



Called to Live With God

The last line of today's reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians says that "**We are created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance**". We do not ordinarily think of "doing good deeds" as being a source of joy, but if God calls us to live as He does, living only to do good to others, to help create them and to bless them, then that is what doing good deeds is, a source of the deepest joy. God did create us to live in bliss, and all we have to do is to accept that gift and all that accepting it entails.

When I was much younger, I was taught that humans are natural beings and that God had infused supernatural life into us in a separate action, almost as an afterthought or as a retrofit, a patch. I really don't believe that anymore. We are naturally supernatural, called by our very nature to live with God and in a godly manner, living God's life and doing His deeds and so becoming blissful because we have achieved our goal. Augustine said it best in the first lines of his *Confessions*:

"You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you".

Too often, we assume that the lives we live here on Earth are all that we have and are, but we are as wrong in that assumption as children who think that they are invulnerable and able to do whatever they want, just like the grownups. To the contrary, having a body is just a stage that we go through, and even after we die it is still part of our being because it is a part of our history. We were once fetuses, dependent on a placenta, but since our birth we rarely even think of it. We used the placenta to develop bodies for this part of our life, and we had no choice in the matter; it will be the same for the bodies we are now using once God calls us to the next stage of our lives. At that point our bodies will matter to us as little as our placentas do at this stage of our life, but our life now, with bodies, is dedicated to choosing who we will become and learning what that means in terms of the way that we treat ourselves and other people.

The measure of our joy and

eternal ecstasy in that next life – or of our regret and eternal pain – is whether we live in response to God's call or not, whether or not we choose to become the full human beings that God created us to be. While we are here on earth, God offers us a fullness of life that we can barely imagine or understand – or even believe – and we need to choose between accepting His invitation or living apart from Him, everlastingly unable to reach our goal, the life and love God created us to share with Him. It is *our* choice, and we can choose, for whatever reason we wish, whether we prefer to forever be God's beloved children or be "free" of God, independent and forever alone. But we **MUST** choose, and not making a choice is already a choice.

In this light, we might read the second reading over again and talk to the Lord about how it touches us: in this season of grace, let us decide not only in thought but in action to "choose life".

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

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



Lent 2021

A Season of Renewal and Preparation




Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent after the 7pm Mass
Parishioners will need to have a valid Mass booking to attend.



Laudato Si' Lenten Reflection
Come and join us for a guided meditative walk around our Parish garden and reflect on how you can make a difference in caring for our common home.
Every Saturday during Lent: **27 February, 6,13, 20 and 27 March at 6pm.** To register, WhatsApp/ text Angela at 9664 2094.

For those who would like to do the meditative walk on your own, please scan the QR code to access the Lenten Reflection booklet and follow the sketch map.



Lenten Talk Series
Join us for a series of Lenten talks on **17, 18 and 19 March, 8pm - 9.30pm via Zoom.**
Day 1 - Sin and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled with God*
Day 2 - Conflict and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled with one another*
Day 3 - Vocation and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled for Mission*
Register at bit.ly/stigslentenriduumtalk21



Lent Reconciliation Service
Confessions will be available during Lent on the following dates:

| Date | Time |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Monday, 22 March 2021 | 8pm to 10pm |
| Tuesday, 23 March 2021 | 3pm to 5pm |
| Tuesday, 23 March 2021 | 8pm to 10pm |
| Wednesday, 24 March 2021 | 8pm to 10pm |
| Thursday, 25 March 2021 | 3pm to 5pm |
| Thursday, 25 March 2021 | 8pm to 10pm |
| Friday, 26 March 2021 | 8pm to 10pm |

Book a slot at calendly.com/youthoffice/confession



Lenten Fast for the Poor
Enrich your Lenten fast by donating the cost you save from fasting to the **Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) at St Ignatius.** In doing so, you'll be helping in their mission and outreach to the poor and needy.
You may make these donations via PayNow to **UEN T08CC4052A.** Indicate "Lenten Fast" as the reference.

PARISH NEWS

MARCH MASS BOOKINGS
Stage 4 Mass bookings opens on **16 March at 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, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Parishioners attending Mass are to use the **TRACETOGETHER app or token** to perform SafeEntry check-ins. Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking before you can be admitted to the Church Hall.

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.

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY
There's no prayer meeting this Wednesday, 17 March. We will join the Parish Lenten Talks on 17-19 March on Zoom and encourage our members to register for this. Let us put in more effort to be reconciled with our Lord.

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 March bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMar2021

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

Safety volunteers aged **70 or below** needed for a new visiting session, **5-5.45pm on all Sundays.** Please message 9675 6621 if you are able to help. Thank you!

KINGSMEAD NEWS

JOB VACANCY: Kingsmead Centre for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling is looking for an **ADMINISTRATOR.** Please send your application and resume, including present and expected salary to kingsmead.recruitment@gmail.com

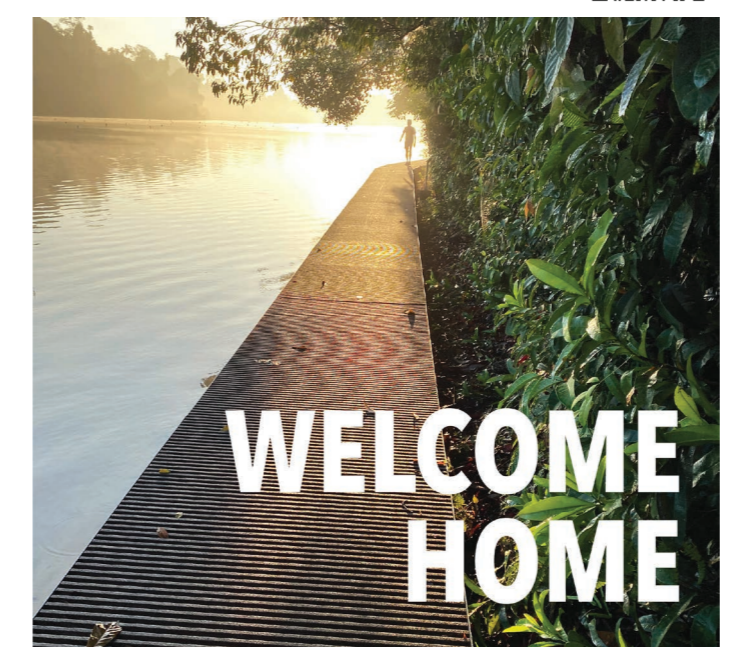
For details of the job description and other requirements, please go to www.kingsmeadcentre.sg
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WELCOMING HOME RETURNING CATHOLICS
Landings Singapore will start an 8-week programme on **Thursdays (8pm to 10pm)** commencing on **15 April 2021 till 3 June 2021.** We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register.

Please register for the programme at bit.ly/Landings-Apr2021 or scan the QR code below by 7 April 2021.

For more information on Landings, please email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg



CARITAS SINGAPORE - CHARITIES WEEK 2021
The season of Lent is the time when Caritas Singapore conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign - Charities Week 2021.

Your donation will provide much-needed funding to support the work of Caritas to journey with low-income families, youth-at-risk, people with physical disabilities, and mental health issues.

Do pick up an appeal envelope and give generously.
All Donations are eligible for 250% Tax Deduction

CATHOLIC200SG PUBLICATION

Calling writers of all ages! We invite you to write a poem, short story or article about Catholics and Catholicism for the Catholic200SG publication. Submissions may reflect on the last 200 years or ponder what the next 200 years will bring.

For more information go to <http://bit.ly/3e7ndxP>

CBN LENTEN RETREAT 2021: IGNITING FAITH@WORK

Come and spend a Day of Recollection with Fr Christopher Soh at CBN Lenten Retreat 2021.
Saturday, 20 March, 8.30am - 2.30pm via Zoom.

Learn more about reliance on God's Grace and Discernment in your daily life. Register at bit.ly/CBNLENTRETREAT21



JESUS FOR EVERYONE

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings the good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns' - Isaiah 52:7

You are invited to further the good news of the Lord in 2021. What can you do? How will you do it?



Tell others about Jesus.
<https://youtu.be/HwSWQ1HyGsA>

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

"Marriage is a project to be worked on together and a process of growth" - Pope Francis (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 218, 221). Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen your couple relationship, sign up for a **Marriage Encounter Weekend on April 16, 17, and 18, 2021.** This In-person and non stay-in weekend will be at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh. Please contact David & Clara at 96705390 or email mewkend@gmail.com

Please refer to the Parish website for the latest updates on the full Lenten Programme.