



Insight and the Indwelling Presence of God

We all know that Ignatius was a man with a big heart, a big spirit and a big vision. He was all for doing things, not for his own vain glory or ambition, but for God's greater glory. How did he get to reach such an experience of God's presence and realisation of God's goodness to him in his life? The answer to this is what I call **OFI-OFU** "One Foot in and One Foot Out" or a kind of **Near Death Experience (NDE)**. A most intense point of one's life is at its emergence. It can be fraught with danger as well and mothers have been known to die in the process of giving life. Likewise, moments of near death are most intense experiences too.

Ignatius recognised that he owed his life to God when he nearly died in a moment of reckless chivalry. He was living on borrowed time since that decisive event in Pamplona when his legs and his life were shattered by a cannonball on 20 May, 1521. He was 30 years old – at the prime of his career as a soldier in the court of King Philip and Queen Isabella.

That cannonball experience marked the end of a worldly dream and the beginning of God's dream

in Ignatius. God took over his life from then onwards. Thrice, not counting the battle against the French at Pamplona where he nearly died.

The first NDE was after the second surgery to reset the bones on his right leg. After about two weeks in Pamplona, the wounded Ignatius was carried back to his home country. The doctors and surgeons who attended to him decided he needed a second surgery as the leg bones were not set properly, protruding and making one leg shorter than the other. This second surgery was going to be more brutal than the first but Ignatius made up his mind to proceed with it. He suffered severely from post surgery fever and the doctors were not too confident about his chances of recovery. If he did not improve by midnight, he would have been given up for dead. He was even advised to make his confession. This all took place on the eve of the feast of Sts Peter and Paul, saints to whom Ignatius was devoted to. They must have interceded for him as his fever subsided and he got progressively well.

The second NDE was when he went on a pilgrimage and stayed

for 11 months in Manresa. There he suffered a severe attack of fever for eight days and nights, and was feared to die in a small hospital for poor pilgrims which is now called the "Chapel of the Rapture". Ignatius reminded himself that he was a "sinner" and recalled the offences he committed against God. Fortunately, he was nursed back to health by some saintly women during that time.

The third NDE was when he was traveling in a ship from Valencia to Italy in very stormy weather. The ship's rudder broke and all on board thought they could not escape death. Ignatius was ready to die, "**Thinking about death at this time he had such joy and such great spiritual consolation at being due to die, that he was melting into tears.**" St Ignatius Writings, p 28. But God spared his life. The storm passed and the sea was calm again.

Not only was Ignatius fired with vision and passion, he was also filled with the love of God in his life. The words that best capture the gratitude that Ignatius owed his life to God is best expressed here by St Paul to the Ephesians: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with

power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Eph 3:16-19).

Ignatius by his own recognition of his triple near-death experiences would have known that all is a gift from God who dwells in him with full measure. It is the fullness of Christ dwelling in his heart that gave him a new lease of life. The rest of his life is his gift to God and the church in return for his life! It is this insight that he saw God's indwelling and glory, which filled him with joy and peace.

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

AUGUST MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for August opens on **03 August 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 continue to offer 2 categories of Masses — **50 pax and 100 pax** (Vaccination/ PET Required).

Masses with **100 pax** will be on:

- Saturdays 6.00pm
- Sundays 12.15pm

All other Mass capacities will remain 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

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Our Parish will be launching a new confirmation programme for baptized and practising adult Catholics who have not yet been confirmed.

The programme comprises 6 preparatory sessions starting from **9 October 2021, every Saturday, 10.00-11.30am**. The confirmation mass will be held on **Saturday, 20 November 2021 at 2.00pm**.

Register at <https://forms.gle/ZF8iH759Bqqcdgt8A> latest by **16 August**.

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (CCD) REGISTRATION

CCD is a faith formation programme for children, aged 7 to 13 years old attending international schools. Online registration for intake year 2021-2022 opens from **1st - 31st August 2021**. All students (new or returning) are required to register. Only ONLINE registrations will be accepted. Visit <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/faith-formation/catechetical-ministry/ccd> for more details.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us as Fr Thomas Lim, OCD, shares on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit based on Isaiah, Corinthians, Ephesians and Romans. Invite a friend and come join us on **Wednesday, 4 August at 8pm**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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 4 August (8pm - 10pm)
Register at tinyurl.com/discerntogetherWed

Weekend run:

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

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

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

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is committed to ensuring that youth and children forced to flee their homes are not deprived of their right to education.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we ask for your help to support our on-going JRS education programmes for refugees. The funds raised will support 540 beneficiaries in Bangkok and about 2528 children, youth and teachers in the refugee camps in Mae Hong Son, Thailand.

For more information please visit <https://makehopehappen.charissingapore.org/index.php/2021/jrs-education> and www.jrssg.org

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