



Repent, Remember!



Prophet Daniel used a highly distinctive language in today's readings. The eschaton, the end of days, is not meant to evoke fear, but to comfort the righteous and persecuted. That a deity would take a great personal interest in the faithful was a novel idea among believers of other faiths then. Knowing each person's name indicates that God intimately knows each person. We could surmise that those whom God exalted, who acted for justice with great wisdom, likely had a strong and active life lead by faith, if not by goodness.

Befitting to such an active life, would have been such glorious exclamations of praise and reverence for God, which the psalms proclaim with joyful abandon. No bashful or coy murmurings here. Faith, the key to understanding the rest of the readings, also leads us to contemplate a different way of life, counter cultural to our seeking gratification and meaning through our works and means alone. Specifically, the centrality of Jesus Christ in our life and salvation, the Son of God who is particular in his care and concern for each of us, who knows his sheep.

Paul's letter to the Hebrews goes beyond showing that the only efficacious priest is Jesus Christ as the high priest. Instead, these few verses highlight how our

sins have been atoned for by the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, an atonement that is effective and God has accepted, as Christ now sits "*forever at the right hand of God*".

God's generosity – in the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, and in the reciprocal acceptance of his sacrifice by God the Father – is not about taking away the burden of expiating or paying for our sins, but rather the burden of guilt and shame. In the past, those burnt offerings were meant to appease and placate God and cast the believers in a better light in God's regard. Not anymore, for God's generosity, love and mercy, has been revealed and offered to all humanity. God forgives us if we confess, repent, and sin no more.

Does this take away our responsibility for our actions? No, we still have to repent. Rather, the freedom of God's love encourages us to deal justly with our fellow creatures, human or otherwise, and with reparations if necessary.

What fills our days is what we are. However, there are some truths that are part of ourselves. These truths tell us not only of our origins, but also our best hope for salvation, for becoming more human. By our baptism, we are made the children of God. There is a relationship with other people, and not just our friends and family, or with God. We are also part of creation – part of the planet, rather than just residing on the planet.

If we have been reading the signs of the times, in what COP26 had highlighted how our environment has been drastically affected by climate changes, we might acknowledge that there is more afoot than we might be comfortable to deal with. That's a good first step. Educate yourself, and start where you are. Walk the talk with other like-minded persons. We are not called to be lone heroes – even Greta Thunberg had the support of her parents before anyone else. Concerns are many – start with the ones that you know of, that you can contribute to. Always find the *Magis* in your life.

We don't have to placate God for our sins, but we will have to deal with God's judgment if we do not make amends and live a just life. Which brings us to the Gospel, where Jesus speaks of his second coming in cataclysmic and stylized Jewish terms contemporary to his times. Only by faith can we have the sight to see beyond the descriptions to the coming of Jesus.

Are we moved by fear or feel the need for repentance? Are we able to proclaim with joy along with the psalmist? What is it that really gives us comfort and joy? Does this seem like a rebuke, harsh and justified? Where is Jesus Christ in your life?

MICHAEL PHUNG, SJ

PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 4 Mass bookings for November opens on **16 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.

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

A four-week Advent retreat in daily life reflecting on the longings of our hearts and God's longing for us

LED BY FR GREG TAN, SJ
Church of St. Ignatius, Singapore

LONGING: AN ADVENT RETREAT

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?

Join us on **Longing: An Advent Retreat** 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>

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Calling all children in our parish to celebrate Advent with the online activities organised by the Children's Liturgy Ministry!



Advent activities for children

By the Children's Lit Ministry

Calling all children of our parish! Come celebrate Advent with the following online activities:

- Advent wreath blessing by parish priest, Father Colin Tan (27 Nov)
- Weekly lighting of advent wreaths with contemplation, rosary and prayer for children (4, 11, 18 Dec)



Every Saturday in Advent at 3pm starting from 27 November. Register at bit.ly/3pYsoGt for the zoom link or email childrensliturgy_stignatius@yahoo.com for any enquiries.

P1 WEEKEND CATECHISM REGISTRATION

2022 Primary One Registration for the Weekend Catechetical Programme for children born in 2015 is now open. Deadline for registration is **31 Dec, 2021**.

Register at bit.ly/stigswecat2022_p1

Please email our Catechetical Coordinator at stignatius.wecat@gmail.com if you have any queries.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

As we approach the end of the Year of St Joseph this 8 Dec, we share on Matthew 1:18-25, on the qualities of St Joseph. In his Apostolic Letter '*Patris Corde*', Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a beloved father, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, and a working father who remained in the shadows. Join us this **Wednesday, 17 November at 8pm for bible sharing**. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2021-2022

The Parish is pleased to announce that the following parishioners were elected to the PPC ExCo at the Parish Assembly on 23 October 2021:

- Hans Avinder
- Aaron Boey
- Valerie Lim
- Noel Liu
- Nathalie Tan

In addition to our Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest, the PPC ExCo now comprises:

- Alexander Ee (Chairman)
- Hans Avinder (Vice-Chairman)
- Aaron Boey
- Valerie Lim
- Noel Liu
- Joseph Raj
- Renato Sirtori
- Nathalie Tan
- Joyce Wong
- Raymundo Yu
- Michele Lim (Secretary and ex-officio member)

GIVE A HELPING HAND. BE A DONOR.

SSVP Conference of St Ignatius is appealing for **regular donations for the Poor** to support over one hundred individuals and families living in 1-room flats at Redhill Close. Thank you for 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

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Saturdays, 5.00pm-5.45pm; and Sundays, 9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, 1.00pm-1.45pm, and 5.00pm-5.45pm.

For November bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumNov2021

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

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC200SG FESTIVAL

The Catholic200SG Festival will cap the anniversary celebrations. It will be held from **4 to 11 December 2021**. The venue is around the locality of the Cathedral Of The Good Shepherd, where the early Catholics settled and built Churches.

More than 100 exciting events await you. There is something for everyone. For families, there are light shows, concerts, exhibitions and instagrammable artwork that you can enjoy with your loved ones. To quench our spiritual appetite, there are faith sharing, devotions, Masses and confessions every day of the Festival. There are also numerous talks and forums on a range of subjects: from family life to faith and theology and how the Church is involved in society and have evolved over these 200 years!

Visit mycatholic.sg/festival or scan the QR code to learn more about the upcoming events and book your slots!

The Catholic200SG team will also be having a roadshow at our church on the **27 - 28 November** to promote the festival.



Let Us Celebrate As One Church!

Celebrate 200 years of the Catholic Faith in Singapore!

Saturday | 4 - 11 December 2021

Mission District
Cathedral of The Good Shepherd | Catholic Centre
Church of Saints Peter & Paul | Saint Joseph's Church (VS)

CATHOLIC200SG www.catholic200sg

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS REFLECTION 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Advent and Christmas. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection theme for Advent is "*The Promised Word*" and for Christmas is "*Word Made Flesh*".

Download the e-booklet at bit.ly/AdventChristmas2021