



Heroism and Discipleship

These days, when one mentions the word “hero”, many would have pictures of people in capes and tights, flying around and bravely performing superhuman feats of strength, saving the world in the process. Thanks to the proliferation of superhero movies of late, the concept of being a hero has become intertwined with great shows of power and being very overt about how one helps others. That is one way of serving others, but I believe that the Lord shows a better, quieter, and deeper way of being heroic in our service and discipleship.

The idea of heroism is one of the central pillars of the description of servant leadership that author Chris Lowney proposes. Lowney, who is a Catholic and was formed by the Jesuits, wrote about heroism of a much quieter sort, modelled after the way the Lord led the disciples during his time on earth. He was very clear in telling the disciples that authority does not come from making one’s power felt, but from service to others. Good leaders lead by example, and through showing the depth of their conviction and belief in the people whom they lead – it’s not all about them, but about the team, the organisation, the community. Heroism in this case is the denying of one’s importance and instead,

helping every member of the team to feel their worth so that they can contribute to the team as well as they can.

The Lord took this one step further, by emptying himself to become even lower than most people (c.f. Philippians 2:5-11) so that even those who feel that they are at the bottom rungs of society can identify with him. The short passage from the prophet Isaiah showed how the Lord suffered to justify many, reminding us that his experience of suffering allows him the unique insight into how we may suffer in our lives. Similarly, his humanity in being tempted in every way that we are, as we heard from the letter to the Hebrews, shows that he can truly empathise with us in our daily struggles. This can be very comforting to many of us because the Lord himself, true God and true man, knows what it is like to strive to live good lives in this world of ours.

It is that very empathy that can be difficult for it to be deemed heroic. We do not need to be officially appointed a leader to display the heroism that Lowney described. It is just as important to be empathetic in our efforts to be better Christians. When we show empathy, we are better able to identify with others, and can begin to understand and even share in their struggles and difficulties.

When this happens, we become better able to serve others because we no longer do this impersonally or with a certain amount of detachment. Instead, we grow to know and love those whom we serve, accompanying them and drawing them into greater communion with us and the Lord.

And that, I feel, is what it means to be a hero these days. To empathise and to serve, to know who others are while reminding ourselves that we’re not at the centre of the service – others are. During this past year and a half in the pandemic, there have been many references to everyday heroes – the healthcare workers, those working in essential jobs, those who do very normal things in extraordinary circumstances.

Heroism does not have to be seen only on movie screens or read about in history books. It’s truly present among us and it’s truly possible for us to be heroic as well. So let us follow the Lord’s advice – to be loving as we seek to serve others in whatever capacity that we can, to be empathetic so that we can better accompany those whom we serve, and to always remember that we do this as disciples of the Lord who understands and loves us always.

FR STANLEY GOH, SJ

PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 4 Mass bookings for October will open on **19 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.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

Our annual **Parish Assembly** will be held on **Saturday, 23 October 2021, 2pm - 4pm** via Zoom. All parishioners are cordially invited. Please sign up at <http://bit.ly/3keblHG> by 21 October.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

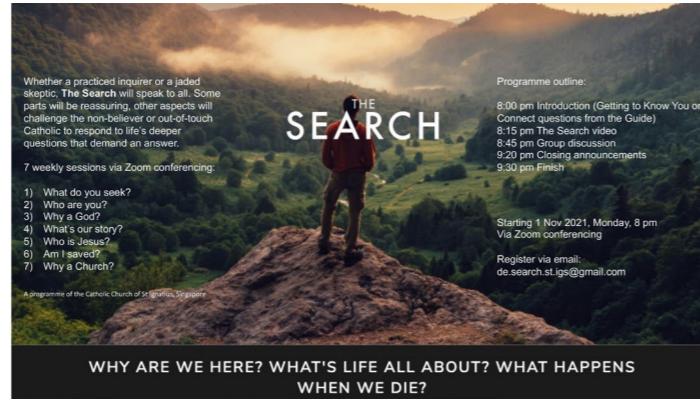
Jn 2:1-10, The Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary's request to her son Jesus saved the wedding couple from a major embarrassment. Join us for Bible Sharing on this beautiful account of Mary's concern for others that led to Jesus transforming water into fine wine. This **Wednesday, 20 October at 8pm**. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Make a pledge to pray the rosary every day in the month of October with the Evening Rosary Group community! We meet via Zoom **daily (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. Kindly contact **Angela at 91262629** for more details.

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 **12/2/2022** via 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. Starting **1 November 2021, Mondays at 8pm**. Register via email: de.search.st.igs@gmail.com

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Columbarium visits are suspended until further notice during this Covid-19 Stabilisation Phase. Please check our **parish website** for any updates about opening.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

This weekend is the collection for the **GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness)** programme. Visit <https://youtu.be/EhySg--k9vI> to learn how your contributions fund archdiocesan organisations, projects and initiatives that help to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give regularly via **PayNow to 201231391K** (include name and mobile no. or email) and consider signing up for a pledge at catholicfoundation.sg/give

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.

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

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.



CHRIST AT WORK 2021

The biennial Christ@Work Conference returns with the theme **IGNITE Faith@Work**, in line with the spirit of the Catholic200SG celebrations. Archbishop William Goh is the Keynote Speaker and ex-Cabinet Minister George Yeo will do the Afternoon Address. There will be 4 Panel Discussions featuring 16 Speakers.

Date: **Saturday, 30 October 2021**

Time: **8.30 am to 5.30 pm**

Venue: Online via Zoom, Live Streamed on YouTube

Register at bit.ly/CBNChristAtWork2021Reg or email admin@cbn.sg for any enquiry.

CHRIST @ WORK 2021
IGNITE Faith@Work
Date: **Saturday, 30th October 2021**
8:30am - 5:30pm
Venue: **Online Live Streamed via Zoom & YouTube**

Keynote by Archbishop William Goh | Afternoon Address by Mr George Yeo

4 Panel Discussions featuring 16 Speakers:

- Growing our business with and for God
- Nurturing our Faith through difficult times
- Taking care of God's Gift of Earth
- Engaging Christian Communities at the Workplace

Organised by: CBN | In Partnership with: CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESEAL GUIDO | CATHOLIC Social Workers Guild | An Official Event Of: CATHOLIC 200SG

Scan for details: <http://bit.ly/CBNChristAtWork2021>

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Make your marriage a priority! *"Marriage is a project to be worked on together and a process of growth" - Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia, no. 218, 221).*

Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled for **22 - 24 October** by contacting David & Clara at **96705390** or email mewkend@gmail.com

CATHOLIC200SG: CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK CONFERENCE

In conjunction with the Catholic200SG celebration this year, Catholic Theology Network is going to hold a conference with the theme **"On Being Catholic and Singaporean"**, held online on **27 November 2021**.

The plenary sessions and the breakout sessions will be presented with the perspective of being Singaporean.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2336u5h7> or scan the QR code below.

Catholic Theology Network Conference
ON BEING CATHOLIC AND SINGAPOREAN
ONLINE | 27 NOV 2021 | 9 AM - 5 PM

Join us in reflecting on being Catholic and Singaporean in conjunction with Catholic200SG celebration!

PLENARY SESSIONS

- Faith in Danger of Being Made Irrelevant by Secularism, Materialism, Individualism and Relativism: A Singaporean Perspective**
DOMINIC CHAN
- The God of Faith and the God of the Philosophers**
MICHAEL WEE

Register for Catholic Theology Network Conference for free now!
tinyurl.com/2336u5h7

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Recovering Fatherhood: A Catholic Perspective on the Role of the Masculine in Singapore Society | JOSEPH FERNANDEZ & MITCHELL HAN
- Cybertheology amidst Ecclesial Realities: Surveying Singapore's Catholic Social Media Landscape | ANDRE THENG
- Dialogue as A Mode for Lay Catholic Communities to Proclaim Jesus amid Secular Singapore | JOHANNES TIENDRO
- Justice, Equality, and the Good Life in a Meritocratic Society | PEIRCE YIP
- Returning to Our Father: Empowering Men through Fraternal Fellowship & Formation | ADRIAN LIM PENG ANN
- The Pursuit of the Happiness Potential | THADDEUS TAN
- A Tree Planted By Streams: Theology and the Singaporean Catholic | MARCIA VANDERSTRAATEN

Follow us on facebook.com/CatholicTheologyNetwork

October Holy
Rosary Month

A Very Special CHILDREN'S DAY



The children have been one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic since last year – not being able to physically gather together to play or pray in Church as they used to. The Children's Liturgy Team has also dearly missed proclaiming the Word of God during Mass each week.

This year, on Children's Day, our first-ever online rosary and prayer session was organized and graced by both Fr Colin and Fr Greg. This was especially meaningful as October is also the month of the Holy Rosary. It was heart-warming to see close to 80 children and their parents in attendance.



Fr Greg opened the session with a special Children's Day Blessing before the little ones led us in scriptural meditation on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. This was followed by the children's

thanksgiving and intercessory prayers. Their simple, yet pure and sincere prayers for protection and healing, for their families and themselves must surely be heard by God. Fr Colin then ended the hour-long session with a closing prayer.

It really was a great joy to see so many children of our Parish coming together to sing and pray. Despite it not being face-to-face, we are most encouraged by the active participation of our children and their families in creating a greater sense of belonging in St Ignatius Church.

We have more engagement plans and activities for the children in the coming weeks, especially as we enter the season of Advent. So do keep a lookout for more details to be posted soon and join us again.

Blessed Children's Day!

The Children's Liturgy Team

We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions so please reach out to us at childrensliturgy_stignatius@yahoo.com

