



## Trust God



**T**he first reading of the Acts of the Apostles talks about the early Christian communities, modelled after the disciples. They probably felt the loss of Jesus most keenly. However, Jesus never really left them alone. While Jesus the person was lost to them, the spirit of Jesus continued in them, as they lived like Jesus did, in solidarity with each other. In such an egalitarian society, the poor and marginalised would have been drawn to join, recognising the precious meaning of dignity and recognition. No longer invisible, valued and accepted as they are, just as Jesus did in solidarity with us, warts and all, who deigned to dine and celebrate with us and heal us. Underlining such acceptance and humility towards one another, is an unconditional love that's freely given, abundant and overflowing.

As much as we give adulation to the proponents of such love, have we ever recounted the costs of these sacrifices? The height of such sacrifice is exemplified by Jesus Christ, who suffered all the indignities and suffering that those who nominally count as his people could heap on him. Never mind whose actual hands had scourged and crucified Jesus – the responsibility rests on those who planned and agreed to the plans set into action, not those who are brainwashed and sent out with

training and dangerous weapons to rain senseless terror on the innocent and defenseless.

Despite another context and milieu, evil stalks and walks the same path all over, never quite accountable. Yet to be good and true means being accountable, especially to the truth that Jesus Christ had revealed and shared to us, and has become encapsulated and enculturated in the various teachings of the Catholic Church that is ongoing and alive. From Jesus' example, we would do well to act as if everything counted on us, and trust that everything depended on God.

If we are to judge our neighbours, let them be judged against the truth that Jesus always taught us, the truth that the Divine is always with us, an offer of presence, acceptance and everlasting redemption always offered to all. Against this truth, Jesus Christ judged without fear or favour, whose judgment was to be in solidarity with and love those who were broken, misunderstood and alone – even those who were rich, powerful or mean. Jesus came not for the healthy, but for the sick, and for those who turned away from God. The mystery of the Divine Mercy stands in stark contrast to any humanitarian aid or relief effort.

Such solidarity movement of love is both human and divine. Human, as Jesus was fully human,

relatable and real. He understands the human condition intimately, even unto death. Consoling, even if resurrected from the dead – what is more important were the people who were close to his heart, not the discombobulation or disorientation of relationships shaken up by his death and resurrection. Not that they are unimportant, but the people themselves, were more important. While it is important to mark the passing of those no longer here, it is just as important to give life to and recognise those who remain.

Divine, as Jesus was divine, means recognising the spirit and soul of a person as infinitely capable of responding to the occasion, to either rise to the challenge or to sit and sift through the holocaust happening around them and discern what action would be most meaningful and necessary. Divine in instituting an everlasting redemption for all peoples, and seeding the Holy Spirit where God willed, encouraging signs and symbols that arise guerilla-like in real and concrete jungles, spirits that have their dignity and worth intact, and working actively for their culture, the truth of Jesus Christ and the common good.

Is this fantasy? A beautiful but hollow dream? Thomas asked as much. Thomas might have worked as if everything depended on him – to be worthily called “one of the

Twelve” – and perhaps he did trust that everything depended on God. Perhaps a God that is separate and in heaven, transcendent and far from this place and moment, simplifying what is already a complicated world in which he probably found his stride in.

While it might seem nightmarish, or at least disturbing, Thomas is confronted by God in the form of the resurrected Jesus Christ. Imagine being judged by God for something said flippantly and now is deemed to be blasphemous – dynamite to the built-up foundations of the successful person that is righteous and had found favour with God, albeit up to this point of confrontation. In that moment, what would Divine Mercy look like? Do we trust God enough to follow Jesus? May we find out in our own lives, before God encounters us and asks how we have trusted in Him.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

## 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.

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us this **Wednesday, 14 April at 8pm** for Prophetic Intercession. Let us learn how to reflect and discern what needs our Lord wants us to pray for and for whom. Email us at [cpg.cosi@gmail.com](mailto:cpg.cosi@gmail.com) for Zoom details.

## VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Saturdays, 5.00pm-5.45pm; and Sundays, 9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, 1.00pm-1.45pm, and 5.00pm-5.45pm.

For April bookings, please book at [bit.ly/stigscolumbariumApr2021](http://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.

## PARISH NEWS

### APRIL MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 4 Mass bookings for April opens on **13 April at 3pm** via [myCatholic.sg](http://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** have also been increased to **200 pax** in April 2021.

WEEKDAY MORNING MASS (50 pax):

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30am**

WEEKDAY EVENING MASS (170 pax):

**Mondays - Fridays, 7.00pm**

WEEKEND MASS (200 pax): Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

*The cut-off time for Mass booking and cancellation has been **reduced from 24hrs to 3hrs as of 1 April**. If you are unable to attend a Mass you have booked, please cancel your booking so that another parishioner may take your place.*

**LIVESTREAM MASS** are available on the following days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm.

Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm. Go to [bit.ly/stigslivestream](http://bit.ly/stigslivestream)

**WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION** with

Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Please go to [stignatius.org.sg/home/](http://stignatius.org.sg/home/)

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### 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](http://bit.ly/TheWordLiberates)

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on Thursday 8pm, starting 1 April at [tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel](http://tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel)

### 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 from 7-9 May 2021**. This In-person and non stay-in weekend will be held at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh.

Please contact David & Clara at 96705390 or email at [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com) to register your interest!

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