



On Sanctification, Separation and Mixing things up

At the risk of always talking about things related to food, this week's reflection begins with an observation about two extremes in the way some of us eat. I know of some people who will never mix the various foods on their plate, preferring to taste each item individually, often going so far as to say that we do not honour the intentions of the chef. At the other extreme lie those who insist on mixing all their food on a plate or bowl and enjoying it all at once, saying that the whole is greater than the parts and that the magic of eating is in the mix of flavours. My position lies between these two extremes. I also feel that taking the middle path between complete separation and complete mixing can be a healthy stance for our spiritual life as well.

The idea of separation is quite integral to this weekend's gospel passage. It comes from what is often referred to as Jesus' Farewell Discourse in the Gospel of John. Here, Jesus prays for the sanctification of the disciples, strengthening them in unity as they go out to spread the good news, glorifying the Father and the Son in the process. To sanctify something is to set it apart or to make it holy and while Jesus did not ask for them

to be removed from the world, he did pray for them to be consecrated to the truth and to be able to be protected from the untoward influences from the world. In those days when Christians were relentlessly persecuted by the authorities, the separation and prayer for protection made sense. But would this continue to be relevant for us today?

Sanctification is always relevant as it's a reminder that we're in the world, but not of the world. By our baptism, we have been set apart, saved by the Lord and commissioned to proclaim the good news of this salvation. This is not a separation in the ordinary sense and we should not think that this makes us better than others. Our salvation should never make us feel superior or arrogant. Instead, we should seek to savour and relish this salvation, deepening our relationship with the Lord who saves us, tasting this reality through our own journeys of conversion. In this way, just like those who seek to taste foods in their purity, we will be able to savour and relish our sanctity as a means of preparing ourselves to be fully immersed in the world.

And fully immersed in the world we should be. The advantage of having had the opportunity to delve

deep into our relationship with the Lord before this immersion means that we go with the confidence that we're consecrated to the truth and that the Lord is always at our side. This not only lessens the struggles, but allows us to be the leaven that brings the good news to others. This is where the mixing comes in. Part of the beauty of our earthly reality is the diversity that we have – the multitude of people and perspectives that make things interesting, but sometimes difficult for us as well. By being immersed or mixed into this world, we need to rely on our sanctified selves and the sure taste of salvation that comes from the Lord so as not to lose our bearings or feel threatened by it. We need to be mixed in to spread the good news, to help bring this taste of the Lord to those who may be longing for it.

Our lives of faith are all about savouring and mixing, being separated and sanctified yet being fully immersed in the world. As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us seek to ground our relationship with the Lord so that we can be strengthened to bring this message of salvation to the ends of the earth.

FR STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

As the capacity for all weekday and weekend Masses for 16 May - 13 June has been further reduced to 50 pax, **all Mass bookings made prior to 16 May have been cancelled**. Please note there will be **NO in-person Masses on Sunday, 16 May**. Masses on Saturday, 15 May will carry on as usual.

The Mass Rebooking Exercise for **17-31 May** for our parish will be conducted on **Sunday, 16 May at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. We ask that you book no more than 1 weekend Mass to allow as many parishioners to attend a Mass.

Mass timings remain the same as follows:

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

Stage 4 May Mass bookings opens on **18 May at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE additional weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses**, subject to availability.

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

SAFEENTRY GATEWAY

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. *Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking.*

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

To prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we will do a reflection on the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and pray each decade. Come pray with us! Join us on Zoom this **Wednesday, 19 May at 8pm**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for more details.

HOMEMAKERS

The Homemakers are currently **NOT** accepting any donations of second-hand goods during this Covid-19 period. We seek your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that parishioners do not leave any item at the Homemakers drop-off point outside the staircase at ground floor of Sacred Heart Hall until further notice.

Covid-19 Updated Measures

Effective 16 May - 13 June 2021 (unless otherwise stated)



Mass Capacity

Mass capacity for all weekend and weekday Masses will be reduced to **50 pax**.



Group Size

Reduced group size in pew seatings and groups from **5 to 2 people** at any one time.



Compulsory TraceTogether

From **17 May**, all parishioners may **ONLY** use the **TraceTogether Token or App** to perform SafeEntry Check-ins.



Weddings

Capacity for Wedding Masses/ Services is capped at **50 pax without pre-event testing (PET)** and at **100 pax with PET (required for all guests)**. All attendees, including the couple, are required to be masked up at ALL times.



Funerals & Columbarium

Capacity for funeral Masses will be reduced to **20 pax**. All Columbarium visits are **cancelled** until further notice.



Religious Activities

All Religious activities (e.g. Infant Baptism and Confessions), face-to-face meetings and sessions are to be **suspended or to be moved online** until further notice.

For more details on the updated measures, please visit bit.ly/stigsCovid19measures

FAREWELL FR. JEROME

Fr Jerome's term as Assistant Parish Priest will end on 31 May 2021. We thank him for all his contributions and dedication to the Parish the past 3.5 years and we wish him all the best as he continues his service and mission with the Jesuits in his new appointment as *Jesuit Regional Delegate for Vocations and Ministry for Young People*.



JESUIT NEWS



LOOKING UP, MOVING OUT

OUR JOURNEY FROM ASCENSION TO PENTECOST

Join us as we usher in the **Ignatian Year (May 2021 - July 2022)** which commemorates the 500th anniversary of St Ignatius' conversion

with a prayer series that takes us from the Feast of the Ascension to Pentecost. This series of prayer points and video reflections will accompany us on our journey of conversion and purification as we prepare to receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Through this, we hope to be able to truly see all things new in Christ.



Prayer materials will be available at bit.ly/ascension-pentecost-2021, and will be updated daily, from Ascension till the day after Pentecost. On it you will find suggestions for prayer and the occasional audio-visual reflection. Do bookmark the page or subscribe to it to receive updates.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

This weekend is the collection for the **GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness)** programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Sign up for a monthly pledge, the most sustainable source of funding for the archdiocese, to support its organisations and projects. Or give regularly via

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

PayNow to 201231391K (include name and mobile no. or email). GIFT envelopes can be dropped into the Mass offering box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

CATHOLIC200SG: PENTECOST 2021

Join us online as we prepare for Pentecost with a series of reflections by different speakers and Novena to the Holy Spirit from **14 to 22 May** culminating in our Pentecost celebration on **Sunday, 23 May**. All talks and prayers will be broadcast LIVE via Sacre's YouTube channel, Facebook and Instagram.

Visit catholic200.sg/event/pentecost-2021 for more details.

PENTECOST 2021
IGNITE THE FIRE IN OUR CHURCH
9 DAYS NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT // 14-22 MAY, 9AM
Praise & Worship, Talk and Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit
PENTECOST SUNDAY // 23 MAY, 10.30AM-2.30PM
Eucharistic Celebration: Archbishop William Goh
Praise & Worship
Talk & Prayers: Fr. Gino Henriques, CSsR

Fr. Henry Siew Day 1: Ignite Faith	Fr. Simon Pereira, CSsR Day 2: Ignite Love	Fr. Terence Kesavan Day 3: Ignite Zeal
Fr. Charlie Oasan, CICM Day 4: Fire to Transform	Fr. Colin Tan, SJ Day 5: Fire to Witness	Fr. Aiden Peter, OFM Day 6: Fire to Empower
Fr. Christopher Soh, SJ Day 7: Our Vibrant Church	Fr. Valerian Cheong Day 8: Our Evangelizing Church	Fr. Michael Arro, MEP Day 9: Our Missionary Church

Fr. Gino Henriques, CSsR
Pentecost Day: Ignite the Fire in Our Church

Archbishop William Goh
Eucharistic Celebration

CATHOLIC200SG
IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH

sacre

ONE
SHARE THE WORD
EVANGELISATION

LIVE Broadcast via:
sacre.sg