



# CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

## The Pearl of Great Price

**W**hen I was studying in Ireland, I had a chance to visit a Jesuit community in Northern Ireland. I was walking beside a small lake in front of the house with a fellow Jesuit who told me about how he had witnessed a man walking his dog when it suddenly bolted from him to chase after a duck that was in the lake. The man was shocked as the dog had run straight into the lake and was struggling to stay afloat. His dog was drowning. Instinctively, the owner of the dog dived into the lake to try to save his dog, but he too got into difficulties and unfortunately, he drowned as well.

It seems that in a moment of danger, a person is willing to risk his life to save even his dog. I was struck by this story and asked myself, "Would I be willing to risk my life to save a dog?" My answer was "No." Maybe I do not treasure a dog that much. Maybe I would throw a life buoy to save the dog rather than to foolishly dive in without thinking of the consequences.

We know that the pearl that Jesus is referring to in today's parable is that of the Kingdom of God. Would I be willing to give up everything including my life to possess this pearl? It is precious, rare and of great value. Would I be willing to give up everything in exchange for the 'Pearl of Great Price'? My answer is "Yes".

Jesus tells us that we must be like the

merchant who recognises the value of the pearl and then is willing to sacrifice all else with the hope of buying this pearl for himself. "Where your treasure is, there lies your heart." (Mt 6:21)

What treasure do you possess today? Is it worldly treasure and possessions that are visible, perishable and transient? Or is it invisible, lasting and eternal as in the things of Heaven? Indeed, the Kingdom of God is not merely a place, but a state of being. That is to say we can be kind, loving, just and compassionate. "For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rm 14:17).

We make the choice to stand on the side of Christ — to be with Him and for Him. In other words, in our daily discernment of choices, we can choose to be members of the Kingdom of God by our choices, words and actions.

We can choose to be truthful, to walk in the light of Christ rather than the darkness of Satan; and to live absolutely for Christ and die to darkness and sin.

If we set our hearts on the Kingdom of God, we will be willing to make all the sacrifices necessary in order to possess it. Let us have that singular desire to keep before us the goal that we seek to fulfil. Let us be wise, steadfast and prudent.

FR COLIN TAN, SJ

### MASSSES DURING PHASE 2

From 3.00pm, Tuesday 28 July, myCatholic.sg is open for Mass bookings for August.

### MASS SCHEDULE FOR ST IGNATIUS CHURCH

#### WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
7.00pm

#### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday 3.00pm, 4.30pm and  
6.00pm

Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm,  
3.00pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Go to <https://stignatius.org.sg/> and our church Telegram channel for updates, guidelines to the resumption of Masses.

Parking is ONLY at the King's Road basement car park.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR WEEKDAY MASSES

We need volunteers to assist in registration during weekday Masses.

Volunteers should be below 60 years old and registered as parishioners for St Ignatius Church at myCatholic.sg.

Attendance for a briefing on Saturday 1 August is compulsory, at Place of Gathering.

Register online at:  
<https://forms.gle/ykvbJtadME566Ubu5>  
or use the QR code.



PARISH NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed and there will be no Mass on NATIONAL DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY on Monday 10 August.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COLUMBARIUM NICHE APPLICANTS

Parishioners who have booked niches with receipt no: 0561, 0320, 0306 or 0289, please contact Angela at church office 6466 0625. Or email [csi.admin@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csi.admin@catholic.org.sg) as soon as possible for further details.

CONFESSION is available by appointment only. Please call the church office (Angela/Suzie) at 6466 0625 or email [church@stignatius.org.sg](mailto:church@stignatius.org.sg)

CCD ANNOUNCEMENT

The CCD Ministry will postpone online registration for the 2020-2021 intake of students until further notice. Given the continued suspension of face-to-face catechetical sessions and the uncertainty of when other Sacraments might resume, our team will wait until we can get more clarity on the situation before accepting a new batch of students and recruiting new catechists.

Our team is also exploring the feasibility of conducting future catechism classes via distance learning. We remain committed to helping prepare our students who are affected by the pandemic to receive their Sacraments, when the Archdiocese of Singapore allows the other Sacraments to resume.

While we know the decision to postpone online registrations might disappoint some families, we ask for your patience and understanding as we learn to navigate these untested waters. Thank you for your continued support of the CCD Ministry.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

There is no prayer meeting this Wednesday 29 July. Members are invited to join all in the parish for the 8-day Ignatian Pilgrimage retreat from Thursday 23 July to Thursday 30 July.

SUNDAYS WITH JESUS is a Liturgy of the Word for Children session, with homily by Fr Leslie Raj, SJ. It is available at <https://stignatius.org.sg/home/>

A recorded GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Colin Tan, SJ, for this weekend 26 July, is available at Weekly Sunday Reflection: <https://stignatius.org.sg/home>

The PPC Exco, parish staff, and the Jesuit community at Kingsmead Hall wish all parishioners A Blessed and Joyous Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola!

WEBCAST MASSES

Starting from 3 August, with the resumption of weekday Masses, webcast Masses will be shifted to 6.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Presided by Fr Jerome Leon, SJ. Go to [www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj](http://www.youtube.com/c/jeromeleonsj) The webcast will come online 3 minutes before 6.00pm. Videos will not be accessible after the Mass.

All are invited to join Fr Ravi, SJ, and our youth community, De Vita Christi, for MASS AND EUCHARISTIC 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)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTH (RCIY) 2020/2021

Do you know youths who are seeking God? Or do you feel called to journey and help non-Catholics find God? New cycle begins 25 July. Sessions are every Saturday, 4-6pm. Find out more at [www.rciy.sg](http://www.rciy.sg)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) 2020/2021

Begins 4 August (every Tuesday, 8.00pm to 10.00pm). Introduce friends or family to our Catholic faith. Baptised Catholics are also invited to journey as sponsors. Registration is now OPEN for inquirers of the Catholic Faith, sponsors and facilitators. Enrol at [tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia](http://tinyurl.com/stignatius-rcia) at [stignatius.org.sg](http://stignatius.org.sg). Contact Teddy (9745 8313) or Angela (6466 0625). Spiritual Director: Fr Colin Tan, SJ

RIP NEWS- RISEN IN THE LORD

Michael Choo Lip Kung – 79 years old  
Departed: 13 July 2020

Anthony Kenneth Rappa — 93 years old  
Departed: 20 July 2020

SPONSOR



INQUIRER



# Young Iñigo

Up to the age of twenty-six, he was a man given to the vanities of the world; and what he enjoyed most was warlike sport, with a great and foolish desire to win fame.

And so, whilst in a fortress that the French were attacking, when all were of the view that they should surrender, with their lives safeguarded – for they saw clearly that they could not offer resistance – he gave so many reasons to the commander that he actually persuaded him to resist, even against the view of all the officers, who drew courage from his spirit and determination ... a shot struck him in one leg, shattering it completely, and as the cannonball passed between both legs, the other also was badly injured.

So, with his fall, those in the fortress soon surrendered to the French, who on taking possession of it treated the wounded man very well – treated him with courtesy and kindness. And after he had been in Pamplona for twelve or

fifteen days, they took him home in a litter. (Autobiography 1,2)

St Ignatius was someone who disliked to talk about himself, and evaded giving an account of his life for many years. When he finally gave in to his companions' coaxing and agreed to do so in his old age, he began his autobiography with a description of himself as a 30-year old adult caught in a war between the Spanish and French in Pamplona. What was the first half of his life like – his story, before his life was interrupted by a cannonball – as told by his biographers?

Ignatius was born and baptized as Iñigo in northern Spain in 1491, at the dawn of Spain's golden age of wealth and power under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, and a time of extraordinary changes in Europe. The printing press was invented 40 years before his birth, Christopher Columbus landed in the Americas a year after his birth, and religious unity was soon dissolving in Northern Europe. Martin Luther was excommunicated in 1521 (the year a cannonball hit Ignatius in Pamplona), and Henry VIII became head of the Anglican Church in 1531. Illiteracy was still widespread, and the ignorance and neglect of faith rampant.

The youngest of 13 children of a Basque noble family, Ignatius lost his mother at a tender age and his father when he was 15. His countrymen were known for their straightforward manners and tenacity – traits absorbed

by Ignatius. He had minimal education, but he learned to read and write. When he was a teenager, he was sent to be trained for court life. Ignatius grew up with high ambitions for chivalry, a desire for worldly praise and glory, interests in fine clothes, personal appearance, and popular romantic literature.

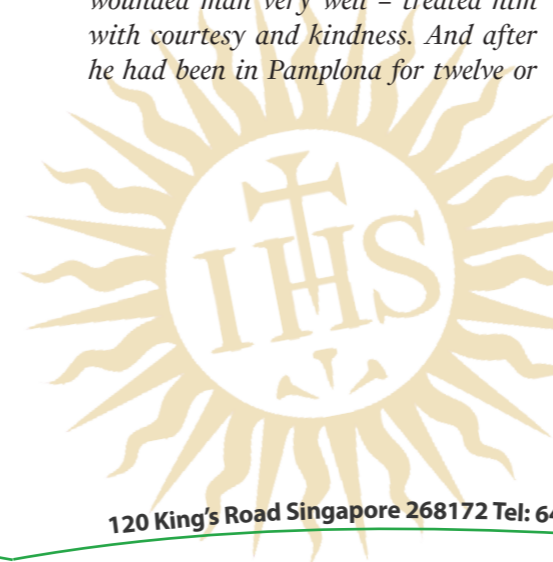
Ignatius' autobiography suggests that he was courageous, reckless and persuasive. Even though the French completely outnumbered the Spanish, he convinced his commander to hold out and thus risking his life and his companions. His tenacity and bravery won him the French's respect; they carried the wounded man in a litter to his home in Loyola. That meant over a hundred kilometers of traveling home in defeat, excruciating pain, loss of blood, coming close to death, followed by months of immobility at the Loyola castle.

Growing up in nobility without a mother's love; a young orphan and a courtier; hasty and charming; a Christian steeped in the vanities of the world; an active and ambitious life shattered by an unexpected tragedy; the paradoxes of Ignatius' coming of age. In other words, he was but an ordinary worldly man of his days. Someone whose desires and struggles we can identify with.

Ignatius experienced severe physical suffering and inner turmoil. The tragedy in Pamplona marked the dawn and the turning point in Ignatius' spiritual journey, but Ignatius did not know it yet. Through these events, God has been waiting patiently for Ignatius to recognize His presence and be a pilgrim in His path.

**Reflection:** To know God is to know oneself; to know oneself is to know God and to see how God is at work in one's life. Who I am today is shaped by my temperament, family upbringing, social and cultural contexts. What comes back to me as I remember and revisit my history timeline – my character, talents and flaws, what I liked and disliked, and significant people and decisive moments in my life?

ROSINA SIMON



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 ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator ★ Robert Ong Sacristan  
David Saw Operations Manager ★ Steven Leong Facilities Manager ★ Therese Gian Communications Manager