



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

**N**estled in the corner of what used to be the bedroom of St Ignatius of Loyola (now a chapel) is a marble plate with the famous “IHS” monogram for the name of Jesus, a symbol that we Jesuits have taken on as our emblem. I have stared at this marble plate many times as I had the privilege of living in the same building where St Ignatius had lived and our community mass was celebrated in that very chapel once a week. I saw the words “Et vocatum est nomen eius Iesus” (Latin for “And he was called Jesus” from Luke 2:21), but it took a while for me to recognise the significance of that phrase. The naming of Jesus was the giving of his earthly identity – that was the name by which his parents, friends and disciples knew him. But the naming or the calling goes deeper as it expresses his identity as saviour (Jesus comes from Yeshua or “one who saves”), an outward sign of his being sent by God the Father to us. The calling, vocare, is also the calling to the person from God, who knits us together in our mothers’ wombs — a call to lead the wonderful life that is given to us (Psalm 139:13-14).

As we celebrate Vocation Sunday, it’s good, for a start at least, to think about what vocation is not. It’s not just a job or something to do. Very often, we think about vocation in terms of what God is calling us to do. Our vocation is more than that – it’s what God calls us to be. We’re not called to be married people, doctors, nuns, chefs, priests, teachers, technicians, and so many other things just because God wants us to do something. The doing is incidental to who we are. God calls us to be ourselves, who we are created to be and to express this in the way we



## How Is God Calling Me?

lead our lives. Thus, the question as we think about our vocation should be, “How is God calling me?”

God is in constant communication with us and is always reaching out to us. It’s up to us to slow down and listen, to be open to the voice of God as we’re called to be ourselves. And when we hear God’s voice, we can’t help but respond. The readings reflect this – we hear how those who heard Peter preach were “cut to the heart”, and immediately wanted to be baptised to receive the salvation that was promised. In the gospel, we hear how the Lord, our shepherd, calls us by name and how we listen to this voice and to no other. There’s an intimacy that develops as we get to know each other and as we

grow in our relationship with the Lord, we become more adept at hearing this voice and responding to it.

The other thing about the question “How is God calling me?” is that very often, we’re not called to do things completely out of the ordinary or out of character. After all, God is calling me to be me and not to be someone I’m not. I often tell people that the call to become a teacher and educator was, for me, much more strongly felt (at least initially) than the call to enter the Society of Jesus. I remember a tearful evening many years ago, praying at the grotto of Our Lady at Holy Trinity Church, finally acknowledging that I was indeed called to teach. I knew I loved teaching and found it immensely life-giving, but hesitated for many reasons. Job offers for teaching positions were part of the sign that told me that I was indeed called to explore this life as a teacher, a choice that not only helped form part of who I am today, but also prepared me for the vocation that was to come.

Reflecting on this as I approach 10 years as a Jesuit, I realise that God definitely calls us within the concrete reality of our lives and calls to the person that we are, warts and all. We may try to hold out and wait for that booming voice of the Lord calling us to climb a mountain to meet him, but the reality is that the call is rarely as dramatic nor as clear as that. God’s call is real, as real as a loved one calling out our name. God’s call is also knowing, because God calls us to be who we are and not who we are not. So on this Vocation Sunday, we should pause for a moment, and consider how God is calling us, setting ourselves before God who knows and loves us, and discerning how we can respond to this call to be ourselves, in the fullest and most loving way possible.

DCN STANLEY GOH, SJ

## PARISH NEWS

During this 'Circuit Breaker' period, the entire grounds of the Church of St Ignatius is closed to the public. We have noticed, however, that some people are still entering the church premises for whatever reasons.

For your health and safety, please do not enter church grounds. The pedestrian passage way/staircase next to the main church building is also closed until further notice. If you have any business to transact with the parish office during this period, please first contact us by telephone (6466 0625) or email ([administrator@stignatius.org.sg](mailto:administrator@stignatius.org.sg)) and we will advise you on how to proceed.

A recorded **GOSPEL REFLECTION** by Fr Colin Tan, SJ for this weekend 3 May, is available at Weekly Sunday Reflection: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home>

Fr Jerome Leon, SJ celebrates MASS every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, at 12pm. Livestream at [www.facebook.com/mas.jesuits.fgiat/](http://www.facebook.com/mas.jesuits.fgiat/)  
It is accessible to all, even if you do not have a Facebook account. His Reflections and other programs are also accessible at [www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj](http://www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj)

All are welcome to join Fr. Ravi, SJ and our youth community, De Vita Christi, for **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** "live" on YouTube, every Wednesday, 8pm -10pm. The link will be posted on Telegram.

Fr Colin Tan, SJ is available for "tele-meeting" with 10 parishioners daily. Call the office (6466 0625) to leave your name and number. He will be happy to return your call. Or email him at [csi.pp@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csi.pp@catholic.org.sg)

Information pertaining to Church ministries, activities and events are available at:

**MASS SCHEDULE:** <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/mass-schedule-offering/mass-schedule>

**COVID 19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:** <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/what-s-happening/all-events/849-covid-19-precautionary-measures>

**INFANT BAPTISM:** <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/sacraments/infant-adult-baptism>

### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Mass Collections received through PayNow, cash or cheques during the week 3 to 8 May 2020 will constitute

The Holy See

### LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020  
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

Pope Francis

receipts for Good Shepherd Sunday. Your contributions will support the ongoing formation of our seminarians and expenses of the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary.

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

# Pope Francis' prayer for the month of May



*O Mary,*

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



You can print it out to make cards or bookmarks (punch a hole on top left and string a ribbon through).



## We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of Mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your Divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to

the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the Afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

