



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

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Sunday  
8 September  
2019

**A** sign of the pervasiveness of modern perspectives in our approach to the faith comes when we discuss the less well-known feast days of the Church, and run into resistance or doubt about why we celebrate these in the first place. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrate today, is one such feast. It's not recorded in the Bible and the date given to this feast day is actually based on another feast, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, which occurs nine months before on 8 December. Both feasts are steeped in the traditions of the Church and come to us through a variety of accounts and liturgies that celebrate not just Mary, but also her parents, St Joachim and St Anne. Should we want documentary proof of how and why this feast came to us, one would be sorely disappointed as birth certificates were quite hard to come by two thousand years ago. Should we celebrate such feasts if, in the mind of one who is steeped in the modern empirical tradition, they are of dubious historicity?

The simple answer is "Yes, of course!" Not just because it seems fair that the birthday of the Mother of our Lord should be celebrated because her son's birthday has become one of the biggest celebrations in our liturgical year. Outside of Christmas, the only other two birthdays that we celebrate liturgically are those of Mary and John the Baptist. This is a result of their special roles in the history of salvation as bearer of the Lord and as herald, respectively, and how both of them were made holy even before birth – Mary in the Immaculate Conception and John the Baptist when he was

## Full of Grace

blesed in the womb at the Visitation. Celebrating Mary's coming into the world not only helps us celebrate her hugely important role in our salvation, but also gives us the opportunity to give thanks for her being born full of grace, and to seek to emulate her in our own spiritual journeys.

The celebration of Mary's nativity also gives voice to one who is quite silent in Scripture. We do not hear Mary speaking much in Scripture and though the words that she does speak are striking in their power and simplicity, we sometimes yearn for more. Just as we're able to meditate on her role in the history of salvation and how we constantly pray to be more like her, the celebration of major events in her life gives voice to Mary as a person and allows us to connect with her on that level. When we celebrate the birthdays of family and friends, a bond of communion grows among us as we share in the milestones of our lives together. The same can happen as we celebrate major events in the life of our Blessed Mother as she becomes less of a sacred object far away from us, but a person who is close to us, always ready to offer comfort and intercession in all

parts of our lives.

Mary's nativity also gives voice to tradition – allowing us an opportunity to come into contact with the rich tradition that is an integral part of our Church. As we delve deeper into the mystery of Mary's birth, we slowly begin to realise that the present and things that we can easily prove are not the only realities and that our faith is built on a legacy of traditions and history that is sometimes quite easily forgotten. That the dates of such feasts along with how they are celebrated are deeply rooted in our traditions and come to us from the first centuries of the Church, our celebration of such feasts puts us in direct contact with the rich history of the Church, creating the possibility of us living this history in our lives.

Just as all our birthday celebrations are also celebrations of our histories, families and communities, so is Mary's nativity an opportunity to celebrate our history as the Church and her central role in all our communities of faith. More than this, it's also our opportunity to celebrate with Mary, to accompany her on this day of joy just as she has accompanied us all our lives, and to truly give thanks with her for her being full of grace that helps us also to live lives that are filled with grace.

**DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ**

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Administrator

Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

## PARISH NEWS

Next weekend's **SECOND COLLECTION** is for the GIFT campaign by the Catholic Foundation.

Last weekend's **COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** (31 August/1 September) totalled \$26,530.05. Our parish's Society of St Vincent de Paul uses your donations to support their programs for the Poor. Go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/ministries/service/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul> for more information.

### DONATION FOR WALKWAY PROJECT

Our church is raising \$650,000 for an "additions & alterations" project to enable wheelchair access at the front of the church and covered walkways at Sacred Heart Hall behind. We have received \$504,000 to date, and require another \$146,000. Your cash/cheque contribution should be put in the appeal envelope and dropped into the weekly collections during offertory or into the Vestry's drop box. Thank you for your generosity.

### NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO PPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We are inviting nominations for candidates who would like to stand for elections to the PPC executive committee. Elections will be held at the annual Parish Assembly on Saturday 19 October, 9am to 12pm at the St Ignatius Hall. Nomination forms are available at the Place of Gathering and on our church website. All forms must be submitted to the parish office by 18 September.

### POP-UP CAFÉ

Parents are invited for discussions and sharings on parenting in the context of our faith. Come for coffee at the pop-up cafe while your children are at their catechetical sessions. Hosted by the Magis Family Ministry at Sacred Heart Hall, Saturday 21 September, 3.45pm to 5.30pm. Topic: Screen addictions and distractions. Love offerings are welcome.

### ARISE! – WEEK 9

A sharing on Discipleship — Following Jesus. Come and join us this Wednesday 4 September at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship starts at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

**INFANT BAPTISMS** on Sunday 13 October at 3.00pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend the briefing on Sunday 6 October, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please

choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Michele Khoo (9765 5065) & Lin Wein Khoo, or Lea (9815 9889) & Wahjudi Gunawan.

### MIGRANT CELEBRANT SUNDAY

The ACMI will be celebrating their Migrant Celebrant Sunday mass in our Parish on Sunday 22 September, 12.15pm mass. A large crowd of 400 migrants are expected to attend. To avoid congestion, you are encouraged to attend earlier masses or the Sunday 6.00pm.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) AND YOUTH (RCIY) 2019/2020

Invite non-Catholic friends and family to RCIA/RCIY and share the joy of the faith today. Every Tuesday, 8.00pm  
Contact: (RCIA) Teddy (9745 8313)/(RCIY) Aaron (8228 3419). Sign up before 15 September.

### JOIN THE CHOIR

Come join the Sunday 10.15am **IGNATIAN VOICES** choir. We're very friendly and you decide how much time you can commit. If you have any interest in conducting or playing the piano, we would be even happier to have you. Practice is at 2pm - 3.30pm on Saturdays. For details, contact Agnes (9663 6819) or Adrian (9796 8136).

The fun-loving **FAMILY CHOIR** (Sunday 8.15am Mass) welcomes all in the family, from kids to grandparents. Practices are every Sunday, 10.30am – 12pm. Come say hi after mass, or contact kristie.lai@gmail.com or 9751 0970 for details.

**THE LUMEN CHRISTI** (Saturday 6pm, 1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday of month) and **MAGNIFICAT** (Sunday 6pm, 2nd, 5th Sunday of month) choirs are looking for singers and keyboardists. Call Jonathan (9752 0078 Lumen Christi) or Ju-Lyn (9694 1596 Magnificat).

### TUESDAY LADIES' JOURNEY

Study on Catholicism – A Journey to the Heart of the Catholic Faith by Bishop Robert Barron to delve into what Catholics believe and why. Tuesday, 10am to 12pm. Register with Theresa 9665 4451 or Jennet 9864 3793 or email [yoongtheresa@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:yoongtheresa@yahoo.com.sg).

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

### ZONE A DISTRICT 1- ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday 11 September, Rm Sh-02-E  
Programme: Catholicism - The Pivotal Players - St Francis of Assisi : The Reformer

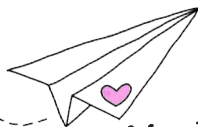
### ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 19 September, #02 SH-F  
Programme: 1) Daily Word of God  
2) 7 Secrets of The Eucharist (DVD)  
Rev. Robert E. Barron – (His website, [WordOnFire.org](http://WordOnFire.org))  
Creator & Host of The CATHOLICISM series.

### A little Love Note

#### LOVING OUR CHURCH

"Let us entrust to her [Blessed Mother Mary] intercession the daily prayer for peace ... so that all people may be convinced that in this world we must help each other, as brothers and sisters, to build the civilization of love." **POPE BENEDICT XVI**



## Message of the Holy Father for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September

“And God saw that it was good” (Gen 1:25). God’s gaze, at the beginning of the Bible, rests lovingly on his creation. From habitable land to life-giving waters, from fruit-bearing trees to animals that share our common home, everything is dear in the eyes of God, who offers creation to men and women as a precious gift to be preserved.

Tragically, the human response to this gift has been marked by sin, selfishness and a greedy desire to possess and exploit. Egoism and self-interest have turned creation, a place of encounter and sharing, into an arena of competition and conflict. In this way, the environment itself is endangered: something good in God’s eyes has become something to be exploited in human hands. Deterioration has increased in recent decades: constant pollution, the continued use of fossil fuels, intensive agricultural exploitation and deforestation are causing global temperatures to rise above safe levels. The increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather phenomena and the desertification of the soil are causing immense hardship for the most vulnerable among us. Melting of glaciers, scarcity of water, neglect of water basins and the considerable presence of plastic and microplastics in the oceans are equally troubling, and testify to the urgent need for interventions that can no longer be postponed. We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own.

In effect, we have forgotten who we are: creatures made in the image of God (cf. Gen 1:27) and called to dwell as brothers and sisters in a common home. We were created not to be tyrants, but to be at the heart of a network of life made up of millions of species lovingly joined together for us by our Creator. Now is the time to rediscover our vocation as children of God, brothers and sisters, and stewards of creation. Now is the time to repent, to be converted and to return to our roots. We are beloved creatures of God, who in his goodness calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation.

For this reason, I strongly encourage the faithful to pray in these days that, as the result of a timely ecumenical initiative, are being celebrated as a Season of Creation. This season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

It is an opportunity to draw closer to our brothers and sisters of the various Christian confessions. I think in particular of the Orthodox faithful, who have celebrated this Day for 30 years. In this ecological crisis affecting everyone, we should also feel close to all other men and women of good will, called to promote stewardship of the network of life of which we are part.

This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator. St Bonaventure, that eloquent witness to Franciscan wisdom, said that creation is the first “book” that God opens before our eyes, so that, marvelling at its order, its variety and its beauty, we can come to love and praise its Creator (cf. *Breviloquium*, II, 5, 11). In this book, every creature becomes for us “a word of God” (cf. *Commentarius in Librum Ecclesiastes*, I, 2). In the silence of prayer, we can hear the symphony of creation calling us to abandon our self-centredness in order to feel embraced by the tender love of the Father and to share with joy the gifts we have received. We can even say that creation, as a network of life, a place of encounter with the Lord and one another, is “God’s own ‘social network’” (Audience for the Guides and Scouts of Europe, 3 August 2019). Nature inspires us to raise a song of cosmic praise to the Creator in the words of Scripture: “Bless the Lord, all things that grow on the earth, sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever” (Dan 3:76 Vg).

It is also a season to reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful. Too many of us act like tyrants with regard to creation. Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles! Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy. Let us also learn to listen to indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment.

This too is a season for undertaking prophetic actions. Many young people all over the world are making their voices heard and calling for courageous decisions. They feel let down by too many unfulfilled promises, by commitments made and

then ignored for selfish interests or out of expediency. The young remind us that the earth is not a possession to be squandered, but an inheritance to be handed down. They remind us that hope for tomorrow is not a noble sentiment, but a task calling for concrete actions here and now. We owe them real answers, not empty words, actions not illusions.

Our prayers and appeals are directed first at raising the awareness of political and civil leaders. I think in particular of those governments that will meet in coming months to renew commitments decisive for directing the planet towards life, not death. The words that Moses proclaimed to the people as a kind of spiritual testament at the threshold of the Promised Land come to mind: “Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live” (Dt 3:19). We can apply those prophetic words to ourselves and to the situation of our earth. Let us choose life! Let us say “no” to consumerist greed and to the illusion of omnipotence, for these are the ways of death. Let us inaugurate farsighted processes involving responsible sacrifices today for the sake of sure prospects for life tomorrow. Let us not give in to the perverse logic of quick profit, but look instead to our common future!

In this regard, the forthcoming United Nations Climate Action Summit is of particular importance. There, governments will have the responsibility of showing the political will to take drastic measures to achieve as quickly as possible zero net greenhouse gas emissions and to limit the average increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius with respect to pre-industrial levels, in accordance with the Paris Agreement goals. Next month, in October, the Amazon region, whose integrity is gravely threatened, will be the subject of a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Let us take up these opportunities to respond to the cry of the poor and of our earth!

Each Christian man and woman, every member of the human family, can act as a thin yet unique and indispensable thread in weaving a network of life that embraces everyone. May we feel challenged to assume, with prayer and commitment, our responsibility for the care of creation. May God, “the lover of life” (Wis 11:26), grant us the courage to do good without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late.

## ◉ JESUIT NEWS

### PARENTING WORKSHOP: RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

Resilience allows young people to experience life's ups and downs, and have the emotional capacity to stay healthy. Parents are provided the tools to support the growth and emotional wellness of their children.

Facilitator: Lissy Ann Puno, Counselling Psychologist

Date/Time: Saturday 21 September (9.30am to 12noon)

Contribution: \$30

Venue: Kingsmead Spirituality Centre, 8 Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

Registration: [tinyurl.com/19pwrrc](http://tinyurl.com/19pwrrc)

**Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356**

Fr Christopher Soh, SJ, Fr James Tan, SJ

**Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225**

Fr Gerald Tseng, SJ, Fr Charles Sim, SJ, Fr Leslie Raj, SJ, Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ,  
Fr Gregory Tan, SJ, Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ,

**Kingsmead Centre, Tel: 6467 6072 Jesuit Mission Office Tel: 6463 6022**

## ◉ ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

The Archdiocese has designated next weekend, 15 September as Catholic Education Sunday. The theme is "Many Gifts, One Mission". Besides a prayer of blessing for Catholic teachers, screening of a 3-minute video and distribution of book marks at all masses in all parishes. School students will also join the congregation in worship at masses.

### THE CHRIST@WORK CONFERENCE

is a biennial full-day conference organised since 2005. The conference is targeted at working professionals and those interested to see how we can live out our Catholic faith in the work place. The theme for this year's conference is "Connecting Faith+Work".

Mass will be celebrated by H.E.

Marek Zalewski, Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore, with Fr Colin Tan as

concelebrant.

Organizer: Catholic Business Network (CBN)

Date: Monday, 28 October 2019

Time: 8.30am - 6.00pm

Venue: Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way, Singapore 068810

Registration: <http://www.christatworkconference.com>

Enquiry: [admin@cbn.sg](mailto:admin@cbn.sg) / 6801 7491

### NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2019

Conference for people involved in PPCs, Ministries and Small Christian Communities to discover new ways to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church in Singapore.

Date: 21 September

Time: 9.30am - 4pm

Venue: St Joseph's Institution Jr, 3 Essex Rd S309331

Organiser: Office for the New Evangelisation

Register now at [bit.ly/nwc19](http://bit.ly/nwc19)

### Church Office

120, King's Road, Singapore 268172 or  
8, Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492

### Entrance via 8 Victoria Park Road

Kingsmead Hall (Priests' Residence), St Ignatius Hall, Sacred Heart Hall, Kingsmead Centre (for Ignatian Spirituality & Counselling)

### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 6.45am, 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm

### Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday: 7.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday: 7.00am

### Confessions

Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Sunday Mass: 20mins before Mass begins

### Infant Baptism (each month)

Briefing for parents & godparents (compulsory):  
1st Sunday, 3.00pm

Baptism: 2nd Sunday, 3.00pm sharp

Registration forms are available at front of Church office.

### Weddings

Couples must make themselves known to the priest at least one year before the wedding.  
Contact: Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614)

### Inigo Bookstore Opening Hours

Saturday: 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am to 2.00pm, 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Monday to Friday.

Enquiry: Peter Hong 9749 3702

### Sick, Elderly and Homebound

Please contact the parish office if pastoral help is needed for a parishioner who is homebound or hospitalised (regardless of which hospital). In emergencies, you may also contact the priests' residence at 6466 3225.

### Visiting Hours (Columbarium)

Open daily from 6.30 am to 8.00 pm (including weekends & Public Holidays)

Memorial Mass at the Main Church every 4th Friday, 6.00 pm for all deceased parishioners and families, followed by prayers in the Columbarium.

### Bereavement

Please contact the parish Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614) for help and advice before contacting the funeral director.

**Church of St Ignatius has no official social media account.**

### WEEKLY

#### Rosary Devotion in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm, except first Friday of the month

#### Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall Adoration Room, Level 2

Catholic content online, login:

[www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org); parish code: 4904ed

#### Gentle Light

Tuesday, 10am - 12noon in St Francis

Xavier Chapel (Kingsmead)

Thursday, 10am - 12noon in Sacred Heart Canteen (Room SH-A)

#### Divine Mercy Devotion

Every Wednesday after 6.00pm Mass in the Main Church.

#### Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer Room (Kingsmead)

### MONTHLY - in Main Church

#### Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8.00pm (No 6.00pm Mass)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration by Generation CHRIST!

#### Children Eucharistic Adoration

Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm. No session in June and December

#### Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 6.00pm, followed by prayers in the Columbarium