



Longing for Fullness



Have you ever been seduced by time into misplacing something precious at the core of who you are, and in a manner which makes it increasingly difficult to retrieve? Recently, out of the blue, my thumb-drive came to mind, but I could not recall where I had put it. Although I was not in urgent need of it, not knowing where the thumb-drive was filled me with a disorientating anxiousness as it contains the fruits of my long hours of labour on my dissertation. Replacing the thumb-drive would be easy. Rewriting my dissertation, however, would demand immense resources that cannot be bought at will. Whilst frantically looking for it, I stumbled upon it while rummaging through my belongings for something else.

This rather uncanny event drew my attention to the underlying climate I was in. Being in transition brings with it the struggle of reconnecting with many other things in life in a manner both old and new. Within a fresh landscape, a need to evoke a space for prayer, set up a conducive corner for some rigorous work, discover a stilling view for my spiritual reading, nurture a time and route for regular exercise, and so forth. Not only am I going through my

possessions and deciphering my environment, I am also ransacking my waned memories for experiences and images of persons whom I cherished while in Manila 25 years ago. I have faces begging to be named, experiences longing to be continued, and persons waiting to be found in real life. And, there is a certain ache in the soul in not being able to locate in reality what is real in one's heart.

Having been brought into existence, there is a similar primal longing and search in Adam for that which lives in him and completes him. The more Adam encountered the diverse and mesmerising variants of nature, the more he felt this longing in the form of being alone. In the process of becoming, the first human person in each of us must discover a form of being accompanied which transforms our longing into completion, fullness and overflow.

However, our preoccupation with emerging through experiences and in creation may also harden this primal longing into a crystallisation of that loneliness – simmering with patterns of rejection, envy and bitterness. Divorce, as Jesus is at pains to elicit, is a false remedy for that primal longing which reinforces loneliness

while refusing an evolving and enduring companionship. When we begin to accept being alone as our fact of security and survival, then persons, things and events around us become either sources of hostility or instruments for use; instead of holding wellsprings of a presence which makes us rich.

God suffers the lowering of Himself beneath the angels in order to embrace being human because He desires to be a companion, not to tame or to manipulate us into submission. It is this ability for accompaniment in trusting vulnerability which gives the child exclusive access to Jesus' embrace and to God's Kingdom. When being with another human being empties me further, making me retreat and defend, instead of filling me up, allowing me to emerge and overflow, then whatever I undertake in desperation to overcome this underlying alienation and loneliness divorces me further from everything.

Finding God in all things means, discovering in everything around us something overflowing which allows us to emerge into becoming more full and complete than before that encounter; contrary to a persistent reminder that we are not enough.

Lord, for a little while you lowered yourself beneath the angels to delight in the fullness of the human in us; help us also, in those graced moments to find delight in experiencing the fullness of your embrace in all things within us and around us. Amen.

FR RAVI MICHAEL LOUIS, SJ

PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for October will open on **5 October 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.

The cancellation cut-off time for Mass bookings is now **1 hour**. With effect from 1 October, parishioners will have **15 minutes after the cancellation cut-off time to book freed up slots** if any.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are suspended until further notice during this Covid-19 Stabilisation Phase.

MASS COLLECTION APPEAL

Our Mass Collection has dropped by 40% over the past 3 months due to reduced Mass capacity. We appeal to your generosity to continue donating to the needs of our Church. Contributions towards the Church's expenses and maintenance can be made via **PayNow, Cheque or Internet Bank Transfer**. Details can be found at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/donation>

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We are inviting parishioners who would like to stand for election to the PPC Executive Committee or who would like to nominate other parishioners whom they consider suitable to serve the parish as PPC Exco members.

Nomination forms and more details are available on our **parish website**. Completed forms must be submitted to the Parish Office by **Friday, 15 October**.

Elections to the PPC Exco will be held at our annual **Parish Assembly** on **Saturday, 23 October 2021, 2pm - 4pm** via Zoom. All parishioners are cordially invited. Please sign up at <http://bit.ly/3keBIHG>

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Psalm 46:10 says "Be still and know that I am God". Join us in surrendering ourselves and allowing our Lord to work through us. Let us hear His Prophetic Word and His promptings and stirrings in our hearts, that we may intercede for the needs of our brothers and sisters and the world, according to His Holy will.

Join us this **Wednesday, 06 October at 8pm**. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Come make a pledge to pray the rosary every day in the month of October with the **Evening Rosary Group** community! We meet via Zoom **every day (except Sundays) from 5.10pm - 5.45pm** and we welcome you to join us. Praying the rosary together has brought much comfort and solace in these uncertain times. If you are interested kindly contact **Angela at 91262629** for more details.

CHILDREN'S DAY ROSARY PRAYER & SESSION

To celebrate Children's Day, the Children's Liturgy Ministry will be hosting an online Rosary prayer session on **Friday, 8 October at 7.45pm**. Click on the link below to register.



Children's Day
Rosary and prayer session

To celebrate Children's Day, the Children's Liturgy Ministry will be hosting an online scriptural rosary and prayer session, with a special blessing by one of our parish priests.

All children are welcome!

Please click here to register for the Zoom link

For any enquiries, email: childrensliturgy_stignatius@yahoo.com

Organized by the Liturgy of the Word for Children Ministry, St Ignatius Church Singapore

Fri, 8 Oct 2021 @ 7.45pm

SATURDAY ROCKERS

In the Bible study program, **The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy**, presenter Thomas

Smith examines who the prophets were, their role during their time, and how their prophetic words speak to us even today. Join us on **Saturdays at 1.30pm**, starting on **12/2/2022**, on Zoom. Contact **Charly at 9100 7401** (WhatsApp) for details.

THE SEARCH

What is The Search? Whether a practised inquirer or a jaded skeptic, *The Search* will speak to all. Some parts will be reassuring, other aspects will challenge the non-believer or out-of-touch Catholic to respond to life's deeper questions that demand an answer.

7 weekly sessions via Zoom video conferencing:

- 1) What do you seek?
- 2) Who are you?
- 3) Why a God?
- 4) What's our story?
- 5) Who is Jesus?
- 6) Am I saved?
- 7) Why a Church?

Starting **1 November 2021, Mondays at 8pm**. Register via email: de.search.st.igs@gmail.com

Watch the trailer video at vimeo.com/446879132.

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Columbarium visits are suspended until further notice during this Covid-19 Stabilisation Phase.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC200SG FESTIVAL

We are glad to announce the launch of the **Catholic200SG Festival** Web Application.

Visit mycatholic.sg/festival (or go to mycatholic.sg and click on the **festival** tab) to learn more about upcoming Catholic200SG events. Soon, you will be able to book your slots for these events as well!

Let us celebrate as one Church in this special year of faith and join us in over 100 events and activities to Renew, Ignite and Shine with faith!

MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2021

As medical technologies continue to develop rapidly and laws on them are debated, pertinent ethical questions about them need to be asked.

When is the right time to turn off the plug and let a family member die in peace? Is mercy killing ever an option? Is abortion always wrong in all circumstances? Is plastic surgery ethical? Is IVF permissible? Can we redesign babies?

Fr David Garcia will explore all these questions, and more, in the **sixth module of My Personal Moral Compass: Stewards of Life**. Come and join us!

Module 6 will start on **7 October 2021** and will be held weekly on **Thursdays over Zoom at 7.30pm** for seven weeks. Register at <https://bit.ly/396NZCT>

For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mPMC@caritas-singapore.org



ASSISI FUN DAY 2021
SHOP & EAT FOR GOOD!
7-17 OCT 2021

As you celebrate Catholic200SG this year, support our ministry of serving those in need. Every dollar spent will go towards providing care for patients with terminal illnesses.

ASSISI FUN DAY 2021 - E-EDITION

Shop and eat for good at Assisi Fun Day 2021 as we bring the world to you! Enjoy delicious food and exciting products from Asia, America and Europe, "chop" your virtual passports and have fun with games at www.assisifunday.sg from **7-17 October**. Every dollar spent will go towards providing care and comfort for patients with terminal illnesses and their families.

CHARIS HUMANITARIAN MONTH

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making its annual appeal for their Humanitarian Aid Fund that supports the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts. By sharing our blessings, we can unite as the helping hand of the Church, allowing faith and love to be multiplied.

Donation envelopes are available at the Place of Gathering or parish office. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" with your name and contact information to: **CHARIS, #07-02 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, S187954**.

Please contact CHARIS at 63374119 or scan the QR code to visit their website for further information.



Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest * Fr Gregory Tan, 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

October Holy
Rosary Month

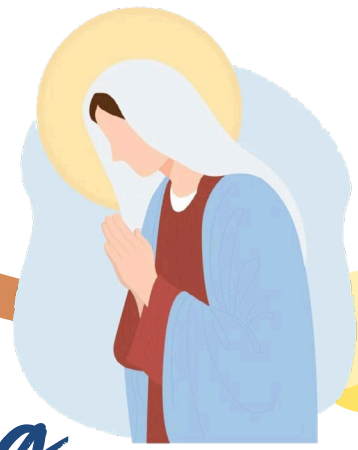
The Evening Rosary Group used to gather in church every weekday to pray the rosary before the 6pm Mass. It was a very small, dedicated and cozy group. Something dramatic happened to the group after the Covid-19 pandemic surfaced and changed our world.

No, the rosary group didn't get infected and die. Instead, a deep breath of new life was breathed into it and, really, I am witness to this miracle! I have come to realise that we need to be praying the rosary now more than ever. We need to pray it together, and to ask Our Blessed Mother to help us navigate a future that seems so fraught.

Zoom was a lifesaver, but many of us struggled initially as the group migrated to this new, unfamiliar virtual platform. We persevered and eventually got the hang of the various controls ("please unmute!"), not without plenty of help from more tech savvy family members. Soon our small group began to attract others who had heard that we were meeting online. We now have 60 members on record and daily about 45 people dial in to pray this powerful prayer together. We have members who join us from Brunei, Melbourne, Jakarta and Osaka, reminding us of the universality of our faith! It's a happy problem for Angela who does the rostering and makes sure that everyone gets a turn to lead a decade.

God brought into our fold people of various ages with a

A Lifesaving Devotion



myriad of talents. Before long we had expertly produced slides (thanks Angelina!) illustrating the mysteries and assembled a tech team to manage them. The slides have helped us focus on the mysteries we are meditating on. Next, we added a closing hymn and this opened up to us the world of sacred music on YouTube which we could share on the screen.

Since we have been unable to attend Mass regularly, the group keeps in step with the liturgical year of the Church by marking special feast days and memorials of saints. All of us have been learning so much in the process.

Our prayers now expand outwards as we introduce intercessory petitions before the rosary proper. We pray for the needs of the world, for our Pope and the Church, for the repose of the faithful departed, and for strength for those suffering from physical and mental challenges. Members take in turns to compose and offer a prayer to Our Lady presenting all our petitions, spoken and unspoken.

All this seems to me to be the modern day work of the Holy Spirit – our 3rd Glorious Mystery in action! Our members set their alarms for 5.15pm and feel so uplifted to pray in unison. It's our daily spiritual jab and what a potent one it is! Knowing that Our Lady prays with and for us, and gives us complete protection. There is only one thing left for us to do – whatever her Son tells us.

OLIVIA MENON

Come join the Evening Rosary Group community to pray the rosary in the month of October! We meet via Zoom every day (except Sundays) from 5.10pm - 5.45pm.

If you are interested kindly contact Angela at 91262629 for more details.

