



Centred on God

As a teacher of English composition, there are times when I would like to sit down with Paul and try to get him to rewrite some of the things that he says in his epistles. Paul's thoughts deepened and matured over the 30 to 35 years that he wrote, and beyond that he may not have even written all the works attributed to him. Hebrews is an outstanding example of that. Of course he was not an author with modern concerns about not only what he had to say, but how clearly and forcefully he said it. At the same time, he also wrote with all the biases of someone of his time, and the clear passion he shows at times strongly suggests that he did not edit or retouch his works at all. There are good reasons why it is hard to reconcile all his statements, and even taking his statements and their implications one by one can still demand patience and goodwill if one wishes to penetrate to his deepest truth.

Today, for example, Paul says that the married man is divided. Some modern readers consciously believe that this is literally true while others just accept the idea subconsciously, but what Paul means is simply that a married man is torn in two ways – as if this were not true of all of us.

What Paul seems to be saying, is that married people are a lesser sort of Christian, second-rate, less focused on God. I am not at all happy with that implication. All of us are divided in our devotion to God, or even to our spouse: choosing simply between God and the human lives that God has given us is a false choice.

We all have to be busy about many things if we are to stay alive. We need to earn our living, and that takes a certain amount of thought and hard work. Often, at times, we would rather be doing something else.

I think that putting one Lord or spouse, Mary or Martha, in first place and the other in second is not a healthy way to look at things – and it is not a matter of which one you select to put first. What matters is who is important to you, and that can be in many ways and for many reasons. You do not treat God, your spouse, your parents, and your children in the same way, but all of them are important and each deserves a particular attention and respect from you.

Trust me; married people, unmarried people, even the saints, all of us have conflicting desires and impulses in our lives, and such are not obstacles as much as they are concrete opportunities to love God and to learn to love



God better and in new and more mature ways. And that is true for every single one of us, even Christ: think of His prayer in Gethsemane (Luke 22:42).

What we need to do is to look first at our values. Where do we live in our hearts? Where is our center? Who is really our Lord, and what is it that truly counts for us in the long run? It has to be God; anything else would be adoring a false god. And then, starting from our love for God and in that context, we must love, cherish, honor, obey, and serve all others, starting with our spouses and our families. God wants us to do this, since He is a God of love, of generosity, of putting Himself out for others, and since it is only if we begin and end in God that we can treat others – and even ourselves – in the right way and with God's guidance and strength.

I don't think that I really disagree with Paul, but I do wish that he could have been clearer.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY MASS BOOKINGS

Mass bookings for February opens on **2 February, 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses** at each stage.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7.00pm
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm
Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm

Please note that the limited weekday Mass bookings system is currently only on trial in the Church of St Ignatius.

Parking is ONLY at the King's Road basement car park. Go to stignatius.org.sg and our church Telegram channel for updates, guidelines to the resumption of Masses.

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS

Friday, 12 February: 8.15am*, 10.15am*, 7pm.
*There will be distribution and blessing of oranges during these Masses.

We'll also be commemorating the dedication of our Church at the 8.15am Mass as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMINGS

Wednesday, 17 February: 7.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm.

You can drop off your **OLD PALMS** in the basket outside the vestry room. The last day of collection is Sunday, 14 February.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

There will be **BLESSING OF CANDLES** during the upcoming weekday Masses of 1, 3, 5 February. Parishioners are to bring their own candles and hold them up for the celebrant to bless during Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent, starting from 19 February, after the 7pm Mass. Please note that parishioners will need to have a valid Mass booking to attend.

COMPULSORY USE OF TRACETOGETHER

All parishioners attending Mass are to use the TRACETOGETHER app or token to perform SafeEntry check-ins.

All parishioners must download the TraceTogether app OR bring along your tokens for SafeEntry when you arrive

for Mass. Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking before you can be admitted to the Church Hall.

Download the TraceTogether App: tracetogogether.gov.sg
Collect TraceTogether Token: token.gowhere.gov.sg

WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION with Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Please go to stignatius.org.sg/home/

YOUNG ADULTS' FORMATION

Calling all young adults! Our new series, "The Joy of Discovery" explores our identity, and the discovery of our gifts and mission. The session dates are 20 January and 3 February, 8.30pm - 10.00pm via Zoom. Sign up at tinyurl.com/yafstignatius

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

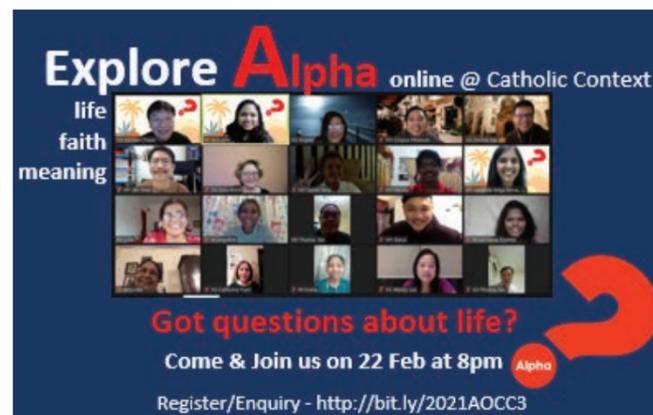
We seek to please God and want to magnify His name and invite His presence into our lives. Join us in an extended Praise and Worship this Wednesday, 3 February at 8pm. Email us at: cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

ROAD TO EMMAUS 2021

Journey on the Road to Emmaus and let the Word of God burn within your hearts (Luke 24:32). This parish-wide Bible program is designed to help us "Break the Word" of the weekend Liturgies to enable us to apply its truth and meaning more deeply in our daily lives. Commencing Monday 25 January, 7.45pm via Zoom and every Monday night thereafter (except during school and public holidays).

Young adults and newcomers are most welcome. Register with The RTE team via email at road.to.emmaus.st.ignatius@gmail.com

ALPHA ONLINE at Catholic Church of St Ignatius
Come and join us on 22 February at 8pm via Zoom.
For enquiry and/or registration go to bit.ly/2021AOCC3



Explore **Alpha** online @ Catholic Context
life faith meaning
Got questions about life?
Come & Join us on 22 Feb at 8pm
Register/Enquiry - <http://bit.ly/2021AOCC3>

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

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

For February bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumFeb2021

For February 12 booking, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumFeb12CNY

Only 30 visitors are allowed per session. If you need help in booking, please call the church office 6466 0625 (Pauline/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/Telegram/SMS 9675 6621.

PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

It's the last two weekends to buy our limited edition Jubilee T-shirts. Stand united in our celebrations and get your T-shirts before our 60th anniversary on 12th February! The Jubilee t-shirts will be on sale at \$20 each in the confessional room at the Place of Gathering immediately after each weekend Mass, or you may go to the church office at any time during office hours to make your purchases.

HOMEMAKERS

The Homemakers are currently NOT accepting any donations of second-hand goods during this Covid period. We seek your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that parishioners do not leave any item at the Homemaker drop-off point outside the staircase at ground floor of Sacred Heart Hall until further notice.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

CATHOLIC200SG: IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH

In this special year of faith, we invite all Catholics to participate in the **Collective Discernment Exercise** to reflect how you have been living your faith.

Experience personal renewal and contribute your ideas to future of the Archdiocese! You may do this exercise via video, podcast or through a booklet on your own or through a group setting.

More information on the Catholic200SG Discernment Exercise can be found at <https://catholic200.sg/spiritual/collective-discernment/>

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest * Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest * Fr Ravi Michael Louis, 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 PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son commissioned His apostles to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our founding missionaries left home and country so that we in Singapore may receive the Good News and Your loving salvation. Thank You for this gift of faith, and for all those who laboured to keep it alive and burning these two hundred years.

Lord Jesus, our faith is in danger of becoming irrelevant because of secularism, materialism, individualism and relativism. Grant our communities a renewed missionary zeal and courage to proclaim Your name and Lordship. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew Your people with the conviction and courage of our early missionaries. Rekindle our faith so that we can be beacons of light in a world darkened by sin, hopelessness, and ignorance. Protect us from the snares of the evil one and grant us the grace to remain faithful to You.

May our families be models of love and unity; our workplaces be sanctuaries for justice and integrity; truth and charity be taught in our classrooms; parishes live out their mission in communion; the poor, sick, and abandoned see the face of God in us, and may peace and harmony reign among peoples of every race, language and religion in our land.

Blessed Mother, you were the first disciple and evangeliser to announce Jesus as Saviour to the world. Intercede and grant us your maternal guidance and protection as we navigate the uncertain future.

Father, may Your love and grace ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that we may once again be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection theme for Lent is "The Word, Source of Life".

Please download the e-booklet at bit.ly/Lenten2021

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on Thursdays 8pm, starting 31 January at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel