



## The Law of Love



One of our Jesuit priests, Fr Leslie Bingkasan, SJ, has just graduated from Rome with a Licentiate in Canon Law. At a Mass he celebrated for us, he smiled and said, “If you have forgotten everything about your Canon Law, you should at least remember one: ***In everything you do, salvation of souls is the Supreme Law.***”

What was the context of Fr Leslie’s homily? Jesus had been accused by the synagogue official for healing on the Sabbath, a woman who had been possessed by a spirit for 18 years and was bent double, unable to stand upright. The official had objected and said: “*There are six days when work is to be done. Come and be healed on one of those days and not on the Sabbath.*” (Lk 13:14). Jesus refuted him and didn’t mince his words to call him, “Hypocrite!” *Is there one of you who does not untie his ox or his donkey from the manger on the Sabbath and take it out for watering?*” (Lk 13:15).

The question is what would violate the Sabbath law? And the answer is “work”. To heal a woman and to untie an animal would be considered “work”, and hence the failure to observe the Sabbath law and keep it holy.

When we frame this weekend’s

gospel reading into this context of keeping the Sabbath holy and observance of the “Shema of Israel”, we will understand it better. Jesus, as a Rabbi and a devoted Jew, would know this teaching at the tip of his fingers. He would have prayed this prayer daily in the morning and evening: “*Hear Israel, the Lord Our God is One*” (Deut 6:4). The prayer also includes another command “*to love God with all one’s heart, soul, and strength*” (Deut 6:5).

Jesus quotes this part of the Shema to us as the first commandment and gives us a second, “*You must love your neighbour as yourself.*” (Mk 12:31).

Truly, this is the essence of Christianity and of our faith as well. “To love the Lord Our God, with our whole heart, whole mind and whole soul and our neighbour as yourself.” When we do this, Jesus will affirm us and say, “*You are not far from the Kingdom of God.*” (Mk 12:33).

My dear friends, it may be a good idea to ask ourselves, “How near am I to the Kingdom of God?” The more we can love God and neighbour, the closer we will be to the Kingdom of God.

It is always easy to say, “I love God”, but harder to say that I love

my neighbour. St Augustine says, “The love of God comes first in the order of command but the love of neighbour comes first in the order of action.”

St Augustine is telling us here, that if we truly love God, it has to be shown in action – in deeds more than words. Do I show in practical ways that I care for the poor, the marginalised and those who are forgotten by society? The law of love is beyond the love of the law. We are asked to love those who are poor, the outcast and powerless in society. Jesus came to save them too.

Indeed, our love also extends beyond this world as we remember our departed loved ones on this coming Feast of All Souls and All Saints Day. We are reminded that they form the “Triumphant Church” in heaven together with all the saints who have completed their earthly journey and have returned home, and are in company of the Holy Trinity, and with Mother Mary as well. So we remember to pray for them and offer our gratitude to God for their lives and for the completion of their work and mission entrusted to them. May their souls and souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

### NOVEMBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 2 Mass bookings for November opens on **02 November at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE additional 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

### 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)

*Both the 7pm Mass on All Saints and All Souls Day will be livestreamed on our parish YouTube channel.*

### VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium will be open for visits on **02 November (All Souls' Day)** from **10am - 6pm** in 45 minutes slots. Only those with confirmed bookings will be admitted.

You may book a slot at [bit.ly/stigscolumbariumAllSouls](https://bit.ly/stigscolumbariumAllSouls)

If you need help in booking, please call the church office at 6466 0625 (Pauline/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/Telegram/SMS Chad at 9675 6621.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available every **Monday, 6.00pm-6.40pm** and **Wednesday, 6.00pm-6.20pm**. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down.

### LONGING: AN ADVENT RETREAT

*Reflections on our hearts' longings in the company of St Ignatius*

We often talk of Advent as a time of waiting. But perhaps it would be more appropriate to call it a

time of longing. In the centuries before the coming of Christ, God's people longed for the coming of a saviour. What do our hearts long for today?

Come join us on **Longing: An Advent Retreat**, led by Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, to reflect on the longings in our heart and God's longing for us.

**Thursdays, 25 November, 2, 9, & 16 December 2021, 8pm - 9pm, via Zoom**

Register at <https://bit.ly/StigsAdventRetreat2021>

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us for a sharing on "Seeing the Goodness of God in Our Moment of Darkness". In Jeremiah 29:11 it says, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." We will be praying with members for their intentions. Join us this **Wednesday, 03 November at 8pm**. Email us at [cpg.cosi@gmail.com](mailto:cpg.cosi@gmail.com) for Zoom details.

### CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE 2021

Join us and find out how you can respond to the cry of the earth and to protect our common home at the upcoming Climate Action Online Conference on **6 November 2021** at 10am. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Register at [bit.ly/3BeQL40](https://bit.ly/3BeQL40) by 5 November. For any enquiries, contact Angela Sng at 9664 2094.

### 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

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### 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/3EoUX9>

**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/3EoUX9> 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  
God's Love in Action

CLARITY  
HOPE WITH YOUR BROTHER

### 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](https://youtube.com/catholicsg)

Our parish will be leading the prayer on **Wednesday, 17 November from 11am-12pm**.

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

### CATHOLIC200SG FESTIVAL

The Catholic200SG Festival will be happening on the 4-11 Dec 2021. Visit [mycatholic.sg/festival](https://mycatholic.sg/festival) to learn more about the upcoming events. Bookings will open on 8 November at 12.00pm .

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!

### SSVP: PATH OF COMPASSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) youth from across Singapore have organised '**Path of Compassion**', a virtual race to raise funds for low-income families in need of assistance and support. Funds raised go to needy families, especially those with babies in need of milk and diapers. Come walk and/or run your way to making a difference for others!

**PATH OF COMPASSION**  
27 NOV - 26 DEC 2021  
GO THE DISTANCE  
TO HELP OUR FRIENDS IN NEED

Walk or Run to raise funds for the low-income and disadvantaged who need essentials such as milk and diapers and community services support.

SSVP Ltd.  
Affiliate of  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
(National Council of Singapore)

Visit <https://ssvpsingapore.org/news-events/pathofcompassion/> to find out more and register! Registration ends **17 November**.

### AUDIOBOOKS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL

In his World Mission Sunday message, Pope Francis reminds us that "To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters."

Check out Pope Francis' encyclical on fraternity and social friendship, **Fratelli Tutti** (<https://youtu.be/n4cTrWRwJaM>), now available as an audio book so you can listen to it as you commute, walk, cycle, wherever you are. Also available is **Nostra Aetate** ([https://youtu.be/\\_9QMkt8lmjo](https://youtu.be/_9QMkt8lmjo)), the ever relevant Vatican II document on our relationship with other religions.

Listen to samples of both books on [shorturl.at/ejlvA](https://shorturl.at/ejlvA)