



## The Power of the Holy Spirit in our Lives



**W**e often associate the Holy Spirit with symbols such as a Dove, Fire, Wind, Water, Cloud (the Glory) and Light, among others. One thing that is common among them, is the sense of a dynamic presence or a force that takes us by surprise and elevates us with inner power, strength and confidence not of our making. It draws us into the beautiful, awesome, and wonderful peace and joy of communion with God, and allows us to respond in faith to do God's will in our lives.

On Pentecost Sunday, we recall that Jesus has promised to send the "Advocate" to be with us even as he ascended to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God. **"When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father; He will be my witness and you too will be witnesses"** (Jn 15:26-27)

Jesus is giving us an "Advocate" – the One who represents, who champions, and defends us with our best interests at heart. The Holy Spirit thus is our best Counsel that no money can buy – better than any Senior Counsel or Queen's Counsel!

Indeed, Jesus reassures that he himself will send the Holy Spirit to watch over us. We know that he has

not abandoned us, but continues to guide the course of events in the world. It is comforting to know that God is still "keeping an eye on us" and will intervene should things get out of hand. St Thomas Aquinas in his *Summa Theologica* writings tells us: **"All events that take place in the world, whether apparently fortuitous or casual, are comprehended in the order of divine [God's] Providence, on which fate depends."**

We may not always comprehend what is going on in the world, when people suffer because of the Covid-19 pandemic, wars, natural disasters, coups, accidents and conflicts. But we also know that God is ultimately allowing them to take their course depending on our cooperation with or lack of it in God's will and plan. Our obedience can change the outcome of history as seen in the response of Mary to bring Jesus into our world – incomprehensible as it may be in the beginning to us and to her. **"How can this come about since I am a virgin?"** (Lk 1:34).

The answer: **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and with power of the Most High will overshadow you"** (Lk 1:35). This is the paradigm of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives when we are open and receptive to doing God's will in our lives. Mary models this for us

and without exception, we too will experience what she experienced when she said "Yes" in obedience to doing what God had in mind. Our answer of "Yes" or "No" can change the course of history – our fate depends on it as St Thomas tells us.

In other words, we must see ourselves as the continuation of the mission of Jesus by being His witnesses in our lives.

What are we witnessing to? You have seen police signages at accidents or crime locations: "Appeal for Witnesses". They cite the incident and police contact number. They do that to get members of the public to come forward with useful information that will help them in their investigations.

In other words, we are invited to come forward to testify and give a true account of what we have seen and heard so that the truth will emerge and justice be done.

It is clear that Jesus invites us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, the fire of God's presence in our daily lives to bear witness to him: **He calls us to bear witness to three things: 1) To the Truth, 2) To the Loving Presence of God, and 3) To the Glory of God.**

**The Truth.** We live in a world that cast shadows on our path. The strategy of how evil works in our world is simple. Evil distorts, deceives, delays and diverts, and



even destroys the truth. Evil will not only try to enslave us, it will try to enslave and destroy us as well. When we are on the side of truth, nothing can touch us.

Indeed, we live in our world that is filled with an array of information available on the internet, and the challenge for us today as Christians is to be able to tell the truth from falsehood, light from darkness, and good from evil. For us to know the truth, we need to be discerning, to pray for wisdom, and to live out and practise truth in our own lives as well. We must not even think of compromising truth and negotiate with evil. Truth and goodness are non-negotiable. We can't give what we don't have and practise. If we don't live the truth, we can't practise the truth.

**The Loving Presence of God.** To have a life in, with and for God is to be aware and mindful of the loving presence of God in our lives. Thomas Merton in his book, *The Monastic Journey*, captures the message of our Christian living in a simple but profound line: **"Our whole of life is our surrender to God's action that makes us love in union with His Spirit."** The more we recognise God's action in our lives, the more we learn to let him act in, for and with us. Our job really is to get out of the way. Let us not be an obstacle to his plan of salvation.

**The Glory of God.** How do we, who are weak and poor, share in the richness, goodness and the glory of God? We glorify God by our lives, by showing our gratitude and praise for all the good that we have received. St Ireaneus puts in succinctly: **"The Glory of God is the person fully alive."**

To be alive today, we have to be in the world, but not of the world, Fr Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, captures the meaning of being a Christian very clearly when he says: **"A Christian is not called to hide behind the shadow of the Cross but be in the fire of Creation."** The Holy Spirit is the fire that we must possess and be filled with passion to love our Lord and bear witness to his goodness in our lives. Let us not be afraid to be on fire for the love of God. Only then can we share in the truth, the love and glory of God in our lives.

Let us not be afraid to live as Christians, fully alive and on fire, and be witnesses to the Risen Lord, guiding us through the Advocate, the powerful Holy Spirit constantly at work in our daily lives. I wish all of you a very Happy Pentecost.

FR COLIN TAN, SJ



## PARISH NEWS

### 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](https://bit.ly/stigsCovid19measures)

### JUNE MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 1 Mass bookings for June opens on **Tuesday, 25 May at 3pm** via [myCatholic.sg](https://myCatholic.sg). Mass capacity for the month of June remains at **50 pax**.

From June 2021, all bookings in MARS will come with a booking number. This will enable the Church to respond quickly to any future requirement to reduce Mass attendance should regulations change, preventing the need for a Mass Rebooking Exercise.

Read complete message: <https://www.catholic.sg/resumption-of-mass30/>

**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](https://bit.ly/stigslivestream)

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

There is no prayer meeting this **Wednesday, 26 May**. We will resume the following week.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTH

Calling all non-Catholic youths aged 16 to 25 who would like to explore the Catholic Faith! Registration for the next RCIY cycle is now open. To register and for more information, please visit [RCIY.sg](https://RCIY.sg)

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

If you have a friend or family member who is interested to know more about the Catholic faith, we invite them to journey with us. Our new journey begins **Tuesday, 27 July. Every Tuesday, 8 - 10pm on Zoom**. Register at [tinyurl.com/stignatiussgrcia](https://tinyurl.com/stignatiussgrcia) or email [st.ignatius.rcia@gmail.com](mailto:st.ignatius.rcia@gmail.com) for more information.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
Church of St Ignatius Singapore

*Come and experience the fullness of life*

Journey begins Tuesday, 27 July 2021  
Every Tuesday, 8pm to 10pm on Zoom

Registration is now open for Inquirers of the Catholic Faith, Sponsors & Facilitators  
[tinyurl.com/stignatiussgrcia](https://tinyurl.com/stignatiussgrcia)

For more info, contact  
Pauline at 6466 0625 or Teddy at 9745 8313

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

### VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

In view of the tightening of Covid-19 measures, **all Columbarium visits are cancelled** until further notice.

### 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.

### 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

### IGNATIAN YEAR — MAY 2021 TO JULY 2022

Superior General of the Society of Jesus Fr Arturo Sosa SJ has officially announced the celebration of the Ignatian year to commemorate 500 years since the conversion of St Ignatius — that fateful day when Ignatius the soldier, struck by a cannonball, began his transformation into Ignatius the pilgrim. The Ignatian year begins on May 20, 2021, and concludes on July 31, 2022, the feast of St Ignatius.

The celebration is themed, **"To see all things new in Christ"** and is an invitation to the whole Society to **"be renewed' by the Lord himself"** and **"an opportunity to know, to love and to follow the Lord of all things."**

Click here to read Fr General Arturo Sosa's full letter.

To discover more about the Ignatian year, visit [ignatius500.global](https://ignatius500.global). There will be a Live Prayer Broadcast on **Sunday, 23 May, 8pm**.

