



Called to Mission: Choosing God

Each of our readings today, including the psalm, looks at a sending or a mission. Someone is doing the sending, consecrating, but whoever that is, is not all that clear (except in Isaiah's), nor is the exact nature of the mission clear either. Isaiah speaks of how God sends His servant to be a "light to the nations"; this continues the ideas in our reading from last Sunday (cf. Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7). Paul, calling himself an "apostle" here, describes the Corinthians as "consecrated" and called to be "a holy people", and the Baptist, in John's gospel, speaks of his baptizing as a mission, a means of revealing Jesus to Israel. But he also speaks of the "one who sent me to baptize with water" (which could be God but might also be one of the Essene leaders – or both: John the Evangelist does ambiguity in the richest of ways). As far as we are concerned, by our Baptism (which is not at all the same as John's) and by our Confirmation we are called and sent by a God whom few, if any of us, can say that we know well. Compare what we know about God in a personal manner with what we know about our spouse or other members of our family. And yet we place ourselves in His hands. Nor are we clear what that mission is: is it merely faith or is it works? Are

we called to obey laws as carefully as possible or to live in the fullness of the Spirit? Is our mission purely spiritual or is it something we do as the opportunity presents itself? It's all of that and more. Jesus, the teacher, often uses the teacher's trick of establishing clear polarities, such as between sheep and goats, life and death, salvation and perdition, and in the long run we can see that such alternatives are distinct and opposed. But in our lives we have to live, to the best of our ability, in the grey middle between them. We need to swim upstream against the current of our human desire for clear answers in search of our divine Master, always closer to Jesus and the Father, to Life itself, in the Spirit who is already so very much with us even if we pay It (Him? Her?) so little attention. In order to discover the particularities of our personal missions and to accept them, we need to go regularly into the desert (as Jesus does after His Baptism) to fast, pray, test our call, and discern the desires of God. We also need to do more than merely accept the Spirit as functional in our lives, we need to embrace It. In short, we need first to be completely present to the here and now, for this is where God asks us to be and to achieve our salvation. Yet we must also be in constant conversation with the Holy Spirit about how we

St Ignatius Church 60th Jubilee Celebrations



The Jubilee Committee is seeking photographs from parishioners for:

1. 2021 Jubilee Calendar
(Theme: What does St Ignatius Church mean to me?)
Please email your photos to stiggys60thjubilee@gmail.com

2. St Ignatius Heritage Gallery
(Memories: My fondest/most significant moments in church)
Please place your photos in an envelope in the church office with your contact details. We will scan the photos and return them thereafter.

Deadline: 31/3/2020.
Multiple entries are welcome!

We look forward to receiving your best shots - let's share a part of ourselves and celebrate our memories together!

should interact with this reality. The Spirit is a gift we don't open or use, in spite of the fact that we yearn to be filled with It and even pray regularly for that; if we are willing to enter into the adventure of this particular moment, however, discovering who we are and choosing God, we will at the same time discover the Spirit, however briefly, before It calls us still further and becomes hard to seize yet once more. It is always new and surprising to us.

We are now in "Ordinary Time," the only place where we can be consecrated and the only place where we can live our call.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

PARISH NEWS

MASS for the departed is this Friday 24 January, 6.00pm at the main Church, and will be followed by communal prayer at the Columbarium. All are welcome.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed during the Chinese New Year public holidays from Saturday, 25 January to Monday, 27 January. Saturday Vigil and Monday Masses are as usual.

MASSES DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR

Saturday, 25 January: 8.15am and 10.15am. Blessing and distribution of Mandarin oranges will follow immediately after each of these morning Masses. There will NOT be a 7.00am Mass. All Mass intentions for 7.00am will be offered at the 8.15am Mass.

Saturday, 25 January 6.00pm Mass will serve as the vigil Mass for Sunday.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

There is NO prayer meeting this Wednesday 22 January, due to Chinese New Year festivities. We will resume on 29 January. CRC community wishes all a Happy Chinese New Year 2020!

DISPENSATION FROM ABSTINENCE

To allow families to celebrate and appreciate the gift of family and friends on the eve of the Lunar New Year on Friday 24 January, His Grace Archbishop William Goh DD has granted a dispensation from the regular discipline of abstinence from meat on Friday, in accordance with Can. 87.

BASIC FORMATION FOR MINISTRIES BY ONE

Hosted by Church of St Ignatius Ministry/NCC members. Those who are considering joining a Ministry may wish to attend a 7 month "Basic Formation for Ministries" program organized by the Archdiocese Office of New Evangelisation (ONE). Commences on 22 February. Programme and registration details can be found in the ONE Website (under Events). Contact the parish office for more information.

INFANT BAPTISMS Sunday 9 February at 3.00pm
Parents and godparents are required to attend a briefing on Sunday 2 February, 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 Michelle (9765 2936) & Mark Kwek (9221 0281).

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

Catechetical sessions will only resume on Saturday 8/ Sunday 9 February. Please note the Sec 3 Parents' Meeting is on Monday 20 January at 8.00pm, St Ignatius Hall. Email: stignatius.wecat@gmail.com

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18-25 January, at 8.00pm

This year's theme is "Unusual Kindness". Prayer services are followed by fellowship at around 9pm. All are invited and encouraged to bring their Christian friends.

Monday 20 January – Toa Payoh Methodist Church,
480 Lorong 2 Toa Payoh S 319641

Tuesday 21 January – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer,
30 Duke's Road S 268912

Wednesday 22 January – Mar Thoma Syrian Church,
29 Jalan Keli S 577933

Thursday 23 January – Church of the Holy Cross,
450 Clementi Avenue 1 S 129955

SECURITY ADVISORY

There is an increasing number of reports that people have been receiving emails impersonating priests, including our own parish priests and His Grace, Archbishop William Goh. The email typically asks for a favour and to send money by google play card or itune card.

You are to disregard the email and report it as a Phishing email, through your email provider. If in doubt, you may check with the church office.

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND?

Go to the Help Desk to check our photos of lost and found items. Found items unclaimed after 3 months will be given away.

RIP NEWS– RISEN IN THE LORD

Donato Ferrer – 56 years old

Departed: 11 January 2020

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE B DISTRICT 3

Thursday 30 January 2020, Hume Park 2,
Function Room, Blk 31, Hume Avenue
Programme: CNY celebration dinner/fellowship

ZONE C – ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Monday 20 January, Loyola Room, 7.30pm
Programme: 'Fruits of the Holy Spirit'
prayer reflection and sharing.

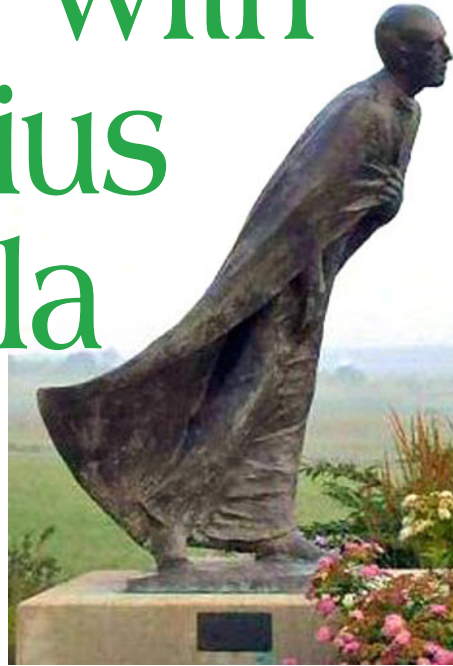
Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest ★ Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest
Angela Kurnadi Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Cheryl Lek Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator
Robert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

Walking with St Ignatius of Loyola

Reading a good story is entertaining, as it enriches our mind, satisfies our imagination, and brings colors into our lives. Reflecting on an inspiring autobiography, especially of a saint, is life-changing — it expands our horizon, deepens our faith and understanding, and transforms us from within, for it holds up as a mirror to our life. The life of St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, is one such narrative.

The *Ignatian Spirituality* Series invites us to embark on a journey of God, and self-discovery through the lens of St Ignatius. He takes us through his conversion story: from his life before his encounter with God to the defining moments that changed and shaped him, and the treasures he has left behind. St Ignatius, who called himself the Pilgrim, will be our guide and signpost to help us explore our journey towards the Divine. His story began in Loyola, a small town in the old kingdom of Castile.

Ignatius was born in 1491 as Inigo Lopez de Loyola, the youngest of 13 children from a noble Basque family. His mother died soon after his birth.



He had a carefree and colorful life as a youth, serving as a page in the royal court and a soldier in the service of the Spanish King. His interests were in the vanities of the world and vain desire of winning glory. He was gravely wounded when he was 30 in the battle between the Spanish and French armies in Pamplona, when a cannonball struck him in the leg, crushing his bones, and seriously wounded the other leg. The French soldiers treated the wounded man with great kindness and courtesy, and brought him back to the family castle at Loyola, where he had a painful and difficult convalescence.

During convalescence, Ignatius's desire to read chivalrous romance books was unfulfilled, as the only books available in the castle were *The Life of Christ* and a collection of the lives of the saints. Ignatius's conversion began with his reading and pondering these pages, a striking witness to the power of a book. As he dwelt for hours, day after day, fancying a certain lady of high nobility, and the lives of St Francis of Assisi and St Dominic, he began to notice and to recognize the difference between the two spirits that moved him — the former filled him with temporary delight followed by dryness and weariness, while the latter brought him

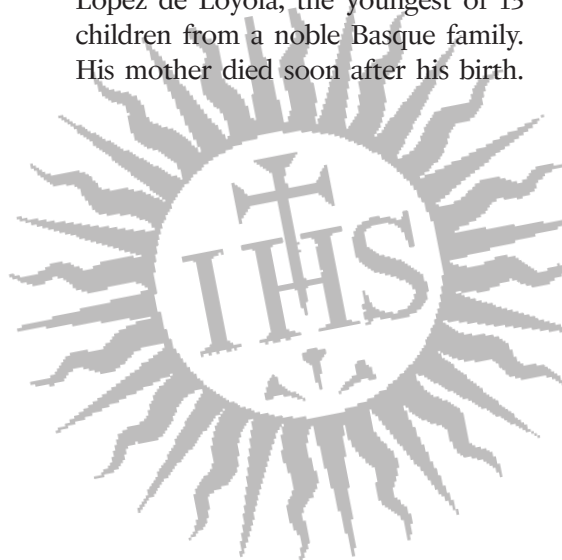
sustained joyfulness and satisfaction.

Upon recovery, Ignatius set out to the shrine of Our Lady at Montserrat, offering his sword to Mother Mary, and settled for a few months in Manresa. This phase is considered as a crucial stage in his life, where he struggled with temptations, scruples, and delusions, as well as “God instructing him like a schoolmaster.” Here he was inspired to write the *Spiritual Exercises*, a series of meditations and contemplations on Christ, to help one to grow in union with God and to discern God's will.

Subsequently, Ignatius pursued formal education in theology in universities in Barcelona and Paris, after he was interrogated and imprisoned by the Inquisition for preaching without a degree, “so he would be able to help souls”. While studying in Paris, he met his key companions, who would eventually become the first Jesuits. His *Spiritual Exercises* became the cornerstone of Ignatian Spirituality, a catalyst in bringing about a conversion of heart, and forming the Jesuits and millions of Christians — religious and lay, Catholic and non-Catholic — over the past 500 years.

St Ignatius's autobiography, written in his old age, is a reflection of God's continuous guiding hand in his life. As he traces his lifetime, he sees the self that he likes and doesn't like, the whole person that God is madly in love with. This loving God gradually transforms him from a wounded knight to a knight of Christ. His story is our story, too. May St Ignatius inspire us to examine our life, for God who loves him dearly is God who loves us deeply.

Reflection: Socrates says that an unexamined life is not worth living. As we move through layers of memory of our life, what are the events that shout out, “here I find God's finger”?



JESUIT NEWS

BECOME A JESUIT

If you are considering a vocation as a Jesuit priest or brother, go to www.mas-jesuits.org and www.facebook.com/jesuit.vocations.malaysia.singapore for more information. You may also contact Fr Jerome Leon SJ or Fr Adrian Danker SJ at mas-vocations@jesuits.net

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

SUNDAY EUCHARIST for the healing of those affected by the Lucky Plaza accident. Organised by ACMI. Date: This Sunday 19 January, 3pm, at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319264, L1 Hall. For information, email: acmi@catholic.org.sg

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session is this Tuesday 20 January, 7.30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or facebook: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

AT HOME RETREAT

20 February – 23 April, Thursdays
Journey from Ashes to Easter — a

10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Choice of 2 time slots. Either
MORNING: 9.30am to 11.30am;
LaSalle Centre – St Patrick School; OR
EVENING: 7.30pm to 9.30pm; Cana – the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo St
Contribution: \$250.00
Register: call 9298 5808/9722 3148
W: www.cenaclemission.com
E: cenaclesingapore@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND WITH MARIAN FATHERS

September 22-29
Walk in The Footsteps of St John Paul II, St Faustina Kowalska and St Stanislaus Papczynski and be part of the Worldwide Congress of Lay Collaborators of Marian Fathers. Information: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xtsuvNnYZ0uhucUIoo83L911h4u4Nhq>

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