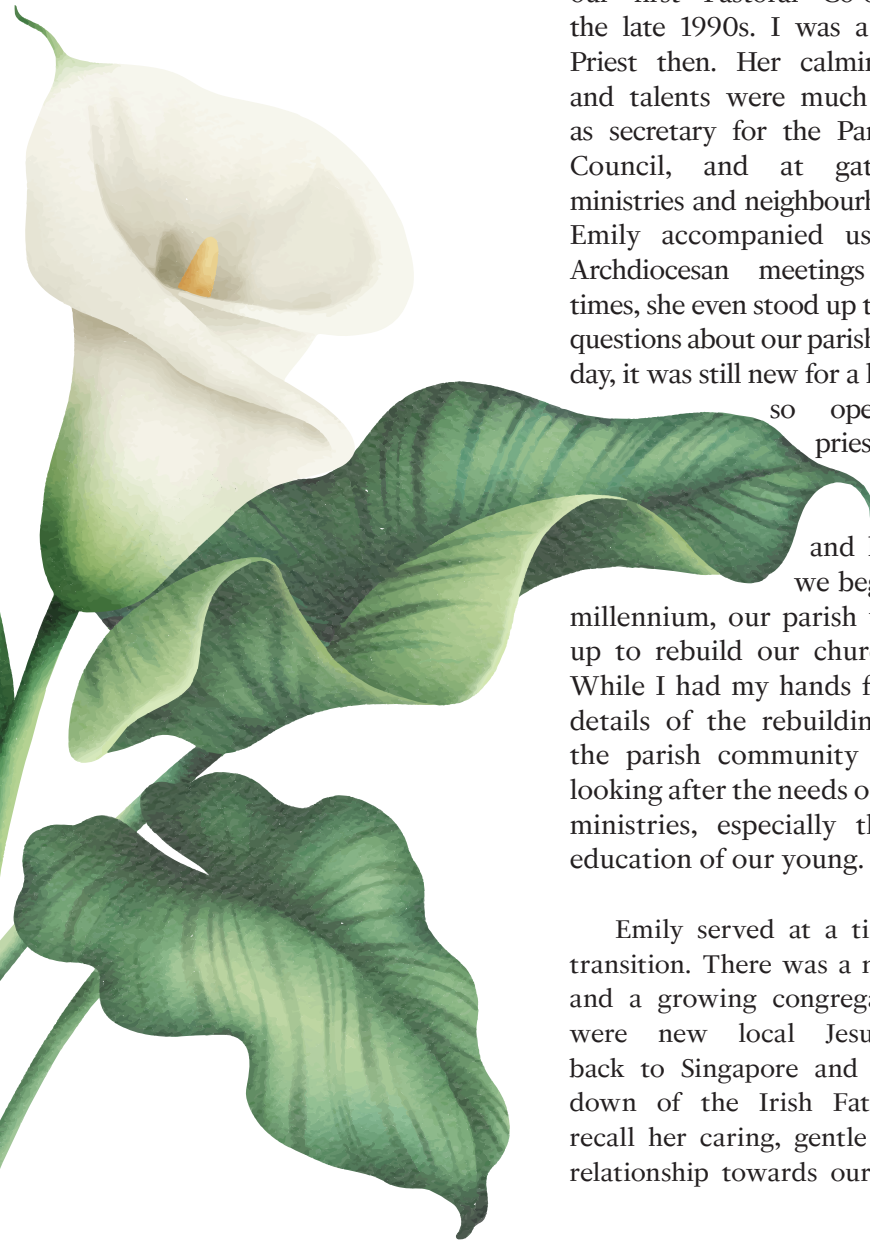
In Memory of

Emily Chin

(10.04.1957 - 30.12.2020)



“Her message was simple: to live is to love and serve”



Emily was already involved in the Catechetical Ministry in the parish, when she stepped up to take on the role of our first Pastoral Co-ordinator in the late 1990s. I was a new Parish Priest then. Her calming presence and talents were much appreciated as secretary for the Parish Pastoral Council, and at gatherings of ministries and neighbourhood groups. Emily accompanied us priests to Archdiocesan meetings where at times, she even stood up to respond to questions about our parish. Back in the day, it was still new for a lady to speak so openly before priests and she did so with sincerity and humility. As we began the new millennium, our parish was revving up to rebuild our church building. While I had my hands full with the details of the rebuilding, she kept the parish community thriving by looking after the needs of the various ministries, especially the religious education of our young.

Emily served at a time of much transition. There was a new building and a growing congregation. There were new local Jesuits coming back to Singapore and the slowing down of the Irish Fathers. I still recall her caring, gentle and patient relationship towards our much-loved

Irish Fathers. Whenever I was not available, she would drive Fr O’Neill to Archdiocesan meetings and bring him home. Whenever Fr Reid dropped by the church office, she would look after him and have a laugh or two. But it was with Fr Keane that she joked in Cantonese, sometimes behind my back. I would not have put it past these two if I was talked about in a dialect I didn’t understand.

As illness took over in more recent years, I would stay in touch with Emily by phone or we would meet up for a while. She would reciprocate by asking how I was doing with my health and treatment. Her promised prayers were always a comfort to me. Over time, Emily became more prayerful and made every effort to come for daily mass and to attend talks and devotions. Once, I asked her what kept her going and she shared that she was doing this for her family and loved ones. What she said and did is an inspiration to me. Her message was simple: **to live is to love and serve.**

“Emily, I look out from my window facing the church, and I can still imagine you arranging flowers around the table of the Lord. This, you did till the end of your days. I will strive to do as you have showed me. May you now share at the Heavenly Feast. Amen.”

FR LESLIE RAJ, SJ