



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Last week, I watched a National Geographic documentary at my parents' house, which featured the nomadic lives of the people and animals of the Inner Mongolia grasslands. In that episode of *'Untamed China with Nigel Marven'*, Nigel visited the summer yurt of a Mongolian family. A yurt is a "portable, circular dwelling made of a lattice of flexible wood and covered in felt." In the course of Nigel's conversation with the young mother, she shared something that caught my attention, especially as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family today. She said, "My wealth is not the number of sheep or horses out there on the grassland, but **my family is my wealth!**"

For those of you who have travelled to the grasslands of Inner Mongolia for your summer holidays, you would know very well that the wealth of a family there depends on the size of the herds. And for this young nomadic mother to make such an insightful remark about her family, we may want to pause and reflect on these words as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. I wonder how many of us can truly and sincerely profess "my family is my wealth"? The mother of this young nomadic family knows what makes life meaningful and worth living for, in spite of the harshness of life out there on the grasslands. For her, wealth is not the number of horses, yaks or sheep outside her summer yurt, but rather family togetherness, spending time in sharing and caring for each other, especially when life is tough particularly during wintertime. Nomadic families and their herds have to travel hundreds of miles during winter in search of pastures, so that they can make a decent living as

nomads, trading in wool and horses. Life is difficult on the grassland, especially with the drastic change in global weather leading to frequent droughts and shortage of grazing pastures.

In these harsh condition, family members will need to work closely together and depend on each other for the survival of the family. Furthermore, all members of the family need to contribute to each other's wellbeing because survival on the grasslands will depend on the act of caring for the other. **If we look at our comfortable life in Singapore, I wonder how we are caring for each other's wellbeing, let alone the survival of the family.** But on the grasslands, it is a totally different matter altogether. We know that children need their parents' constant love and caring guidance to grow and come to maturity. And parents in turn need their children to help them

come to a realization of what it means to give unconditional love as parents. Perhaps too, parents can model themselves after Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, especially in the face of uncertainties and challenges in modern family life. **The Holy Family has given us a good example of what it means to be a family, trusting and dependent on the providence of God.**

In the coming days and with the dawn of a new year, you may want to take some time to reflect on what is truly important for you in your life and family's. Will you be able to say with sincerity of heart that "I am willing to place my family in the loving providence of God"? Put this into lovely action and give to your family an hour of undivided attention each day. I believe what you are about to profess, "My family is my wealth", will truly be meaningful to you and your family.

God Bless and Have a Blessed New Year in 2020!

FR CHARLES SIM, SJ

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest  
Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator  
Robert Ong Sacristan ★ David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager

## PARISH NEWS

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for the poor next weekend.

### THANKSGIVING AND NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCELEBRATED MASS

Tuesday 31 December at 6.00pm. All are welcome.

### OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed on New Year's Day. As Wednesday 1 January is also the **SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD**, Masses are at 8.15am, 10.15am, and 6.00pm. There will be recitation of the Rosary at 5.15pm before the 6.00pm mass. All are welcome.

There will be no Divine Mercy prayer session after the 6.00pm Mass.

### FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND HOLY HOUR

Friday 3 January, 8.00pm, followed by the Eucharistic Adoration. Please note that there will be NO 6.00pm Mass. All are welcome.

**INFANT BAPTISMS** Sunday 12 January at 3.00pm  
Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 5 January, 3pm at La Storta room. Registration forms are available at the church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Ching Farn (9388 7132) & Paul Tang, or Stephanie (9116 6898) & John Ng (9677 3632).

**LANDINGS**, a Ministry of Reconciliation for Catholics returning to the Church, is starting its first programme at St Ignatius on 28 May, 2020. If you wish to support this Ministry as a volunteer, or if you are or know someone who is thinking about returning to the church, do attend the Info Night on Thursday 9 January, 8pm-10pm at the Annex Hall.

<https://forms.gle/1m27rF9hUSHMUxcw8>

### FILIPINO LEGION OF MARY BIBLE GROUP

No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, a new bible study presented by Dr Edward Sri. Join the Filipino Legion of Mary Bible Group every 2nd Sunday of the month. The 5-part Bible study starts on 12 January, 2pm to 4pm. Contact Lily (9680 8306) for details. Pre-registration is required.

### 2020!

Gather together to RAISE THE PRAISE to our God who will lead us into the new year. All are invited to an evening of music and praise, featuring Jesse Manibusan, Vallimar Jansen, Fr Kamelus Kamus, CICM, Fr Edward Lim, OCD and Fr Derrick Yap, OFM.

Friday 10 January Church of St Bernadette  
Saturday 11 January Church of St Ignatius

Time: 7.45pm (doors open 7.30pm)

Contribution: \$25

Email: [canaevents2019@gmail.com](mailto:canaevents2019@gmail.com) or 63384080 or 69068447 or 91768909

### ST IGNATIUS 60TH JUBILEE SURVEY

The St Ignatius 60th Jubilee Celebration Committee invites all parishioners to complete a survey on how we should celebrate the Parish Jubilee. Please go to <http://tinyurl.com/DJsurvey2019> to complete the survey. Alternatively, the QR code to access the survey is displayed at the Place of Gathering. You may scan the QR code with your mobile phone. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated.



### STAYING VIGILANT IN CHURCH

In this Season of Peace and Love, let us be mindful of our role of care and responsibility for each other, and remain vigilant of acts against Love.

Please take note of the following security and safety tips:

1. If you notice any person behaving in a suspicious manner, report it to a Warden, Help Desk or Hospitality Minister.
2. If you notice an unattended bag or observe someone about to leave a bag unattended, alert a Warden, Help Desk or Hospitality Minister.
3. Be familiar with the Church's exits and evacuation routes before Mass begins.
4. Follow the instructions of Wardens if there is an evacuation. Do not panic and rush when you are being evacuated. Remember your safest way to safety is to evacuate in an orderly and brisk manner. Please also do not collect your vehicle from the car park in the event of an emergency evacuation.
5. Finally, if you see something threatening safety and security in your Church, inform someone in charge.

### MIND YOUR STUFF

Parishioners are advised to keep watch on their personal belongings, especially handbags and valuables, while receiving communion, and within the Church compounds. Check to ensure you have not left anything behind when leaving.

**SSVP SHOP** sells new and pre-loved items of good quality with something for everyone at affordable prices. Profits fund SSVP programmes for the needy.

Address: 501 Geylang Road, Singapore 389459.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

Call 6974 2480 or email [shop@ssvpsingapore.org](mailto:shop@ssvpsingapore.org)

Nearest MRT station: Aljunied

### RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Nancy Ong – 91 years old

Departed: 22 December 2019

Brenda Tan Soo Kiang – 80 years old

Departed: 22 December 2019

## NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

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

Wednesday 8 January 2020, Room Sh-02-E

Programme: The Pivotal Players : St Thomas Aquinas –  
The Theologian

# Song of

**W**hen Elizabeth greets and blesses Mary, she responds with the most beautiful song of faith and humility — the Magnificat.

**“And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in GOD my Saviour, for He has looked with favour on the lowliness of His servant ... from now on, all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.”**

Mary’s soul magnifies the greatness of God. The word ‘magnify’ has several meanings, including to glorify or praise, or to enlarge. When Mary says, **“My soul magnifies the Lord”** and shares what God has done for her, our Blessed Mother is praising God and enabling others to see God’s nature and character more clearly. Mary also magnifies the greatness of the Lord when she **put others before self**, by setting out in haste to a town in Judah, to be with Elizabeth. She thought of the needs of her cousin — to give Elizabeth the help that she needed.

Mary praises God for what the Lord had done for her personally – **“He has looked with favour on the lowliness of His servant ... the Mighty One has done great things for me”**. It is important to remember that Mary was only a teenager. Yet she is focusing on God’s blessings in her life, and in the great things He has done, and not the difficulties she would face in being faithful.

Mary praises God for what has been done **for generations**, and what the Lord will do in the future. Mary speaks of all these things as if they were already accomplished. God has shown strength, scattered the proud-hearted, brought down the powerful, filled the hungry and sent the rich away empty. The God who has been faithful in the past, will continue to be faithful in the future. Knowing who God is, Mary realizes that she has nothing to fear. We too have nothing to fear, because **our GOD is mighty**.

Mary’s song challenges us to be honest with our values and desires. It



As we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on the first day of the new year, **Grace Low**, from Generation **CHRIST!** ministry holds up the humility, gratitude and faith of Our Mother as a model for us all

reminds us not to invest our lives merely in chasing material success or personal prestige. Mary says God is going to turn everything upside down. Rather than choosing the mighty and powerful, God picks the poor and lowly to bring about His plans. God reverses the wisdom of the world and makes His strength perfect in weakness.

In his encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharista*, the late Pope John Paul II devotes an entire chapter to Mary, calling her the **“Woman of the Eucharist”**. Mary is sometime referred to as **Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament**, as Pope John Paul II says, “Mary can take us by the hand and lead us to a closer relationship with the Eucharistic Christ ... By offering her womb for the Incarnation of God’s Word, Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist”. St Augustine wrote, **“Jesus took His Flesh from the Flesh of Mary”**. And St Padre Pio would sometimes say to his spiritual children, **“Do you not see the Madonna always beside the tabernacle?”**

When we go before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we always find Him **“with Mary His Mother”**, as the Magi did in Bethlehem. Mary is the first “adorer” of Jesus, and Christ in the Sacred Host, repeats to each of us what He said to the apostle John at Calvary, **“Behold, your Mother”**.

Perhaps, it is for this reason that Marian shrines always foster devotion to the Holy Eucharist, so much so that they

are often called Eucharistic shrines – be it in Lourdes or Fatima. In fact, most of the reported miraculous healings in Lourdes took place during **the procession of the Blessed Sacrament**. This is why Pope John Paul II says the **two pillars of our Catholic Faith are the Holy Eucharist and our Lady**. To understand the place of Mary in the celebration of Mass, we need to recall two fundamental principles. First, the Lord did not begin the work of redemption without Mary’s “Yes”. Likewise, He did not complete it on Calvary without her presence. The simple words of St John hold significant meaning, **“Near the Cross of Jesus, stood His Mother”**.

Mary’s song teaches us to live for what really matters, so that God might use us for His purposes and glory. Mary is an example of Humility, Gratitude and Faith. If we do very ordinary things with humility, gratitude and generosity – that is how we give God the opportunity to be magnified and proclaimed – by letting God’s greatness shine through us.

Let us reflect on the great things God has done in our lives – how do we magnify the Lord in return? Let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with the same love and worship of God that was in Mary’s heart. And may we offer our souls and bodies, like Mary did, to serve GOD, not as begrudging servants, but as those who can join our Blessed Mother in her joyful acclamation: **“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in GOD my Saviour”**.



## JESUIT NEWS

### FINDING THE 'STAR' | NEW YEAR DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Rejuvenate spiritually in the New Year by growing your relationship with the Lord God. Spend some time in silence, contemplating God in Scripture. An optional space for spiritual-conversation will be provided. Those new to silent retreats are most welcome.

Date & Time: Saturday 11 January, 9.30am – 5pm

Facilitator: Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ

Contribution: \$60

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/20star20>

**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, Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, Fr Adrian Danker, SJ

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

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings presents Returned!, a testimony event. If you are, or know someone who is exploring a reconnection with the Catholic faith, we welcome you to come and experience.

Friday 10 January, 7.30 to 9.30pm (registration from 7pm)

CANA, 55 Waterloo Street #03-01, Singapore 187954

### PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2020

BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, OP.

Personal Moral Compass is a year long (January to December) systematic course on Moral Theology for people interested in formative foundation of Ethics and Moral Theology, organised under Caritas Singapore. Begins 9 January, held weekly on Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street. Information and registration at [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)

### ACMI SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS

Last chance to register for English Language, Haircutting, Cooking, Computer and Guitar courses. Classes are conducted at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264.

Download the course schedule here: [bit.ly/33hi2Tv](http://bit.ly/33hi2Tv).

To register, contact Jan or Theresa at 8600 3583, or visit Agape Village, Level 3 on 30 December, and 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 January, 10am – 5pm, to register. Registration ends 12 January.

### 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](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