



Me a Migrant? Building the City of God and Man

We live in a world where migrants form a significant part of our society. My own grandfather came from China in the 1930s in search of a better life and to escape poverty and famine. Yet, society is still largely ignorant about migrants. Some of us see them as threats and opportunists. Anthropologists suggest that mass human migration out of Africa since some 70-100,000 years ago was due to hunger, climate change and the human desire for adventure. The truth is we are still moving and exploring. As such, we must recognize the need to address issues of displacement, safe migration, border management, security and integration.

What pushed over 257.7 million people in 2017 (figure from World Report 2018 IOM – International Organization of Migration, UN Migration) to migrate? Push factors include economic prosperity, poverty, inequality, demography, violence and conflict, environmental and climate change. While the overwhelming majority moved abroad for reasons related to work, study and family — many leave their home and country for compelling reasons of persecution and natural disasters. Everyone wants a better life and to survive.

What is our Christian response? I recommend that we remember the 5 Rs — Respect, Relate, Reflect, Repent and Reward.

Respect. How do we respect migrants? Firstly, it is about perception — to simply see migrants as one of us, not “them”, not the stranger who is a threat, or the bogeyman to be avoided and shunned. *“It’s not just about Migrants but about all of Us!”* Pope Francis tells us to shift the focus so that we can clearly look at ourselves and examine our inner attitudes, our irrational fears, our cultural prejudices and our herd survival mentality. We do well do heed the words

of Jesus, *“Take the plank out of your own eyes first before you try to take the splinter from your brother’s.”* (Matthew 7:5)

Relate. How can we relate to them? I suggest that we learn from Pope Francis who has set the tone by welcoming them and opening up whatever facilities possible in the Vatican to give migrants, refugees and homeless people a decent way to survive, to feel welcomed and not judged. Indeed, we are asked to learn to respect and treat them with dignity and welcome them as God welcomes us as his children. How can I give the same dignity to the migrant brothers and sisters living among us? Do I ask them how they are feeling? Do I greet them, “Good morning”? Do I see them not as a foreigner, but as a person with human needs and aspirations, who needs rest when tired, who needs encouragement and understanding — not criticisms and scolding for every mistake made? Remember the golden rule: *“Treat them as you want to be treated”*. Relate to them as friends not strangers, as humans not slaves. Years ago I was struck by a sign I saw in a friend’s house: **“There are no strangers on earth, only friends we haven’t met.”**

Reflect. Each time I meet a migrant or see the face of someone whom I may recognise as someone from another country and culture, I always wonder about their challenges in life and how they cope with life in a foreign country. How can I help them? Do I welcome them in the same way that I would like to be welcomed? Am I aware of my own prejudices against them, of looking down on them? Indeed, I need to be aware of

my own bias before I can reach out to them. I reflect on my own shortcomings and sincerely acknowledge the need to do better the next time — to be less judgemental, less biased. This becomes a moment of conversion, freedom and transformation of myself and society.

Repent. For the many times that I have failed in my capacity to respond to their needs, I recognise my need to repent, to acknowledge my own prejudices and fears in not reaching out to them. I know that I could have done better and I did not do so. Repentance is about the need to ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness, knowing that we are weak and imperfect and should never judge others unjustly. It is a humble recognition that we need each other to build the city of God and Man.

Reward. It is a fact that migrants bring with them a rich potential for renewing society by adding diversity and depth to the host country where they often contribute more than the locals. This is simply because they work harder — they are more resilient, more ingenious and more motivated to succeed in life. In 2017, migrants sent home approximately US\$600 billion in remittances, or roughly 15% of their earnings — that’s about three times more than all official development assistance.

We can welcome all migrants and be agents of God’s mercy and love and know that everyone can contribute positively to building the city of God and Man. All it takes is me — a migrant loved by God.

FR COLINTAN, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MEMORIAL MASS for deceased loved ones is this Friday 27 September, 6.00pm at the main Church, followed by prayers in the Columbarium. All are welcome.

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 \$585,000 to date. 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.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

will be held on Saturday 19 October, 9am to 12pm at St Ignatius Hall. Attendance is compulsory for all heads of ministries and NCCs, and core team members of ministries. Parish Priest Fr Colin Tan, SJ, will outline the new Parish organisational structure, and speak on the Universal Apostolic Preferences, announced by Jesuit Superior General, Fr Arturo Sosa in February 2019. All parishioners and ministry members are also encouraged to attend and to support candidates standing for election to the PPC executive committee.

NOSTRA AETATE

In conjunction with the Archdiocese Extraordinary Month of Mission in October, St Ignatius Church invites you to a talk on Nostra Aetate and why Catholics need to engage with people of different faiths. Panel speakers:

Gerald Kong, Executive Secretary, Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue (ACCIRD)
Fr Colin Tan, SJ, Parish Priest, St Ignatius Church
Date/Time: Saturday 12 October, 9.30am - 11.30am
Venue: St Ignatius Hall, 8 Victoria Park Rd. S266492
Register via the QR code or visit our website under "All Events". For more information, contact Angela at 6466 0625.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AT ST IGNATIUS

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS Singapore) is screening the movie *The Staging Post* on Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm, at St Ignatius Hall. Love offering for admission, food and drinks will be collected. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/movie-screening-of-the-staging-post-at-church-of-st-ignatius-registration-68764294857> for information and registration. All proceeds to support JRS projects in Thailand and Indonesia.

A Little Love Note

LOVING OUR CHURCH

"The limitless loving devotion to God, and the gift God makes of Himself to you, are the highest elevation of which the heart is capable; it is the highest degree of prayer. The souls that have reached this point are truly the heart of the Church." EDITH STEIN

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.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Sharing on MY ENCOUNTER WITH GOD from a secular lifestyle to spiritual awareness - a personal journey within a loving community. All are invited this Wednesday 25 September 25 at St Ignatius Hall. Light dinner fellowship at 7.30pm and the session ends at 9.30pm.

APPRECIATION OF SUPPORT FROM CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS

Principal of Hai Sing Catholic School, Mr Daniel Ang, wishes to thank parishioners of St Ignatius Church for their generous contribution to their recent fundraising efforts. The total amounted to over \$50,000. If you wish to support the school's building fund, you may mail your cheque payable to Hai Sing Catholic School to 9 Pasir Ris Drive 6, Singapore 519421. Call Mdm Lee Mui Sian at 6582 7864 for enquiries.

RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

Aaron Kwong - 42 years old
Departed: 6 September 2019

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE A DISTRICT 1 - ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

Wednesday 9 October, Rm Sh-02-E (opp adoration room)
Programme: The Pivotal Player: Michaelangelo - The Artist

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 26 September, SH-E
Programme: The Daily Examen (video) followed by Bible sharing session on the Gospel of Luke 16:19-31

NEVER Forgotten



Our parish's D'Fellowship Ministry welcomes all senior parishioners who are cognitively frail and impaired and have underlying memory issues. With World Dementia Day on 21 September, we reflect and pray for people suffering from dementia, and for their families and caregivers.

Bearing in mind the ageing population and rising cases of dementia, even within our parish, this Ministry was set up in February 2017 to fulfil St Ignatius Church's goal of being an inclusive and dementia-friendly parish community.

Volunteers are trained by Alzheimer's Disease Association (ADA) of Singapore and guided by two practising geriatricians. Refresher courses are held periodically.

With the assistance of some two dozen volunteers, D'Fellowship conducts sessions twice a month. To cater to the physical and spiritual well-being of

participants, structured physical exercises, relevant games, music and singing, and art and crafts are held. Religious and spiritual elements are incorporated into every session. D'Fellowship works very closely with priests of the Parish who provide the support and spiritual guidance for volunteers, participants and

accompanying caregivers.

You may contact the Parish Office or Margaret at margaret.loong@gmail.com for more information, and if you wish to join and support the D'Fellowship Ministry.

THE D' FELLOWSHIP TEAM

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

JESUIT NEWS

WEEKEND RETREAT: THE DYNAMICS OF SPIRITUAL DESIRE

The Way of the Faithful carries us through the stages of spiritual development of growing intimacy with the Christ. These stages follow the Four Weeks of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Date/Time: Friday, 4 October (7.30pm) to Sunday, 6 October (5.00pm) Contribution: \$270 (non-AC); \$330 (AC).

MAG+
Series

THE DYNAMICS OF FORGIVENESS IN IGNATIAN TRADITION

The Christian mission is one of forgiveness, which occurs when we, filled with the Holy Spirit, continue the mission of Christ in the world. This talk presents the dynamics of forgiveness by discovering that the work of forgiveness goes beyond our personal salvation.

Date/ Time: Wednesday, 7.30pm–9.30pm.
Contribution: \$50 for 1 talk, \$80 for 2 talks.

Facilitator: Fr Monty Williams, SJ.

Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/monty19>; T: 6467 6072

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

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

CHIJ 165th ANNIVERSARY

IJ Reconnect. Calling all friends of IJ.

COME, SEE & SHARE

Date: Saturday, 19 October 2019

Time: 8.45am –12.30pm

Venue: CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh)

RSVP: IJReconnect2019@gmail.com

by Tuesday, 1 October 2019

FIRE TESTED GOLD

LIVING WITH DEPRESSION IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH

Weekend retreat for people suffering from depression, and their caregivers. Through inputs, prayer, reflection and faith-sharing, the participants will be led to see depression not only as a

medical condition to be dealt with proper medical and therapeutic interventions, but also as a vehicle of God's healing mercy and faithfulness. Like fire-tested gold, their faith will become stronger when the experience of depression is integrated within the greater context of their life as a whole, in the light of the God who has never left them to suffer alone. By Sr Cecille Tuble, RC. Date & Time: 11 October, 8pm to 13 October, 1pm
Venue: Montfort Centre, 622 Upper Bukit Timah Road S678117
Contribution: \$300
Register at www.cenaclemission.com

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. 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; 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