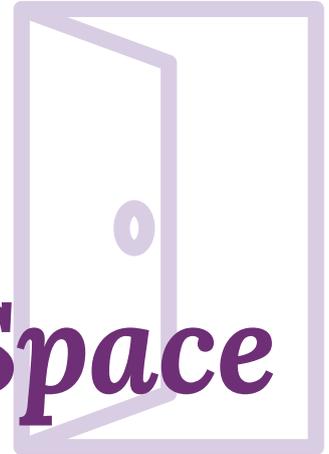




## LENT: Both Time And Space



**A**s we begin the forty days of Lent where we pray, fast and seek to spread God's mercy in whatever way that we can, I'd like to suggest a slightly different perspective that may give us new insights and experiences in our preparation for the Paschal Triduum. More often than not, we focus on Lent as a period of time, within which we intensify our spiritual practices. Sometimes, we start these practices with great zeal, but enthusiasm wanes as the days go by, and we begin to ask ourselves, "When is Lent going to end?" While it's true that Lent is definitely seen as a time period (Lent in Latin is *quadragesima*, meaning "fortieth"), can there be another way of looking at it?

There is definitely a need for us to prepare for the Paschal Triduum, opening our hearts and minds for the commemoration of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It's a privileged time to slow down and turn our focus to the Lord, but I feel that we lose something if we see it only as a fixed time period. Time passes and as we move into other seasons, there's a possibility that our spiritual growth and the graces received during Lent can become but memories as we move into more exciting and



less penitential activities. However, if we made a little change to our perspectives and saw Lent less as a time period and more of a space that is open before us, and in which we are invited to enter, we may also feel a shift in our response to the Lord.

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent is always an account of Jesus going into the wilderness and the temptations that occur there. And quite often, we focus on the time that he spent there, which was not coincidentally, forty days. The number forty is definitely significant, being the number of days of the flood and the number of years the Israelites spent in the wilderness, but what about the wilderness itself? Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, a space that must have felt forbidding and empty, but it was this same space that allowed him to feel the full extent of his humanity in such a way that he could empathise with us, the people whom he came to save. I feel this is the same for us – Lent is a space for us to explore the full extent of our humanity, in all its joys and sorrows, triumphs and difficulties.

Images help, and I'd like to use two images to help us conceive of Lent as a space: that of the wilderness and of an entrance hallway or area. Going into the wilderness can be scary, especially for many of us who grew up in urban Singapore. The fear of the unknown can be part of that, but the unfamiliarity of the environment and the feeling of vulnerability of being just a mere human at the mercy of the elements. While these fears are real, going into the wilderness, both literally and spiritually, can have the effect of allowing us to examine ourselves more thoroughly, seeing where our fears come from and recognising our need for the Lord in all things as we experience our own vulnerability. Journeying with Christ into the wilderness during Lent need not be scary because we know that he accompanies us even in these difficult periods, helping us to shine the light on the areas of our lives that are most in need of his love and mercy.

The other image of an entrance hallway is less daunting. Many flats and houses here have a small area where guests can remove and store their shoes, pausing before entering the rest of the home. It's a ritual we're very familiar with – wiping our footwear on the doormat,

entering the hallway, removing our shoes or sandals and placing them on a rack. These hallways are places of transition, a separation between the outside and inside of the home, a space where we prepare ourselves to receive the welcome that is promised. This preparation is necessary because we don't want to barge into the home as ungracious guests and the time taken to prepare allows us to appreciate the hospitality more fully. It's the same with us, and the Paschal Triduum. We don't want to barge into the most important liturgies of the year without proper preparation and so Lent provides us with the requisite space within which we can fully prepare for our commemoration of Christ's salvific actions.

I feel that by looking at Lent both temporally and spatially, we can prepare more fully for what is to come, journeying with the Lord into ourselves and as well towards him always. To support this process of preparation, Kingsmead Centre is offering an online Lenten retreat that will look at Lent in the light of both time and space. Details of the retreat can be found below.

**FR STANLEY GOH, SJ**



## Lent Programme 2021

### Lent: Beholding the Sacred Space A Retreat in Ordinary Life

Date: Tuesdays, 23 Feb, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March & 6 April 2021 (7 Sessions)  
Time: 8pm - 9pm via Zoom  
Contribution: \$50 per person  
Facilitator: Fr Stanley Goh, SJ and SD Team  
Register at [tinyurl.com/Lent-Sacred-Space-21](http://tinyurl.com/Lent-Sacred-Space-21)

For more information visit  
[www.kingsmeadcentre.sg](http://www.kingsmeadcentre.sg)  
email [cisc2664@gmail.com](mailto:cisc2664@gmail.com)



### Stations of the Cross

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



### Laudato Si' Lenten Reflection

Come and join us for a guided meditative walk around our Parish garden and reflect on how you can make a difference in caring for our common home.

Every Saturday during Lent: **27 February, 6, 13, 20 and 27 March at 6pm.** To register, WhatsApp/ text Angela at 9664 2094.

For those who would like to do the meditative walk on your own, please scan the QR code to access the Lenten Reflection booklet and follow the sketch map.



### Lenten Triduum Talk

Join us for a series of Lenten talks on the theme of Reconciliation on **17, 18 and 19 March, 8pm - 9.30pm.**

**Day 1** - Conflict and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled with one another*

**Day 2** - Sin and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled with God*

**Day 3** - Vocation and Reconciliation: *Be reconciled for Mission*

Registration details and more information to follow.



### Lent Reconciliation Service

Confessions will be available during Lent on the following dates:

Date	Time
Monday, 22 March 2021	8pm to 10pm
Tuesday, 23 March 2021	3pm to 5pm
Tuesday, 23 March 2021	8pm to 10pm
Wednesday, 24 March 2021	8pm to 10pm
Thursday, 25 March 2021	3pm to 5pm
Thursday, 25 March 2021	8pm to 10pm
Friday, 26 March 2021	8pm to 10pm

Booking details to follow.

Please refer to the Parish website for the latest updates on the full Lenten Programme.

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

Donation to Mass collection: ★ PayNow to UEN: T08CC4052A ★ Call church office for bank account no. ★ Cheque: Church Of St Ignatius

## PARISH NEWS

### MARCH MASS BOOKINGS

Mass bookings for March opens on **23 February, 3pm** via [myCatholic.sg](http://myCatholic.sg). Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses** at each stage, subject to availability.

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

All parishioners attending Mass are to use the **TRACETOGETHER app or token** to perform SafeEntry check-ins. Please continue to bring your NRIC/Work Permit to verify your Mass booking before you can be admitted to the Church Hall.

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

### CANCELLATION FOR BOOKED MASS

The cancellation cut-off time for Mass bookings has been **reduced from 48hrs to 24hrs as of 1 February**. If you are unable to attend a Mass you have booked, please cancel your booking early so that another parishioner may take your place.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR DISPENSATION

The Bishops' Conference grants dispensation from abstinence to all the faithful celebrating the Lunar New Year in any way on Fridays, **19 and 26 February**.

**WEEKLY SUNDAY REFLECTION** with Fr Colin Tan, SJ. Please go to [stignatius.org.sg/home/](http://stignatius.org.sg/home/)

### CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

The 2021 Catechetical Term will start on the weekend of **27/28 February 2021** and end on the weekend of **13/14 November 2021**. Please look out for updates via email and your respective Telegram channels.

### CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Join us this **Wednesday, 24 February, 8pm** for a session by Fr Stanley Goh, SJ on "Listening to God" - to help us discern how we can "be more like Christ" in our daily living. Email us at [cpg.cosi@gmail.com](mailto:cpg.cosi@gmail.com) for more details.

**ALPHA ONLINE** at Catholic Church of St Ignatius Got questions about life? Come and join us on **22 February at 8pm** via Zoom. For enquiry and/or registration, go to [bit.ly/2021AOCC3](http://bit.ly/2021AOCC3)

**LANDINGS@ST IGNATIUS** presents a testimony event: **Returned!** Seeking a way back home? This may just be the homecoming you are looking for. Come and listen to our testifiers tell the stories of their journeys home. **Saturday 6 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm** on Zoom. Please register at [bit.ly/Landings-Returned-Mar2021](http://bit.ly/Landings-Returned-Mar2021) or scan the QR code by Wednesday, 3 March.



### 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](http://bit.ly/stigscolumbariumFeb2021)  
For March bookings, please book at [bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMar2021](http://bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMar2021)

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

Safety volunteers aged 65 or below needed for a new visiting session, **5-5.45pm on all Sundays**. Please message 9675 6621 if you are able to help. Thank you!

### PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE

We are pleased to unveil the **Jubilee Commemorative Gallery** to acknowledge the contributions of the Jesuits of our Parish. Do visit the gallery at the corridor leading to the Place of Gathering!

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

This being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the Mass offering box outside the Vestry/ Church Office. Or, give via **PayNow (UEN: 201231391K)**. More info at [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg)

### LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet: *"The Word, Source of Life"* to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. Download at [bit.ly/Lenten2021](http://bit.ly/Lenten2021)

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet are available at [tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel](http://tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel)