



On the Road to Love, Joy and Peace

When I first read the book of Deuteronomy I found it extremely dull and tedious, but then I learned the history of the text. It seems to have had various contributors and editors with rather different ideas of what it should say and emphasise. Someone pointed out to me that if I really wanted to understand this “Second Law”, though, which is what “Deuteronomy” means, I should learn as well the tremendous importance of the last word of today's reading, “today”.

The book constantly refers to the “laws, statutes, and ordinances” which God is giving to His people here, but for the author (of at least certain passages) obeying them involves living them today and in these particular circumstances. It becomes a matter of obeying God interiorly, of responding from our hearts. Psalm 95:7 says much the same thing: **“If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts”**.

The last section of today's Gospel fits well with what we see in Deuteronomy. That Old Testament reading speaks of the importance of hearing and living out God's commands and laws, but Jesus here stresses not so much the importance of following external regulations (which can lead to Pharisaism), but of following God

with our hearts, listening to what He is calling us to today. Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26 underline this call to obey God and His Law not only by the letter, but by a very personal love and service.

More than that, however, we sin when we refuse to accept God's call. That turning away from God is basically a refusal to grow, and as such it is deadly to our life if we consistently hold that attitude. We see that attitude in life when people around us get to be teenagers or young adults, and believe that they have grown inside as much as they need to. Such people harden their intellects and their emotional selves, and so refuse to grow as God is inviting them to do. They remain immature, painful to be with, and at best the object of pity. They have no idea that there is more to life if they could only reach out for it, even though it demands a price.

In the spiritual realm, such people learn the Ten Commandments and maybe the laws of the Church and believe that that is all they need to please God and to be safe. On the contrary, we need to continue to grow since Christ is always leading His chosen ones to greater life, and this is true for our whole lifetimes. There is always more life, more love, new ways for God to reveal Himself to us and to help

us become the people we wish (in our deepest selves) to be – but we must renew our choice “today” and every day.

It is for this reason that the most holy of the saints have considered themselves to be ungrateful and wretched sinners when they have not generously responded to God's calls not to morality, but to perfection.

In terms of the Gospel, then, we constantly need to purify the center of our lives, our hearts, by turning them over to God and to steadily follow the loving voice of the Spirit calling us to growth, to maturity, and to the strength that allows us to receive the greater gifts. Only then can we live in the serenity that only God can provide us.

Instead of what Christ describes as filling the heart – fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed, maliciousness, deceit, sensuality, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, and an obtuse spirit as well as feuds, wrangling, jealousy, bad temper, quarrels, disagreements, factions, and envy – we will find ourselves on the road to love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-mastery.

But we need to accept that invitation and to live it ... **today**.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for September opens on **31 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.

Vaccinated/ PET Mass timings:

Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10.15am (NEW) & Sunday 12.15pm. Capacity for these Masses have been increased to **170 pax**. All other Mass capacities will remain at 50 pax.

Updated Requirements for attending Vaccinated/ PET Masses:

- Children aged **12 years and below** may participate in these Masses **without** testing or vaccination, subject to a maximum 20% of the total Mass capacity.

- As per MOH guidelines, you will need to show proof of your full vaccination status via the **TraceTogether app, Healthhub app** or by bringing the **original copy of your vaccination cert.** "Fully vaccinated" means 14 days after receiving your 2nd dose of the **Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac-CoronaVac or AstraZeneca** vaccines.

The cut-off time for Mass bookings/ cancellations in September has been reduced from **3 hours to 1 hour**.

LIVESTREAM MASSES SCHEDULE

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, 6.00pm-6.20pm** and **Thursday, 6.00pm-6.40pm**. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down. **Confession slots are limited to 5 persons per priest.**

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us for a talk on: *Rethinking Spiritual Transformation*. How do we allow the Holy Spirit to continuously mould us into His image and likeness? This **Wednesday, 01 September 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.](#)

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium will reopen in September for weekend visits, if the Covid situation does not deteriorate. The link for the booking form will be made available on the **Columbarium webpage on Tuesday, 31 August from 2pm onwards.**



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.

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>

IGNITUS Social Mission with Love
ONLINE EVENT | 4 September 2021, 9AM to 6PM
bit.ly/ignitusreg

REGISTER HERE

--- Morning Segment: LIVE! on YouTube ---
Individuals with a passion for Social Mission

9:15AM	10:30AM	11:15AM
Ignite! Passion for Social Mission Fr John Lester/Alex Yam/Yenni Suryani/Laurence Lien	Putting the individual at the heart of social mission George Yeo	Social Mission with Love Most Rev. William Goh

--- Afternoon Segment: Breakout Track ---
Insights from Member Organisations & Parish Groups on how to be part of the mission

LIVE! on YouTube	LIVE! on Zoom
1:00PM Track 1: One Body in Christ Discover how participating in overseas mission is made possible with technology.	Track 2: Bearing Witness Parish groups sharing how the Church manifests and bears witness to God's love for all via social mission in action.
2:30PM Track 3: Steadfast Love of God Addressing the health concerns of the poor and needy, making present God's steadfast love in their lives.	Track 4: Loving God's Children Learn how you can share hope and encouragement with God's Children. Ignite your passion to serve with love.

Learn more at catholic200.sg/ignitusSocialMissionWithLove

Organised by:

WELCOMING HOME RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings Singapore presents a new 10 week programme which runs from **14 September 2021 through 16 November 2021, every Tuesday from 8pm to 9.30pm**. A weekend virtual retreat takes place near the end of this programme on the **6-7 November 2021**. All sessions will be held over Zoom. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register at this link: <https://bit.ly/3gFDObF> or to scan the QR code in the e-poster.

What to expect:

- Check-in time and opening prayer
- Faith story-telling
- Response to story
- Fellowship
- Reflection on Catholic themes
- Closing Prayer

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

Welcome Home!

landings.org.sg

Landings - Welcoming Home Returning Catholics

A new 10-week programme will begin on **14 September 2021 through 16 November 2021, every Tuesday 8pm to 9.30pm** (inclusive of a weekend virtual retreat). All sessions will be held over Zoom.

Please register your interest at <https://bit.ly/3gFDObF> or you may wish to scan the QR code provided, or email us at singapore@landings.org.sg to enquire more.

Register via the QR code.

Registration closes on 7th September 2021

A programme by Landings Singapore

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