



Mindfully Present

Today's first reading of Job leaves out an interesting interchange between God and Job. The basis for understanding that interchange requires quite a mindshift, as the context is not of the time of the New Testament, but probably of the patriarchal age, around the second millennium BC. In the Bible, this means the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, prior to the Exodus and the emergence of Moses.

In what was left out, God does not refer to the suffering Job had previously endured. Rather like a parent offended that their love is questioned, God tries to make Job realize the chasm between them by emphasizing God's work of creation that makes possible all of Job's reality. In that sense, God is empathically underlining control over all creation, including Job's suffering. Rather than directly addressing the problem of theodicy, the implicit answer is to continue to trust God.

The responsorial psalms start to point towards another important dimension of God underlying this trust, which is God's love for us. Unlike the dependence on science and rationality that modern lives have so much trust in, God's love is relational, personal and not a resource to be mined or to be

efficiently utilized or harnessed. Instead, the response to God's love is to be mindful of our own current place and time, and relate to God for what is present, be it cries of distress or songs of gratitude and rejoicing.

Both Job and the psalmist, in a way, allude to the idea of being mindful and present. Do we always know the difference between what is happening to us and what we are feeling? There is much wisdom that comes from such discernment and examination, pointing to what we need and thus what we need to do to move forward.

This movement is not directionless, as St Paul tries to explain, the dynamic of our faith is highly coloured and shaped by our experience of Christ. This experience is so influential such that our discernment and examination can inspire us to move differently from before. This is not to advocate leaving behind traditions, but perhaps, giving them new meaning and interpretations. Just like how our knowledge of Christ is not just about Jesus when He lived on earth, but as the Word of God that continues to inspire us on our journey, many millennia from Jesus' imprints on the earth.

How this faith and journey plays out for each of us does not have to be as mysterious and challenging

as the sea and its storms were to the Israelites. Until a crisis arose, knowledge of sea and storm can be aloof, theoretical, and even inconsequential for Jesus' disciples in the boat. Until the COVID pandemic tore apart the veil over all the hidden injustices that society had accepted as the old normal, such consequential suffering was acceptable and part of life. Until danger and opportunity arose together, we risked nothing at all.

While we would not quite expect Jesus to melodramatically calm the waves of pandemic crashing over parts of the world, what we have instead is faith. It is Faith that either moves us as followers of Christ, or is inconsequential and just another theory or set of talking points. Are we to be known by our love of Christ, and hence love of neighbour, or do we just have "nice" aphorisms to affirm and comfort each other?

Due to the overwhelming dualistic zeitgeist, we might have followed trends in society to separate body and mind, material and spiritual, for far too long. The readings today invite us to re-examine our faith, not just as a matter of spiritual belief, but more so in the way we view the world.

Are we united and one with God? Or are we still treating each

other and our environment as objects, things to be consumed, measured and put into boxes, quantified and labelled? Is everything that we know only this much or less and no more, no mystery there, nor chaos, chance, probability, or even hope?

Our faith is messy. Like love. However, our faith, of being in and relating to Christ, also gives us hope. Hope against the tyranny of evil, of missteps that no one claims or can be rationally attributed to our limited time on earth. Hope that moves us to act, change and prepare to embrace a new unknown and unfolding reality. May we never forget our faith in good times and bad; remembering to relate to Christ in us, and be moved to follow Him, however that is revealed for each of us.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

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

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY
Scripture calls us to pray for one another. Why and how do we intercede for one another? Join us as we 'stand in the gap' for our brothers and sisters. This **Wednesday, 23 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/stignatiusgrcia or email st.ignatius.rcia@gmail.com for more information.

TUESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

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.

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.

A maximum of 20 visitors are allowed in the same slot, with a maximum of 5 people in each group. No multi-groups bookings allowed. For **June bookings**, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumJun2021.

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

JESUIT NEWS

IGNATIAN YEAR — MAY 2021 TO JULY 2022

The Jesuits of Malaysia-Singapore have 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 Jesuits of Malaysia-Singapore invite you:
"To see all things new in Christ"
Ignatian Year 2021-2022
<http://mas-jesuits.org/ignatianyear>

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ALPHA CATHOLIC CONTEXT

"Is there more to life than this?" If you or you know of anyone who is exploring the Catholic faith, we invite you to come and join us. The next Alpha Catholic Context (AOCC 4) will start on **Tuesday, 13 July**. Register at <http://bit.ly/AOCC4Jul13> or scan the QR code below.

Come & join us!

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith and is designed to create conversation.



Session 1: Is There More To Life Than This?

Date: 13 July 2021, Tuesday | Time: 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Conducted online via Zoom at the comfort of your home.

Register:
<http://bit.ly/AOCC4Jul13>



For more information/enquiry
Contact Michael Chiam
michael.chiam@alpha.org.sg



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 **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

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).

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

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

PRIMARY ONE REGISTRATION PHASE 2B

Calling all Catholic parents whose children are ready for Primary One. The Phase 2B Registration will open on **26 & 27 July 2021**. Priority for registration under Phase 2B is for a child of a baptised Catholic parent.

Requirements:

- One parent has to submit the baptism certificate as evidence of Church membership.
- If the Baptism Certificate is not in English, it is mandatory to have it translated into English and certified by a Parish Priest.

A CALL TO TEACH IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Attention all MOE educators! If you are interested in answering the call to teach in a Catholic School, or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, join our mailing list. Fill up the form at <https://forms.gle/m3pVkJnKvR6ErA4o7> or scan the QR code below.

The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) has compiled a list of vacancies in our Catholic schools in 2022.



ACCS will email you the instructions to access this list.

MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2021

What sexual behaviours does the Church consider immoral? Is pre-marital sex permissible? Should homosexual people be able to marry? Why is there a great discrepancy between traditional Christian morality and contemporary culture on sexuality? Can the Church impose its views on society at large? Who decides?

Let us explore these questions and much more in Module 4 of MPMC on *Ethics of Love, Sex and Marriage!*

Module 4 will start on **01 July 2021** and will be held weekly on Thursdays over Zoom at 7.30pm for seven weeks. Register at <https://bit.ly/2RYKMjT> or email Caritas at mPMC@caritas-singapore.org for enquiries.