



Living a Meaningful Life

What is reality? We can start off by listing the things around us. They give us information, a sense of place and time, or even feelings or emotions. However, some things are not so tangible, such as being on the surface of a fast spinning planet.

Our reality can divulge much information if we so choose to seek understanding of such cosmic phenomena, sensed with tools that augment our understanding. Tools which are the result of our human work led by evidence. Scientists have curiously explored and built up what we know as science and technology. Without evidence, we tend not to worry about something that is unknown, untouchable or unrecognisable.

We may think that the existence of ghosts is the most obvious example. In our fear, we either ignore it, or take whatever measures we need to do to mitigate the situation. In the end, what most affects us might not be the cause of our fear, but our reactions due to the uncertainty around these paranormal events. *Are they real? Can we just ignore them?* You can say that we do what we do with the best of intentions and abilities. What Jesus is saying in today's Gospel however, is that this might not be enough.

Our lives broadly fall into two ways of viewing reality. One is to survive beyond the essential

goods and services, to supporting a family and society, and eventually the nation. To take part in the rat race, to stay ahead of competitors or nations, even trying to escape the entropy or death that stalk us. Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward*, would pin all such activity as the first part of our two-fold lives. Not everyone would notice that there is another dimension to their life. A lot of people are struggling just to survive, much less have the time to reflect on the meaning of their life.

Rohr points out in the Gospel where Jesus shows the irreducible change that occurs when one is no longer surviving, but living a meaningful and thriving life – a life full of spirit and surplus. A life that gives life to others. Today's Gospel points to that change. In his native place, the people cannot accept that Jesus is not just a carpenter. Jesus himself acknowledges that the prophetic half of one's life would alienate oneself from the survival half of one's life, the way of life as a child.

This life of the spirit is not that of a miracle worker, a title we can associate with Jesus. For the reception of God's transforming grace depends on having faith in God. Our human faith, it would seem, is the miracle worker, and God is its *fait accompli*. Paul claims a more controversial condition – adversity enlivens our faith. Indeed, life *does* occasionally challenge us.

Our response is up to us. Should we be fearful, and thus be loyal and observant of the commands Jesus handed down to us? Or would we like to demonstrate that we've got this, and we're going survive it with what we already know and can do.

Taking stock of our reality is difficult. We might not know what to look out for. But as we reflect on our lives, how we felt at certain times doing certain action, we may come to realise where God has been present for us. The future however, being unobservable, can be a vicarious element in our lives.

In the light of such uncertainty, living by faith is the only sure way of living a meaningful life. This is a nice platitude in itself, until one also realises that living by faith implies being in a loving relationship with God. Rather than following a template or guide for life decisions, God's love would leaven and transform us in our decisions.

While the prophetic life of the spirit, generous and loving, seems more desirable, God does not condemn those who side with Martha's choice. The service of the common good cannot be any less than a life of ministry. All are necessary, all peoples have their own God-given charisms. Instead, have faith, live a meaningful life of the spirit, and love one another as God loved us.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

JULY MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for July will open on **06 July at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses** at each stage, subject to availability.

Our Parish will trial 3 Masses with **170 pax***:

- **Sunday, 18 July, 12.15pm**
- **Sunday, 25 July, 12.15pm**
- **Saturday, 31 July, 6.00pm (Feast of St Ignatius).**

***Do note that in order to attend Masses above 50 pax, the pre-requisite by authorities is that individuals must undergo pre-event testing (PET) or have received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna only). Entry will be denied if you fail to produce the relevant test result or proof of vaccination.**

These requirements will NOT apply to Masses with only 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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available every Wednesday and Thursday, 6.00pm-6.40pm. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down.

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

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

"Your Faith has Saved you!" Join us this **Wednesday, 7 July at 8pm** to ask our Lord for Healing. Our God is a merciful God. He knows our needs. Let us seek His healing in our mind, body and soul. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

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 is allowed in the same slot, with a maximum of 5 people in each group. No multi-group booking is allowed. For **July bookings**, please go to bit.ly/stigscolumbariumJul2021.

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.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Please help yourselves to a Jubilee T-shirt which are gifts from a parishioner! They can be picked up from the Place of Gathering near the carpark lift. Love offerings are optional/welcome!

As our Jubilee draws to a close we invite you to join us in the closing events taking place on the **31 July**. Visit jubilee-stignatius.com/closingnight for more info.

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

Organised by Alpha Catholic Context Team

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

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 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.

Jubilee Closing Celebrations!

Events taking place on 31 July, Saturday



Feast Day Mass

Celebrated by His Grace Archbishop William Goh

Time: **6pm**

Capacity: **170 pax**, PET or vaccine needed

Bookings via myCatholic.sg

Night of Ignatian Experience & Spirituality

Time: **8.15pm**

Capacity: **170 pax**, PET or vaccine needed

Bookings via

jubilee-stignatius.com/closingnight

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