



Shepherds for God's People

In today's first reading, Jeremiah stresses the need for good shepherds for the Lord's flock, and he prophesies that Jesus will come and be that perfect Shepherd for God's people. Today's Gospel reading shows Jesus seeking quality time with His apostles, who had just gone out without Him and achieved miracles, and yet when the people clamour for Jesus, He immediately abandons the apostles to go and serve the flock. He Himself is the true Good Shepherd and the model for Paul's "*in season and out of season*" (2 Timothy 4:2).

The people are there because what Christ teaches feeds their hunger in a way that the Law could not, in a way that the Law as taught and practised at that time did not. Jesus has the "*word of life*" (John 6:68); He teaches with authority, with a confidence and a grasp of life, though, and with such an awareness of the Old Testament word that His word is its own validation. And Christ has pity on the crowd and begins to teach them "*at great length*". His are truly the words of life, the words of God.

All very good, and yet I think that if I were one of those apostles I would feel somewhat cheated.

After a long time of serving Jesus and helping Him on His mission, He sends them out on their own (except for the Holy Spirit, of course, being with them – and very actively so) to learn what they could do in His name and to see how well they had learned from listening to Him and watching how He responded to people and situations. And now they return and have a chance to receive the equivalent of an intimate group spiritual direction – yet Jesus walks away, seemingly leaving any sharing with them for another time, one that we never see reported in the New Testament. Jesus certainly teaches His disciples on the road as well as taking them aside to further explain certain of His teachings, but this would have been different, more personal.

Why does He choose to minister to the crowds and not to His closest associates, His chosen ones, the trusted and sent ones? Is this a case of the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep behind, trusting them? Maybe because Jesus knew from their recent experience that they could depend on each other and the Spirit to live the life of apostles? Or maybe He knew that He would be leaving them soon and that

they would eventually have to work without Him? Or maybe they were actually ready for that, and they would have the Holy Spirit to guide them? And that the crowds had Him only at this moment?

What does that matter to us? Well, Christ has been working with us as long as we have been alive and He sends us out each day to be the Good News to others, to help them drive out their demons, to feed them as well as we can, and to be Christ to them, doing all that we can, as well as we can in His Spirit. Do we feel "entitled" to a little more gratitude and attention from Him for that? Do we think that God owes us something? I'm afraid that we all have that feeling at times, that God could do a lot better in our regard, but we must choose to be the children of God, and to trust Him and His love for us at all times and in every circumstance, even when we sin.

Can we live without constant affirmation and warmth of heart? Do we really want to be God's adult children? Do we ask seriously for that spiritual direction by our regular prayer?

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

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

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish office will be closed on **Tuesday, 20th July** in view of the Hari Raya Haji public holiday. Weekday Masses will be celebrated as usual.

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

Join us for a sharing on How the Homeless Finds Hope in Jesus to return to the Father's house. This **Wednesday, 21 July at 8pm**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Last call to invite a friend or family member who is interested to explore the Catholic faith to register for RCIA! 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.

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.

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 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

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.

CATHOLICS200SG: COME & DISCERN WITH US

A jubilee celebration is a key moment of discernment. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Archdiocese, join us in a meaningful spiritual exercise to reflect on our Catholic faith, and how our faith journey has been thus far. Centred on the Catholic200SG prayer, this spiritual exercise consists of 3 sessions conducted on Zoom. Simply have a journal, a bible and a cross to discern with us. Please register via the given links below to receive a confirmation email with the Zoom details.

Weekday run:

Wednesday 21 July, 28 July & 4 August (8pm - 10pm)
Register at tinyurl.com/discerntogetherWed

Weekend run:

Saturday 31 July, 7 August & 14 August (9am - 11am)
Register at tinyurl.com/discerntogetherSat

GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the **GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness)** campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/lyLsmYxsvAs> to see how our Church has continued to carry out Her mission despite the pandemic.

Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

ONE-TIME CHANGE OF PARISH CHURCH

Catholics registered with mycatholic.sg will be able to make a one-time change of their parish church. This can be done from **Wednesday, 21 July** onwards, and only if the criteria are met.

Read the full details here: <https://www.catholic.sg/resumption-of-mass34/>

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings Singapore presents *Returned!*, a testimony event on Zoom. If you are exploring a reconnection with the Catholic faith, we welcome you to join us on **Saturday, 14 August 2021, 10am-12pm**.

What to expect:

- Testimonies by Landings participants
- Understand how Landings works

Register for the *Returned!* event at bit.ly/35jTpZm or scan the QR code in the e-poster.

After *Returned!*, Landings Singapore will start a 10-week programme on Tuesdays (8pm to 10pm) commencing on 14 September 2021 till 16 November 2021. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register. *More details to follow for the registration for the 10-week programme.*

For more information on Landings, email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg

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

Returned!

Are you looking for a way to return to the Catholic faith?
Landings Singapore welcomes you in a non-judgemental and compassionate space.

Come and listen to our faith stories on a Saturday morning.

landings.org.sg

To find out more, join us at our *Returned!* event via zoom.

Date : Saturday, 14th August 2021
Time : 10am to 12pm

Online registration: <https://bit.ly/35jTpZm>
(by Wednesday, 11th August 2021)



Or register via the QR code.

An event by Landings Singapore
(Co-Run by Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace and Church of the Holy Spirit)

