



The Kernel of Hope

he humble seed is a potent image for us as Christians. We hear how the mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into a tall shrub that can give shelter to others. We hear how the seed can represent our faith lives and how we can grow to be fruitful if we listen to the Lord. Seeds are symbols of great potential and promise we started a seed bank here in Singapore in 2019 as a means of conserving and preserving plants for future generations. Just as the Lord told us in the parable of the mustard seed, it's quite amazing to hold a seed in one's hand and consider that we are holding the potential for a mighty rain tree.

But with the potential also comes some hardship. We hear in today's Gospel that a grain of wheat has to die before it produces much fruit - a reminder that our salvation is gained through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus; also that the potential that exists within the seed remains just potential unless it is allowed to fall to the ground and grow into the plant or tree that it can become. It can sometimes be tempting to hold onto the seeds because we are fixated on the promise of what they could become without recognising that in many cases, the reaching of one's potential involves much change, struggle and even suffering.

Our lives as Christians should thus be a life that seeks to balance the potential and struggle, seeking to realise the fullness of our being children of God while at the same time recognising that this realisation will sometimes come at a cost that requires a good amount of perseverance and endurance. Take the example of a child who finds that she's good in a particular sport - she enjoys playing it and excels at it in her younger days. Her parents, teachers and coaches recognise this, and help to nurture this talent so that she can become even better at the sport. This might involve long hours of training and sacrifices on the part of all of them. The child, now older, still enjoys the sport, but realises that it's no longer fun and games. She gets serious about the sport and makes the sacrifices so that she can finally represent her country on the world stage in her sport. That's the tree that grew out of the seed of her early potential, but that took much work and no small amount of struggle.

This bears some similarity with our lives of faith. We're all born with the potential to do great

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things for the Lord but sometimes, for some reason or another, we choose not to go down the road of fulfilling our potential. We sometimes fear rejection or suffering, or we may lack the confidence to be witnesses to the glory of the Lord. I suggest two ways in which we can try to live this life of balance between potential and struggle.

The first is to embrace the potential with much hope. We know that hope is the theological virtue that orientates us to the Kingdom of God, inviting us to rely on God and less on our own strength. Hope traces the path that leads us through our struggles to the sureness of salvation, and it is this hope that would elevate our eyes above whatever struggles we may face to see that the process of reaching this potential that God leads us to would be far better and more graced than the difficulties we face.

The next is to embrace the potential as a gift that we cannot keep for ourselves. We hear many folk tales or parables that warn us of the dangers of being selfish with what we have been blessed with – it's always better to share what we have so that those around us, our family and community, can be blessed with the graces that the Lord gifts us. By seeking to achieve our potential by sharing it with those around, the struggles and difficulties can also be shared, making things less onerous and allowing the community to grow closer in the shared struggles.

Amidst all this, it's important to have a discerning heart and eyes fixed firmly on the Lord. The hope that we carry and the community with whom we share the graces with allow us to put things into perspective – that our potential to grow comes from the Lord. And no matter the struggle, we also remember that it is the

Lord who will accompany us as we too are able to bear much fruit.

FR STANLEY GOH, SJ





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.





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

This Reconciliation Service is open for ALL Parishioners and not just for the youth.



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.



Lent Reflection Booklet 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet: "The Word, Source of Life" to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. Download at bit.ly/Lenten2021

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

PARISH NEWS

APRIL MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 1 Mass bookings for April opens on **23 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.

Kindly note the **NEW additional Weekday Mass Timings, effective from 6 April 2021**. Our Parish capacity for all weekend Masses will also be increased to **200 pax** in April 2021.

WEEKDAY MORNING MASS: **Tuesday & Thursday**, **7.30am** (**50** pax)

WEEKDAY EVENING MASS: **Monday - Friday, 7.00pm** WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

All 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.

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with

Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Please go to stignatius.org.sg/home/

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Is your heart unsettled by the chaos of the world? Are you burdened with bad moments, mad moments, or anxious moments? Come, rest in God's self-giving love and leave something at the foot of the cross. Join us in our Lenten Reflection this **Wednesday**, **24 March at 8pm**. Email us at **cpg.cosi@gmail.com** for more 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 March bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMar2021

For April bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumApr2021

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

O 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. sq or visit www.landings.org.sq



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.

EASTER REFLECTION BOOKLET 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Easter. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection theme for Easter is "The Word Liberates". Download the e-booklet at bit.ly/ TheWordLiberates

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

GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

This being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the Mass Offering Box. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). More info at catholicfoundation.sg