



#Listening Church



"Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, together. Let us look at Jesus in the Gospel who first encounters the rich man on the road; then he listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life." - Pope Francis, 10 October 2021

Last Monday I spent the better part of my day in the emergency department of a public hospital. All walks of life seeking aid were present in distressing situations. These were the people walking with Covid, with limited resources, in a reality wretched and failing, and at the same time, graced by God.

Sadly, I cannot say that I was good to the people around me. What little I did, seemed always short of enough, and it was the random acts of others that really helped. Like the man who was frustrated by my hands-off attempt to guide a patient through the bureaucratic process, and eventually stepped in to physically sort and retrieve the patient's documents. Or the woman accompanying a relative who casually took over another patient's files and placed it in the right place.

I realised that I had not wanted to walk the same road as those patients. I did not want to assume responsibility nor be emotionally vested in them. More than anything, I did not want to be a close contact of a Covid patient. In contrast, what of the woman and the man who did so?

Jesus would have accompanied all the people in need, like that woman and man, acting effectively with love and simplicity. The

Bible presents many outstanding vignettes, deeply rich and theological, formative and inspiring. Like a tapestry chosen and woven for its rich colours and intricate patterns. What of Jesus' mundane, everyday life? I believe Jesus would have done these simple acts of kindness, just like that woman and man.

I feel ashamed for not walking with people, for thinking I am better than them, for rejecting the journey they are on. I am also painfully aware of those whose lives are entwined with mine, and the impact which my Covid infection would have on them. This is part of the complicated reality that walking on the same road as others entails. We all have a hand in shaping that reality. Like reorienting our resources to deal with challenges and creating opportunities for grace.

On 17 October, archdioceses worldwide started their journey towards the 2023 Synod on Synodality. In an interview by his colleague Hosffman Ospino, my former Boston College professor, theologian Rafael Luciano, distils many key concepts that apply not only to the present process of synodality but also indicates how Vatican II should be received. Two words struck me – *consensus* and *collegiality*.

Out of the bickering that accompanies Christians is a call to *consensus* – sensing and walking together to realise the reality of the other. Jesus profoundly walked together with the people he encountered. Note how he expanded the scope of his mission to include the Gentiles (*Mark 7:24-30*) in his encounter with the Syro-Phoenician woman. Jesus truly listened to her in his praying and discerning. He sensed the reality of that Gentile woman, and acted accordingly.

The other is of *collegiality* – of working together, but not homogeneously. Of working for the same values, but responding in different ways due to differing circumstances or needs. My response to my circumstances dictates how I orient my resources and actions. Each family navigates this pandemic with the knowledge, resources and the graces they have. What little we have is enough.

I may not be a saint in directly helping those patients in need, but perhaps that is all I needed to do, as eventually others stepped in to complete those acts of kindness. Do I have a yearning to help? Yes. Could I have done more? Yes. And that is a thorn that will stick in my side.

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 1 Mass bookings for November opens on **26 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.

To allow more parishioners to attend Mass in church, our parish will be increasing the number of the Weekend Vaccinated/PET-only Masses in November.

Vaccinated/ PET-only Mass Timings (170 pax):

Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm & 6.00pm

Non-vaccinated Mass Timings (50pax):

All Weekday Masses
Saturday 4.30pm & Sunday 8.15am

Parishioners must be fully vaccinated or show proof of a negative test result to be able to attend Vaccinated/PET-only Masses. Children age 12 and below are exempted (capped at 20% capacity).

ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS DAY MASS TIMINGS

All Saints' Day, 01 November:
7.30am (50 pax) & 7.00pm (170 pax, Vaccinated/PET-only)

All Souls' Day, 02 November:

7.30am (50 pax) & 7.00pm (50 pax)
The Columbarium will be open for visits on this day. Booking link will be made available on our parish website on Tuesday, 26 October at 12pm.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

In a few days' time, we celebrate the feast of All Saints. Do we need saints to help us to be holy? Yes, we do. They teach us how to imitate Jesus Christ, making him the centre of our lives and their spirituality demonstrates the diversity of God's love and grace. Our spiritual lives are so much richer because of them. Join us this **Wednesday, 27 October at 8pm**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

TUESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a new 10-session study on "No Greater Love" by Ascension Press starting **25 January 2022**. Every **Tuesday 10-12pm, via Zoom**. This program is a biblical pilgrimage revealing God's amazing love for us. Walk with Jesus in his last hours from Gethsemane to Calvary, for a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for us. Contact **Jennet at 9864 3793** or **Elizabeth at 9694 2778** by **31 October** to register your interest.

SATURDAY ROCKERS BIBLE STUDY

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 February 2022** via Zoom. Contact **Charly at 9100 7401** (WhatsApp) for details.

THE SEARCH

"Looking for meaning in life? What do you seek? What's life all about?" 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**. Watch the trailer video at <https://youtu.be/rWvhts2mE-o>

Register via email: de.search.st.igs@gmail.com

GIVE A HELPING HAND. BE A DONOR.

SSVP Conference of St Ignatius is appealing for regular donations for the Poor. We support over one hundred individuals and families in 2 blocks of 1-room flats at Redhill Close with a monthly cash aid of \$125.

All donations collected go directly to these underprivileged cases to help mitigate their financial hardships after government and social welfare funds are exhausted. We are grateful for all your generous support.

By Cheque

1. Crossed cheque to 'SSVP Conf of St Ignatius'
2. Indicate Account Number: 0149031884 & 'Donation for the Poor' under reference
3. Drop cheque at any DBS branch or mail to: 'Church of St Ignatius, 120 King's Road, S268172'

By Bank Transfer

1. E-transfer to Account Number: 0149031884
2. Bank/ Branch code: 7171/ 014
3. Address: 1 Jalan Anak Bukit #01-19/20 Bukit Timah Plaza S588996

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Subject to any new restrictions/deterioration in the Covid situation, the Columbarium will be open for visits on **30-31 October and 02 November (All Souls' Day)**. Bookings will open on **Tuesday, 26 October at 12pm**. Please check our parish website for the booking links and schedule.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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: **8.30am - 5.30pm, via Zoom/ YouTube**

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

CREED ON THE STREET

Mental Health in Pandemic Times: Solidarity in a Community of Love, a Virtual event (on Zoom) taking place on **Tuesday, 9 November at 7.30pm**.

Struggles with mental health conditions have become more difficult and widespread during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Creed on the Street series, Caritas Singapore (Young Adults) and Clarity Singapore are organising a virtual night of discussion for young adults to reflect on and discuss mental health concerns in the context of the pandemic and through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

Do sign up and join us! Register at <https://bit.ly/3lEoUX9>

CREED ON THE STREET
Mental Health in Pandemic Times: Solidarity in a Community of Love

Event Details
Date: Tuesday, 9 Nov 2021
Time: 7:30 - 9:00PM
Format: Virtual
Scan the QR Code or type <https://bit.ly/3lEoUX9> to register

Join the Caritas Young Adults and Clarity Singapore for a night of discussion on how we can love and support those struggling with mental health conditions with the heart of Christ.

Caritas SINGAPORE
CLARITY Singapore

CATHOLIC200SG: PRAYER MARATHON

Join us for 200 hours of prayer led by various churches, religious congregations and Catholic organisations. Eucharistic adoration will be held throughout the night. Visit <https://catholic200.sg/event/prayer-marathon/> for more details.

Date: **12 November 9am to 20 November 6pm**
Livestreamed on youtube.com/catholicsg

PRAYER MARATHON

12 Nov 9am - 20 Nov 6pm
200 hours of prayers

Streamed live on:
youtube.com/catholicsg

Always be joyful; pray constantly;
and for all things give thanks;
this is the will of God for you
in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

CATHOLIC200SG: CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK CONFERENCE

In conjunction with the Catholic200SG celebrations this year, Catholic Theology Network will be holding a conference on **27 November 2021**, on the theme "On Being Catholic and Singaporean".

The plenary and breakout sessions will be presented with a Singaporean perspective.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2336u5h7>

CATHOLIC200SG
Held in conjunction with Catholic200SG

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

The God of Faith and the God of the Philosophers

MICHAEL WEE, CATHOLIC BIOETHICIST & PHILOSOPHER

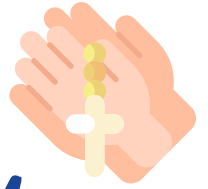
DOMINIC CHAN, LAY THEOLOGIAN & LAWYER

Visit our page for the full programme

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

Praying with the Mother of God



I had been hosting the Choir Ministry's online rosary sessions every Sunday since the start of the pandemic. But these sessions eventually came to a halt as some of us were called back to support the Catholic online broadcast.

Although I knew our involvement was creating opportunities for people around the world to encounter Jesus, my time with him alone soon became a backdrop in my life. One day, however, when the evening practice sessions were delayed, I decided to step outside the room. Just 10 footsteps out, I found myself standing outside the door of the Adoration Room.

Since I could not enter, I stole glimpses of the Blessed Sacrament through a window panel and kept silent for the Lord. Even though my eyes were open, I could hear Jesus speaking to me in a small voice, "Pray with the Mother of God". I knew what He meant but I also knew I lacked self-discipline.

Thankfully, it didn't take too long for me to resume my rosary prayers. But often, I failed to 'still' my mind. I found difficulty setting aside my preoccupations and would recite the prayers fast. Until I was reminded of a time when I dedicated myself to praying the rosary for a dying person for 30 days during Lent. I would pray the rosary in the wee hours of the morning in the hospital. Far beyond my comprehension, I witnessed a miracle right in front of my own eyes. In that journey, more than ever, I found myself



drawn to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I started to be more conscious of my actions and words.

In God's perfect timing, a friend invited me to join the rosary community. She had not known I was looking for one. I must admit, I had to get used to the timing even as I scheduled these daily sessions into my work calendar. I felt a drastic change in my prayer life as I opened my ears to the countless petitions shared by others. I started to pen down these petitions, so that in my own time, I would offer them up to our Lord. Most of all, the rosary prayers allowed me to slow down and reorientate my inner disposition towards the Lord.

Sometimes whilst meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary, I hear the Lord's voice leading me to invite someone to pray the rosary with me. I now find myself hosting ad hoc online rosary

sessions with individuals who are struggling with anxiety at work.

If you are struggling with sin, or if you have souls that you care about and you want God to impact their lives, I recommend that you start praying the rosary even if you have only 15 minutes available.

Wherever we are, whatever we are feeling right now, God will bless such moments. He promises us that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us! For "Nothing is impossible with God".

JOAN CHAN

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

Kindly contact Angela at 9126 2629 for more details.