



Remembering the Trinity In our Lives

On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we are called to remember who we are, and who God is.

The book of Deuteronomy, which literally means “*second law*”, is a recount of significant events and ways of being faithful from the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. It reminds the reader of what is most important or salient about those events and laws in the history of the Israelites.

For our own faith journey, we should recall our personal history. For if you are to **“*acknowledge, and fix in your heart that the LORD is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other,*”** it is surely from our personal history of experience with God (Dt 4:39). This experience might be of God the Father who does mighty deeds of justice through prophets and signs of nature, who delights in walking in the garden to savour the breeze. Only because of God has our history begun.

The letter of St. Paul to the Romans, on the other hand, locates the Holy Spirit in our present life of faith as Christians. Implicitly referring to our baptismal vows, a stronger image to imagine would be Jesus' baptism. There, as Jesus came **“*out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon***

him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'” (Mk 1:10-11) There is a calling here, a simple vocation, that Jesus was loved, and that God delighted in Jesus. And that just might be the case for you too. Before God and the whole community of Christians, you are called and named. You are loved, and God delights in you.

St Paul's letter goes on to describe what this calling involves. It is a relationship, a two-way street, a claim on each other that is not so much claimed by performance only, but by our way of being. Thus, suffering with Christ is expected, witnessing and journeying in situations of fear, injustice, a lack of freedom, love and mercy in the world. All that Christ suffered for the world, is to emphasize that all salvation lay with God and not with Christ's own power or works: **“*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*”** (Lk 23:46)

By God the Father's power and as initially commissioned, Jesus then commissioned the disciples. Likewise, Jesus commissions us too in today's Gospel.

It is clear from today's Gospel reading that Jesus Himself was never alone. That is the characteristic of the Trinity — that the three divine persons were always in the one God, three

distinct and yet very related divine persons. The term *perichoresis* denotes the nature of God, and only about God. Each divine person dynamically contributes to the constitution or make-up of the other divine persons. One way of describing this is inter-penetration among the three divine persons. Despite this inter-penetration, each divine person is distinct. All three divine persons share the same divinity.

How would the Trinity be reflected in the life of a Christian, if it is said that we are made in the image of God? Perhaps we can see characteristics of our lives that reflect this relational dimension among all three divine persons. A close human approximation to perichoresis is a family unit. A more synthetic or created model could be a choreographed dance group, though our human groupings are always poor fleeting shadows of the Trinity.

Why is such a model of any concern for us? For that, we might have to use our spiritual imagination and listen to this last verse of an ancient song by Mechthild of Magedeburg. **“*Together, the whole Trinity sing: 'I'm so amazingly strong in My unity that nobody can ever separate Me or shatter Me throughout eternity.'”***
- *The Flowing Light of the Godhead.*

The strength of the Trinity is an unusual description. Mechthild sings of that unity as indivisible and indestructible. In our own human groupings, have we witnessed such strength from truly sharing, accepting and supporting each other? Perhaps only when God is present.

As we expand our gaze and contemplation, we can see the wisdom and inspiration the Trinity offers us. Standing together, in acceptance of each other and supporting each other, no matter the diversity of our backgrounds, we are truly stronger. For like the divine persons who share in one divine being, we as humans share in one humanity – a poor shadow of the Trinity, no doubt, but we can always aspire to be better, with God's grace. May we remember the Trinitarian God in our lives more vividly and imaginatively, and may we live with greater awareness of our common humanity.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

On the evening before His Passion and Crucifixion on the Cross, Our Lord Jesus thought of us all when he prayed so intensely to the Father to protect us from the evil one, and to keep us united in Him. What is our response to Jesus' prayer for us? Join us this **Wednesday, 2 June at 8pm** for Bible Sharing on John 17:15-23. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

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 RCY cycle is now open. To register and for more information, please visit RCY.sg

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

If you have a friend or family member who is interested to explore the Catholic faith, we invite them to journey with us. Our new journey begins **27 July, 2021. Every Tuesday evening, 8 -10pm on Zoom.**



Register at tinyurl.com/stignatiusgrcia or email st.ignatius.rcia@gmail.com for more information.

We are also seeking **sponsors for the new RCIA & RCY journey**. As a sponsor, you will serve as mentor, companion and a representative of our faith community to journey with someone seeking the faith. If you are looking to deepen your faith and to serve, do consider signing up as a sponsor.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS NOVENA

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus starts from **Thursday, 3 June to Friday, 11 June 2021**, leading to the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** on Friday 11 June 2021. Sacred Heart Novena Prayer Cards are available at the place of Gathering.

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

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

PARISH NEWS

JUNE MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for June opens on **Tuesday, 01 June at 3pm** via 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

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

WELCOME FR GREG!

Fr Gregory Tan SJ has been appointed **Assistant Parish Priest** to the Church of St Ignatius for a term of 3 years with effect from **1 June 2021**. We warmly welcome him and look forward to working alongside him.



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