



On Wonder and Our Walk of Faith

Sometimes, it's the small things that attract and amaze. At the side of our community house here in Kuching, we have several blue pea flower vines (*bunga telang*) growing. The pretty blue flowers are very useful in cooking as well as in making a simple tea that's becoming increasingly popular, and so we do harvest the flowers on a regular basis. The plant looks fairly commonplace, growing and climbing on the fence, but its constant inflorescence amazes me. Even if we were to harvest them daily, we would be greeted with a fence filled with little blue flowers every morning, a testament to what we hear in the Gospel this weekend about how we don't know how seeds sprout and grow, but they just do, in God's ways and time.

These things happen to us on a daily basis. We come face to face with the wonders of God, who works mysteriously in our world. The more scientific among us might say, "But all these natural phenomena have scientific explanations and we don't have to remain in the dark as to how they occur." I fully agree with that but trying to give a purely logical or scientific explanation to all the phenomena that we experience

can leave less space for wonder. I feel that the sense of wonder keeps us more open to God and allows us to be more attuned to how God is present in all things.

It is this sense of wonder that I believe St Paul is referring to when he wrote that "*we walk by faith, not by sight.*" We cannot expect to have explanations to everything that we encounter or hope to do, hence the exhortation that we should seek to walk more by faith than by sight, feeling the grace of God in our lives and following this grace as we approach it with awe and wonder. This faith comes with a healthy amount of trust in God, that the grace that we receive is sufficient for us and all we need to do is to keep up the sense of wonder, keep on realising that it's God who wants our good and continues to surprise us on a daily basis.

That's not to say that everything comes up roses (or blue pea flowers, for that matter) all the time. The image of the birds in the trees in both the First Reading and the Gospel has a somewhat ambivalent meaning. It could mean that the plants (both the cedar and mustard bush) give shelter to a range of beings, showing the wide reach of the kingdom of God and how

all are welcome. However, there are negative implications of birds in trees as well. In Scripture, as well as in literature, during the time of the Old Testament, birds can symbolise the raucous and sometimes undesirable elements of society that can distract us from God. We don't want to be distracted from the good things and the wonders of God and so it is good for us to recognise that in our lives of wonder and faith, we have to be aware of such potential distractions, holding them and setting them aside where necessary.

We want to be able to walk by faith and I would add that even though we do walk by faith, we walk with our senses open to everything that's out there. Our sense of wonder adds to our ability to be faithful and trusting as we grow to realise the infinite reach of God's grace and our faith, in turn, helps us become more open and more receptive to the wonder that's already present. And so when we do go out, safely and cautiously of course, we should take that time to smell the roses (or blue pea flowers), giving thanks to God for all that has been, that is, and that will be.

FR STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

JUNE MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 4 Mass bookings for June open on **Tuesday, 15 June at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Mass capacity for the month of June remains at **50 pax**.

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us as we pray and reflect on some psalms in our follow-up to last week's study on the Book of Psalms. You can also share your favourite psalms. This Wednesday, 16 June at 8pm. 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 RCIY cycle is now open. The new journey begins with a Welcome Tea on **Saturday, 10 July**. To register and for more information, please visit RCIY.sg

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Come and experience the Fullness of Life! 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/stignatiussgrcia or email st.ignatius.rcia@gmail.com for more information.

We are also seeking **sponsors for the new RCIA & RCIY journeys**. As a sponsor, you will serve as mentor, companion and a representative of our faith community to journey with someone seeking the faith. Sign up at bit.ly/stigsRCIA2021_sponsor

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY LADIES GROUP

Join us on our new study ***The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*** by Sarah Christmyer and Thomas Smith beginning on **24 August 2021** (20 sessions). **Every Tuesday, 10am - 12pm via Zoom**. This study examines who the prophets were, the role they played during their time and the meaning of their messages for our times. If you are interested, contact Jennet at 98643793 or Elizabeth at 96942778 latest by 30 June 2021.

JESUIT NEWS

JESUITS REGIONAL RETREAT

Our Jesuit priests will be having their annual Regional Retreat from **13 - 21 June 2021**. Do keep them in your prayers.

Please note that the priests will not be available for any pastoral and administrative matters during this period. You may contact the Parish Office for any urgent matter. Masses in the main Church will be celebrated as usual.

IGNATIANTH YEAR — MAY 2021 TO JULY 2022

The Jesuits of Malaysia-Singapore has come up with a series of initiatives to commemorate the Ignatian Year. You may refer to the Calendar below or visit nano.site/ignatianyear-mas/ for the latest updates.



The calendar displays a grid of events from May 2021 to July 2022. Each event is represented by a small icon with text indicating the date, time, and activity. The events include: May 13, 2021 (Looking up, Moving On), May 20, 2021 (Launch of the Ignatian Year), June 1, 2021 (Prayer for Ignatian Year), June 13, 2021 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #1), July 2021 (Evening Prayer Examen #1), August 2021 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #2), September 2021 (Spirituality Program), October 2021 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #3), November 2021 (Evening Prayer Examen #2), January 2022 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #4), January 2022 (Spirituality Program), March 2022 (Evening Prayer Examen #3), April 2022 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #5), May 2022 (Retreat Offering), June 2022 (Evening Prayer Examen #4), and July 2022 (Launch of IY Bookmarks #6). The calendar is titled 'Ignatius' and includes a QR code and the website <http://mas-jesuits.org/ignatianyear>.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

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, do register your interest for a Marriage Encounter Weekend by contacting David & Clara at 96705390 or email mewkend@gmail.com

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Gregory Tan, 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