

My Personal Moral Compass: Navigating Ethical Ambiguity

A Course on Thinking Ethical Problems

Course Guide 2021

A. Introduction

My Personal Moral Compass is a one-year-long systematic course in moral Issues.

B. Objective

My Personal Moral Compass is for all Catholics and non-Catholics alike interested in formation in the foundations of ethics.

This course is particularly targeted for that segment of society on whom the future generations depend: those involved in guiding and forming others, and those for whom this formation would be particularly pertinent at work or in ministry: these would be inclusive of (and not restricted to) *young adult group leaders, lay ministry leaders, youth and adult faith formators / coordinators, catechists, teachers, counsellors, family life workers, biomedical researchers, medical professionals, humanitarian aid workers, as well as tertiary, junior college and polytechnic students; in particular those pursuing the medical, life science, legal, and social science disciplines.*

The objective of this course is for participants to understand and to articulate the fundamentals of Catholic moral thinking with greater clarity. At the same time, it is hoped that participants will come to recognise that the Christian moral tradition is less an arbitrary set of rules imposed by Church authorities, and more a treasure-trove of discoveries and descriptions of observed laws which depict what best encourage human persons to thrive.

We trust that this understanding will be translated into the daily experience of participants and through them into the lives of their family and friends, in the schools and workplaces, and in their communities and society-at-large.

C. Eligibility

There is no prerequisite for application to the modules. All participants are welcome. Where places are limited, priority will be given to those who are actively forming others; to this end, endorsement from the relevant parish priest or leader in the parish or diocesan community / ministry / organisation will count toward this consideration.

Participants who attend at least 75% of the classes in all the modules are eligible for a letter of attendance at the end of the course.

D. Lecturer

Our lecturer is Dominican Moral Theologian, Father David Garcia, O.P. Fr David Garcia lectures at the Major Seminary and Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore in Moral Theology and is a well-known speaker who has addressed a spectrum of issues affecting society ranging from family life, social justice, and bioethics; he has worked and/or is working with various church organisations including CTIS, Catholic Medical Guild and Caritas Singapore.

E. Venue

Due to the COVID-19 situation, sessions are currently conducted online. Should physical sessions resume, they will be held at **Catholic Centre Level 3, 55 Waterloo Street, Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954**. The nearest MRT station is Bras Basah.

F. Date and Time

Unless otherwise stated, all sessions (online and/or physical) are held on **Thursday evenings** from 7:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.

G. Programme Structure

Personal Compass is a year-long modular course on ethical issues. There are a total of 6 Modules each lasting 6 or 7 weeks. 2 online Question & Answer (Q&A) sessions will be conducted for each module. There are no assignments or coursework to be submitted.

It is recommended that participants cover the course material and attend all six modules. Alternatively, participants may attend any missed modules in subsequent years as interest and exigencies allow.

Module 1. Who decides what is right or wrong? [7 sessions]

from 21 Jan – 11 Mar

Schedule

Lessons:	21, 28 Jan, 4, 11, 18, 25 Feb, 4 Mar
Online Q&A Session 1:	18 Feb
Online Q&A Session 2:	10 Mar

Topics covered:

1. What Is Morality?
2. My Personal Principles: Conscience
3. Right or wrong, Who Decides? Moral Principles
4. Are There Absolute Moral Principles?
5. What Do I Do with My Life? Freedom for Happiness
6. Better Persons
7. Cultural Dogmas and Morality

Module 2. Becoming Persons [6 sessions]

from 11 Mar – 29 Apr

Schedule

Lessons: 11, 18, 25 Mar, 8, 15, 22 Apr
Online Q&A Session 1: 9 Apr
Online Q&A Session 2: 28 Apr

Topics covered:

1. Seven Personal Wounds: The Enemy Within
2. The Art of Personal Decision Making: Prudence
3. Fairer Persons
4. Personal Strength: Fortitude
5. Personally Motivated: Temperance
6. The Fullness of Personhood

Module 3. Christian Morality [7 sessions]

from 29 Apr – 24 Jun

Schedule

Lessons: 29 Apr, 6, 20, 27 May, 3, 10, 17 Jun
Online Q&A Session 1: 28 May
Online Q&A Session 2: 24 Jun

Topics covered:

1. God and Ethics
2. Christian Ethics
3. God's Graceful Moves
4. The Faith that Saves
5. Saved in Hope
6. Loving, the Christian Way
7. Christian Happiness

Module 4. Ethics of Love, Sex and Marriage [7 sessions]

from 1 Jul – 18 Aug

Schedule

Lessons: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul, 5, 12 Aug
Online Q&A Session 1: 21 Jul
Online Q&A Session 2: 18 Aug

Topics covered:

1. Sex Today
2. Principles of the Philosophy of the Body
3. Implications of the Philosophy of the Body
4. Sex Before Marriage
5. Marital Issues
6. Same-Sex Issues and More
7. God and Sex

Module 5. Christians in the Social Community [7 sessions]

from 19 Aug – 6 Oct

Schedule

Lessons: 19, 26 Aug, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sep
Online Q&A Session 1: 8 Sep
Online Q&A Session 2: 6 Oct

Topics covered:

1. Problems of the Church
2. Personal Development is Social
3. Integrating Faith in Life
4. Social Principles
5. Integrating Faith in Work
6. Integrating Faith with Money and Politics
7. Integrating Faith and Leisure

Module 6. Stewards of Life [6 sessions]

from 7 Oct – 25 Nov

Schedule

Lessons: 7, 14, 21, 28 Oct, 11, 18, 25 Nov
Online Q&A Session 1: 27 Oct
Online Q&A Session 2: 25 Nov

Topics covered:

1. Human Dignity
2. Ethical Dealings with Human Embryos
3. Can We Reproduce Procreation?
4. Stewards of the Human Body
5. Final Moral Decisions: Caring to the End
6. Organ Donation and Personal Medicine

H. Course Contribution

Contribution rates are as follows:

Module 1	S\$70.00
Module 2	S\$60.00
Module 3	S\$70.00
Module 4	S\$70.00
Module 5	S\$70.00
Module 6	S\$60.00

I. Registration and Payment

To register, please email the Course Administrator at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org. In your email, please include the following information:

1. your name (including family/surname)
2. email contact
3. mobile number
4. the module(s) that you wish to attend.

At the point of accepting your registration, we will reserve a place for you in the requested module(s) and will advise you on the procedures to make your contribution(s).

At this point in time, contribution(s) will be accepted on a module-by-module basis (e.g., if you sign up for Modules 1, 2 & 3, we will accept your contribution for Module 1 first, and subsequently for Modules 2 & 3 before the start of the respective modules).

J. Personal Data Protection (PDPA) Notice

1. By participating in this My Personal Moral Compass programme (“the event”), you agree that Caritas Singapore may collect, use, and disclose your personal data, as provided during registration for the following purpose(s) in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2012 and our data protection policy.
 - a. For the administration, planning and logistical purposes associated with the event.
2. Photos and videos may be taken during this event to raise awareness of the work done by Caritas Singapore.
 - a. These may be shared on our online and print platforms, various local platforms, including our Catholic Archdiocesan platforms, as well as global Caritas and Vatican platforms.
 - b. Please inform us if you do not wish to be in the photos/videos.
3. Visit <https://www.caritas-singapore.org/about-us/pdpa/>