



In and With Christ

Fr General Arturo Sosa, SJ, in his recent letter 'Promoting Vocations to the Society of Jesus', called to "rekindle a broad and deep culture of vocation promotion", and encouraged all to labour together to attract the needed vocations for the future to which God draws us. "Central to every Jesuit vocation is the Lord's call to a unique style of religious life; a style innovated by Ignatius and the first companions and shared by Jesuit priests and brothers alike." He also shared that a brother's vocation in the Society embodies "the Jesuit call to the vowed life" and "ways of participating in mission that are distinct from and complementary to those of clerics".

Fr General Sosa pointed out that the way we live out our lives is the best promotion of vocations. This culture of vocation promotion requires "the active participation of all Jesuits and of the lay men and women with whom we collaborate" and "the graced art of accompaniment" to help people listen and discern where God is leading them. He recalled the memorable words of Fr Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, his predecessor, "Lord Jesus, we are weak and sinful men, but we are your friends. Are there ways in which we can better reflect the friendship with Jesus which, we ourselves know, makes sense of our

own lives and motivates the efforts we make in so many different ways to build his kingdom in different parts of the world?"

Jesus in the Gospel said, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.**" After celebrating Vocation Sunday, we are reminded that our vocation is to remain in and with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Living out this vocation presupposes the relationship and friendship with the one who calls us as we grow this seed of vocation by remaining, staying, and being united in and with Christ Jesus, like the vine and the branches. In and with Him, we find the meaning of life since bearing fruit is not only our own work, but also the work of God, the vine grower in us.

Just like the writings of St Ignatius, love ought to be manifested in deeds rather than words, and that love consists of a mutual sharing of goods, the 2nd reading reiterates the meaning of our life-vocation that "love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active". This is what the crucified and risen Christ had done for us. By remaining in Christ, we become enablers to participate in the selfless love of Christ's project, God's Kingdom.

The first reading broadens this reality. On the one hand, we should not be discouraged to risk our life for God's project, like Paul (Saul), who was misunderstood because of his past. On the other hand, we are called to be like Barnabas, a bridge that welcomes others to be part of our communities and God's kingdom.

For the month of May, Pope Francis convened the Marian marathon to pray for an end to the pandemic. He reminds us "to dispel doubts and misgivings about the efficacy of shared prayer" (cf. Mt 18:19). In his Papal Audience, Pope Francis assures that vocal prayer is a sure way to speak with God. Prayer "is a dialogue with God; and every creature, in a certain sense, engages in dialogue with God." The Rosary is a universal rhythm of devotion that creates "the space of hope of one or more souls together, the time of comfort... with the energy of a penultimate breath." In prayer, we remain in and unite our lives, our dreams and our desires with God. Prayers then become our daily source of strength to live out our life vocation and participate in God's plan together with and in the Risen Christ.

How do you express your friendship with Christ?

FRAGUSTINUS TANUDJAJA, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for May opens on **4 May at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **an additional weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses**, subject to availability.

Weekday Morning Mass: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30am

Weekday Evening Mass: Mondays - Fridays, 7.00pm

Weekend Mass: 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. Please go to bit.ly/stigslivestream

AV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help operate the live streaming of the weekday evening Masses. Kindly contact David at davidrobertsaw39@gmail.com if you are interested in learning and are able to help.

SAFEENTRY GATEWAY

With effect from **19 April 2021**, our Parish has deployed 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 are encouraged to check-in via the SafeEntry Gateway and have their **TraceTogether tokens** ready or have the **TraceTogether App** open on their mobile phones when they approach the registration desks.

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.

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

"Glory to God for Dappled Things" — Come spend an evening with Fr Stanley Goh, SJ to pray and hear the gentle stirrings from our Lord, recognising that our lives are filled with Light and Shadow. Join us on Zoom this Wednesday, 5 May at 8pm. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

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.

LENTEN FAST FOR THE POOR

A total of **S\$14,935.00** was collected for the poor from the start of the Lenten Fast to 31 March 2021. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) uses your donation for programmes to help the poor. SSVP is very grateful to parishioners for the gift of the Lenten Fast.

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 May bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMay2021

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CHARITIES WEEK 2021

Charities Week will close on **9 May 2021**. To date, Caritas have raised about \$3.7 million of the \$7.5 million target and thanks you for your contributions, big or small, but there's still have a long way to go. Please continue to send in your donations, pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. Your donations will help Caritas' 27 charities and organisations to serve and empower those in need.

All Donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction.

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.

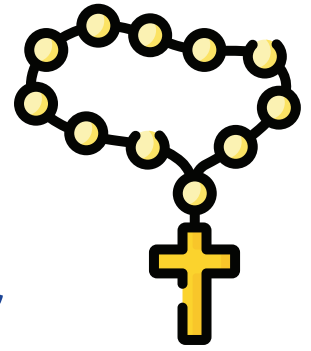
Please contact David & Clara at 96705390 or email mewkend@gmail.com to register your interest!

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

Marathon prayer for Marian month



The Vatican has announced a rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization said on April 21 that *“for the deep desire of the Holy Father, the month of May will be dedicated to a prayer marathon with the theme, ‘The whole Church prayed fervently to God.’”*

The theme is taken from Acts 12:1-12 when all the faithful in the early Church prayed unceasingly for Peter, who had been imprisoned by King Herod. The night before his trial, God sent an angel to his aid and he miraculously escaped.



Photo by Thérèse Westby on Unsplash

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The catacombs are full of inscriptions entrusting someone or something to Mary. Even before the ancient Council of Ephesus recognized Mary as the Mother of God, certain prayers, sometimes little more than whispers scratched on rocks, rose to the lips of those who felt in danger and considered Our Lady as their fortress against all evil.

Sub tuum praesidium, “under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God...” is an invocation that the Church has been reciting for at least 1,800 years. It is the history of countless graces of momentous “healings” and of innumerable private miracles.

On May 1, Pope Francis will open the month of prayer with a special Rosary broadcast, asking for Mary’s intercession.

The council said that the world’s Catholic shrines would be involved in a special way in taking turns to lead the prayers from **1-31 May**. Individuals, families and communities are invited to take part in praying the Rosary by joining the prayers livestreamed every evening at 6pm Rome time (Midnight Singapore time), across all Vatican media platforms.



Photo by Josh Applegate on Unsplash

VATICAN NEWS