



Can you keep your word?

Our reputation and character are often marked by our sincerity, honesty and integrity or the lack of them, in our dealings with others. My teacher in secondary school used to tell the class, “Self-praise is no praise, but an international disgrace.” If we want to be respected, we have to keep our word and be humble, not trumpeting ourselves and our achievements.

In the Gospel reading this weekend, we see that even the followers of Jesus struggled with His teachings. Jesus had said to them in the earlier text, “**I am the living bread that came down from Heaven and whoever eats this bread, will have eternal life. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world... For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them.**” (John 6:51; 55-56)

It would be scarcely credible to believe in this. But Jesus assures

them in today's Gospel: “**It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.**” (John 6: 64)

If Jesus were merely bragging, we would have doubts about the authenticity of His teachings. Would Jesus magnify His claims out of proportion to its real importance and reality to be believable? So we have to come to a faith conviction about Jesus. We have to ask ourselves. **Is Jesus believable? Is He a man of His word? Can I trust him?**

If we trust Jesus, we have no reason to question what He offers of Himself to us, as the “bread of heaven” to give us a share of eternal life. Only God can make this promise and keep His word. In good conscience, I can make an assent of faith and obedience to our Lord and say with Peter, “**Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**” (Matthew 26:63)

Similarly, the people of God were challenged by Joshua to make a choice to obey and follow Yahweh. They responded with great conviction: “**We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God and serving other gods.**” (Joshua 24: 16).

It is all well and good for God's people to say this. But the issue is whether they can keep their word. It is always better to ensure we do not make promises we cannot keep.

We know that time and again, we will break our promises, disobey God and rebel against Him. Yet God does not forsake or abandon us, but continues to win us back by His faithfulness and love for us sinners.

This is the Good News – that we are loved NOT because we are worthy, but that God is always greater than our own weaknesses and infidelity!

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

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

PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 1 Mass bookings for September opens on **24 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.

PET/ Vaccinated-only Mass timings: **Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10.15am (NEW) & Sunday 12.15pm**
Capacity for these Masses have also been increased to accommodate **170 pax**. All other Mass capacity remains at 50 pax.

Children aged 12 years and below may also participate in these Masses without testing or vaccination. However, please note that they may only comprise up to 20% of the total Mass capacity.

The **booking/ cancellation cut-off time** for Mass bookings in September have also been reduced from **3 hours to 1 hour**.

Read the full details at <https://mycatholic.sg/schedule>

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 will resume from next week onwards and are available every **Wednesday, 6.00pm-6.20pm and Thursday, 6.00pm-6.40pm**. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down. Due to the current Covid-19 guidelines, **confession slots are limited to 5 persons per priest**.



FAREWELL & THANK YOU FR RAVI!

Fr Ravi's term as Assistant Parish Priest will end on **31 August 2021**. We would like to thank him for all his contributions and dedication to the Parish the past 2 years, especially for his role as Youth Chaplain. We wish him all the best as he continues his service and mission with the Jesuits in the Phillipines where he will be helping with formation work in the Asia-Pacific Novitiate, teaching in the University, while completing his doctoral dissertation.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

When Mary was called to be the mother of Christ, she said her "*Fiat*" (let it be done unto me) to God. How do we hear God's call and respond to it? Join Sr Wendy Ooi, FSP, as she shares some tips from her own experience of being called and saying her *fiat* to God. This **Wednesday, 25 August at 8pm**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.



SEASON OF CREATION: CREATION WALK AND AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

The Season of Creation is celebrated globally from 1 September till 4 October. Spend an afternoon with the Lord as we reflect on how we can renew the *oikos* - our common home that God has blessed us with.

Saturday, 4 September, 2.00 - 5.30 pm. Session ends with Mass celebrated by Father Colin.

For more details and registration, please contact **Angela at 9664 2094**.

[Click here for programme details.](#)

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

IGNITUS! SOCIAL MISSION WITH LOVE

Let's come together as one body in our social mission and faith and discover how our church helps the vulnerable and marginalised. Seize this opportunity to hear from the many distinguished speakers like Archbishop William Goh, George Yeo, the vicar general of the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang, Cambodia, representatives from the many charity organisations and parishes and others.

Saturday, 4 September, 9am to 6pm ONLINE. Be inspired and respond to the call to bring God's love and mercy to all.

Register at <http://bit.ly/ignitus4Sep21>

Find out more at <http://www.catholic200.sg/events/IGNITUSSocialMissionWithLove>



FAITH REELS - A CATHOLIC200SG FILM AWARD

As the Catholic Church celebrates 200 years of history in Singapore, CANA Film Festival is inviting filmmakers based in Singapore to produce short films in line with the Catholic200SG themes.

Submission Deadline: **12 September 2021**. More details can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/211621763971457>

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR (LISS)

Do you desire a new life in the Holy Spirit? Join in a series of 10 weekly sessions of hybrid online Zoom and in-person sessions held from **24 September - 26 November 2021**. Includes live praise & worship, talks and small group discussions. Limited places available.

Sign up at tinyurl.com/saccreliss21sg