



Real Encounters with our Lord

There are times when telling someone about something just isn't enough and we need experiences to ground the reality of what we've heard. It's hard to know how to cook or bake without actually getting into the kitchen and sweating over a pot or kneading dough. Watching or being told how to play football cannot match being on the field and feeling the 'thump' of one's foot connecting with the ball. It's the same with our lives of faith as we seek to bring our knowledge of salvation into our lives to truly experience the joy of the Lord's resurrection and to share this joy with others.

This post-resurrection encounter between Jesus and his disciples that we hear about in the Gospel is significant in how Jesus sought to emphasise his presence among them. There are no less than three instances of how the reality of Jesus' presence was shown to the incredulous disciples – they saw him as he stood among them, they were invited to touch him, and he received a piece of fish and ate it in front of them. While one aspect of this presence was to reassure the

disciples and to lessen the anxieties that they must have been feeling, the quality of his presence also allowed him to bring their faith to a deeper level. His being with them, showing his hands and feet, brought all his pre-resurrection teachings to life, demonstrating how he is truly the fulfilment of all the promises made before. It was his presence that truly grounded this message, a message that is significant in its breadth.

We heard Peter proclaim the place of Jesus in the history of our salvation as he said, "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus." The passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is not an anomalous event, but firmly part of the whole history of salvation of all human persons. It was the fulfilment of all the prophecies that came before and is the event that effectively wrought our salvation. We heard in many accounts of Jesus' resurrection how he took pains to explain this to the disciples, being present with them as he opened their minds to the reality of salvation as it was written in the past.

Which brings us to the present. The presence of Jesus with the disciples was pivotal in their ability to recognise his divinity and to ground their faith in the joy of the resurrection. The appearances of the resurrected Lord helped them to truly experience the reality of this salvation which they might have known in their minds but had not made the connections till they met him after Calvary. While we might not have the benefit of these direct appearances that the disciples did, we do have the continued promise that Jesus made throughout his public ministry – that of continued presence with us.

The disciples' faith was strengthened by the experiential connection that the Lord made with them, which strengthened them in their ability to preach and heal. We too can experience the Lord's presence if we are open to recognising his presence in and around us all the time. We seek to deepen our faith through regular encounters with the Lord – through sacraments and prayer, and also through the real experiences of loving service to our neighbours or through them showing love to us. We meet and experience the Lord's presence in the reality of our lives, in our communities, in the world. And the more we recognise this, the more we're able to do what the Lord called the disciples to do – to be witnesses to this joy of salvation, sharing this good news to all we come into contact with.

FR STANLEY GOH, SJ

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

PARISH NEWS

APRIL MASS TIMINGS

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

LIVESTREAM MASSES are available on the following days: Mondays - Fridays, 7.00pm.

Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm. Go to bit.ly/stigslivestream

SAFEENTRY GATEWAY

With effect from **19 April 2021**, our Parish will deploy the **SafeEntry Gateway devices** as an additional check-in mode for all Masses. SafeEntry Gateway is a contactless means of checking in, and will be carried out at the registration desks.

Parishioners who wish to check-in via the SafeEntry Gateway are to have their TraceTogether tokens ready or have the TraceTogether App open on their mobile phones when they approach the registration desks.

While parishioners are encouraged to use the SafeEntry Gateway, existing modes of SafeEntry check-in are still available for the time being. Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking.

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

Come together united in one Spirit to give Praise and Worship to our Risen Christ, praying for each other for God's healing grace. Our God heals! Join us this

Wednesday, 21 April at 8pm. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for 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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY COLLECTION

Mass Collections received through PayNow, cash or cheques during the **week of 24th - 30th April 2021** will constitute receipts for Good Shepherd Sunday. Your contributions will support the ongoing formation of our seminarians and expenses of the St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

MEET THE SISTERS! An Invitation from the

Daughters of St Paul: Open your hearts and make God's dreams for you come true! Come meet the Sisters and hear them share on their life and call.

Join us via Zoom shorturl.at/aguGN on **Friday, 23 April, 8pm** Singapore time. Open to all young ladies aged 18 to 35.



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 to register your interest!

MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2021

Do Christians follow a different morality? Is there a difference between Christian and secular morality? Join us for the third module of My Personal Moral Compass as we contemplate what God has to do with ethics in general, and how the Christian understanding of God has an impact on human ethics. All sessions will be led by Rev Fr David Garcia, O.P.

Module 3 will start on **29 April 2021** and will be held weekly on Thursdays over Zoom at 7:30 pm for seven weeks. To register, please go to <https://bit.ly/3a0542c> For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

RECONCILIATION:

To Build a Community of Faith, Hope and Love

Lenten Talks at St Ignatius Church

“Let those who have never had differences with relatives or friends leave the hall.” This statement, borrowed shamelessly from Christ’s reply to the crowd that wanted to stone the adulteress woman, came to my mind when I read that this year’s Lenten talks would be on reconciliation. Everybody should want to know how to reconcile themselves with God, with others, and from Fr Stan, the newly-minted Jesuit – reconciliation with mission!

Fr Colin Tan, our own parish priest, gave a rundown (actually a stroll) on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and why it is important to get back into God’s good books. There’s nothing to fear as He is a soft-hearted forgiving God. And do it soon, Fr Colin said, as we may not be as fortunate as the good thief who managed to croak his faith in Christ with his last breath.

Mr Sundaresh Menon, the next evening, had a more challenging task of explaining how we could reconcile with friends and family members. This is a tough one, I thought, as the process described in the Bible is rather complex, with about three or four steps, depending on how stubborn the opposing person is. Yet, it drew the most interest, probably because we all need help to reconcile with

those with whom we have unresolved differences.

And Mr Menon did not disappoint, although his solutions were no easier than those in the Bible! After explaining why it is important to reconcile with others, he detailed a prelude to trying it, with lots of

bible readings. Then came seven guiding principles of Christian reconciliation and conflict resolution. And more bible readings.

I’m not taking this lightly, because any serious attempt to reconcile needs more than just picking up the phone, calling the person and saying you are sorry. Mr Menon’s guiding principles are devised to help one to soul search, pray, recognize deep-seated feelings and motives.

And to emphasize how serious reconciliation within the community is, he even suggested a ministry to help resolve conflicts in a Christian way. This would be an excellent service to help resolve conflicts within our community, disputes within families, or even just misunderstandings among ministry groups!

The next night, Fr Stanley Goh was not the least bit intimidated by the heavyweights he was following. He launched into what seemed to be the difficult notion of reconciling with mission.

This is not reconciliation of conflict or differences between people or people with God. Rather, he pulled out *Isaiah 6:1-2a* which listed what seemed to be the toughest tasks God had ever laid out. A lesser person would have backed out of ordination, but Fr Stan claimed the tasks as his own upon his own ordination.

For the rest of us, our mission (I hope) would be less daunting but no less urgent. But Fr Stan said: *“This is what our lives as Christians should be about.”* And what followed was not three how-tos and four guidelines on achieving this, but rather that God wants us to be prophet, priest and king. And in case you thought women are saved as there are no female prophets, priests or kings, gender is irrelevant here.



Fr Stan, borrowing from the Lord of the Rings, said a prophet is a messenger of God who calls others to conversion. And a priestly role is that of caring for and loving others. The king leads others in their mission while living Christ’s values. We need to be reconciled with God and with others in order to carry out this mission.

Ending on a powerful note, Fr Stan wrapped the entire intimidating mission with a simple statement: **“Our vocation is to know and love God. And one another.”** Eventually, our mission is to build a community of faith, hope and love.

LULIN REUTENS