



A Heart of Compassion for the New Year

The desperate plea of the leper in our gospel this weekend is rather poignant and passionate. He cried out to Jesus: **“If you want to you can cure me!” (Mk 1:40).**

“Of course I want to,” he said. “Be cured!” Jesus responded with urgency and immediacy to the cry of this poor man who was ostracised and dehumanised by the religious leaders and his fellow Jews who avoided him like a plague because of his disease.

With the coming celebration of the Lunar New Year, we are invited to renew our relationships with our families, relatives and friends in order to herald in another year of goodwill, and invoke God’s blessings on everyone. We should also reach out to those whom we have been avoiding.

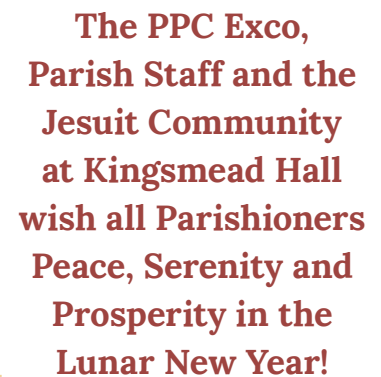
The leper showed us how to have faith. Indeed, the fearless in life live by faith and have no fear of rejection, while the faithless can become superstitious and fearful.

As Christians, we are to transcend our fears and superstitions about whether certain actions and use of symbols will bring good luck or bad luck. What is really important is to believe that all blessings and good things descend from God to all who have faith and love Him. We in turn should pass on these blessings to other people by our respect and acts of kindness.

As we mark this 60th Jubilee Year of our Church’s dedication on the 12th of February, we remember God’s goodness and the graces that He has bestowed on our parish. We are mindful that God has been pleased to bless all our enterprise and endeavours.

Hence, with gratitude, we are called to align our vision to His and to see as He sees – always with the eyes of compassion for the poor ones like the leper – the anawim whom God loves as well.

Let our faith be alive during this season of celebration and festivities as we pray for the



**The PPC Exco,
Parish Staff and the
Jesuit Community
at Kingsmead Hall
wish all Parishioners
Peace, Serenity and
Prosperity in the
Lunar New Year!**

guidance of God’s hand to steer and bless the events and activities in our lives, our work, our families and our country.

Finally, as a faith community of believers in the parish, I invite you to be focused on how to be more **discerning this year in walking with the poor and excluded** as part of our parish guiding vision and in marking the Ignatian Year beginning 20 May to 31 July, 2022.

On behalf of Frs Jerome Leon, SJ, Ravi Michael, SJ, and the parish staff, I wish all our parishioners and all your families and friends, a Blessed and Happy Lunar New Year!

FR COLIN TAN, SJ
Parish Priest

PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 4 Mass bookings for February opens on **16 February, 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses** at each stage, subject to availability.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm 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.

CANCELLATION FOR BOOKED MASS

The cancellation cut-off time for Mass bookings has been **reduced from 48hrs to 24hrs as of 1 February**. If you are unable to attend a Mass you have booked, please cancel your booking early so that another parishioner may take your place.

CHINESE NEW YEAR DISPENSATION

The Bishops' Conference grants dispensation from abstinence to all the faithful celebrating the Lunar New Year in any way on the three consecutive Fridays, **12, 19 and 26 February**.

However, all are asked to observe the regular fast and abstinence for Ash Wednesday on 17 February.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMINGS

Wednesday, 17 February: 7.30am, 12.15pm*, 7pm*.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent, starting from 19 February, after the 7pm Mass. Please note that parishioners will need to have a valid Mass booking to attend.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Please go to stignatius.org.sg/home/

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available every Wednesday, 6.00pm-6.30pm and Friday, 5.00pm-6.30pm. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down.

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

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

The 2021 Catechetical Term will start after Chinese New Year, on the weekend of **27/28 February 2021** and end on the weekend of **13/14 November 2021**. Please look out for updates via email and your respective Telegram channels.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Our CRC community will not be meeting this Wed, Feb 17. We join the Church in observance of Ash Wednesday. Let us spend this time with the Lord in prayer, sacrifice and reconciliation as we start the Lenten season.

ALPHA ONLINE at Catholic Church of St Ignatius Got questions about life? Come and join us on 22 February at 8pm via Zoom. For enquiry and/or registration, go to bit.ly/2021AOCC3

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 February bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumFeb2021

If you need help in booking, please call the church office 6466 0625 (Pauline/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/Telegram/SMS 9675 6621.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

1 On the 60th year of our church, we are pleased to unveil the **Jubilee Commemorative Gallery** to acknowledge the contributions of the Jesuits of our Parish! We hope it evokes fond memories of your special times with them. Do visit the gallery at the corridor leading to the Place of Gathering!



2 Also do check out our **Jubilee Bingo** banner at the place of gathering! Certificates will be awarded to those with a full house!



3 Be united in our celebrations and get your **Jubilee T-shirts** 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.

To find out more about our Jubilee celebrations, visit jubilee-stignatius.com

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC200SG: IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH

In this special year of faith, we invite all Catholics to participate in the **Collective Discernment Exercise** to reflect on how you have been living your faith.

Experience personal renewal and contribute your ideas to the Archdiocese! You may do this exercise via video, podcast or through a booklet - on your own or through a group setting.

More information on the Catholic200SG Discernment Exercise can be found at <https://catholic200.sg/spiritual/collective-discernment/>

LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and

Tamil. The reflection theme for Lent is "The Word, Source of Life".

Please download the e-booklet at bit.ly/Lenten2021

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on Thursdays 8pm, starting 31 January at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel

FAMILIES UNITE AGAINST OCD

An online support group for caregivers with loved ones affected by Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Session 7 - Caregiver Stress and Burnout: The Importance of Self-care

27 February 2021 (Every 4th Saturday of the month), 2pm-4pm via Zoom.

Register at tinyurl.com/familiesuniteagainstocd
Registration closes on 24 February 2021.

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

Landing Home

For Catholics reconciling and returning to the Church, Landings is a ministry that facilitates and guides their journey home safely. Here, two parishioners reflect on their experience.

The core of Landings is the three Cs of **conversation**, **compassionate** listening and **community**. When I heard of Landings, I thought that it would be good to be a facilitator, encouraging returning Catholics to come back to church. Instead, I discovered a safe space where everyone, including the facilitators, encounters God again through the sharing and authentic conversations of all. I rediscovered the loving Father God who always waits for me to return to Him, and I learnt that indeed, I am just as much in need of returning to Him as anyone else.

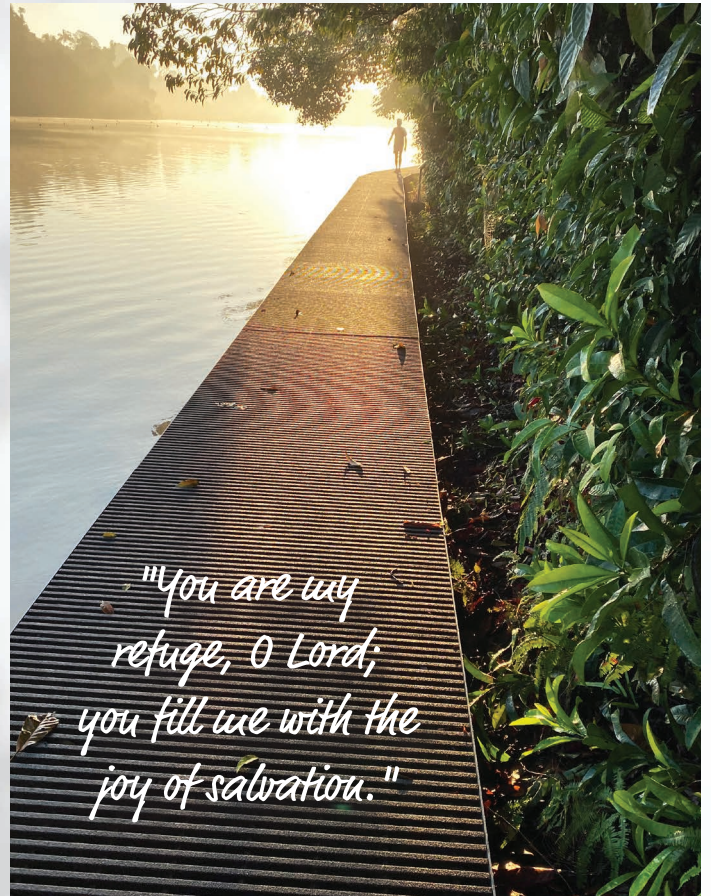
I was reintroduced to my faith and I was prompted to reflect on my relationship with God, by listening with compassion to fellow Catholics sharing their faith stories. I see how God is in their lives, and I am invited to see God in those stories, and to ask how God is also present in my life, regardless of where I am in my faith journey. I have come to realise that I am not any better or worse than my brothers and sisters, and we are all searching and seeking, a community of fellow travellers who support and love each other as He called us to do. I have found a place where I can share my faith story without fear of judgement, where no one tries to fix me, or my problems. I am instead invited to focus on which part of their story touched me, healed me, and showed me God at work not only in their lives, but in mine as well. In Landings, I can truly see the face of God and feel His embrace, welcoming me home, in the faces of members of my community.

Terence Teo

I am a baptized Catholic, a mother, a divorcée, a co-parent with my ex-spouse, a remarried Catholic and a stepmother.

Like many others, I had my fair share of ups and downs in my relationships, and especially with God. It was very challenging to understand and embrace God when I was suffering emotionally.

Pride, anger, anxiety, depression, bitterness and grief were my constant companions for many years. I was so burdened by all these negativities that I was oblivious to God's hands in loving and helping me along the way.



For many years, my fear of judgement prevented me from being more active in Church. However, my prayers to God never ceased. He alone knows the depths of my fears and needs.

God is always compassionate and merciful. I have learned to trust in His will over the years, and God makes things right and good in His time.

One of the loving gifts God has blessed me with was the convalidation of my civil marriage with my husband. Shortly after our convalidation, my husband was baptized after being a catechumen for almost 5 years. None of which could have happened without God's mercy.

I participated in Landings last year as a first step towards being more active in Church. This is a ministry where everyone is welcome to share their journey without judgment from one another.

I believe that we are but instruments of God, and together as a community, we can reach out to one another to walk closer to God in more ways than one.

Christine C

If you wish to find out more about Landings, go to landings.org.sg