



CATHOLIC CHURCH of St Ignatius

Welcome the Foreigner

Never in my life has the question of race featured so much in public discourse as it has this past week. Aside from the usual racist rhetoric, which reveal deep currents of prejudice within our society, what has been worrying is the **normalisation of hatred** directed towards people who are marginal and different. This normalisation of hatred is keenly felt not only in the acts of violence in Charlottesville and Barcelona, but also in the words of numerous political leaders.

Our scriptural readings this weekend invite us to reflect on our relationship

God for All

+ Jesus came for everybody, not just for the children he chose. How God treats non-Catholics, who sometimes seem to be more catholic than Catholics themselves, is a mystery. All we know is He loves everybody.

Sometimes we do not know what we want, but God knows what we desire. As with the woman in the Gospel who did not know what she wanted, Christ allowed for an answer. She received what she wanted most.

We don't understand how Christ treats those who are not his followers but who somehow yearn for what he has to give. Jesus is naming the reality of the world in which we both live. Some have but many do not. Some are in and others are out. We see it everyday that others struggle to make it another day. Life, neither simple nor easy.

All Jesus' acts are deeply embedded in silent contemplation. The more violent our struggles, the louder the unspoken word. And the more conscientiously we work and organise.

Fr Gerry Keane, SJ

to the foreigner. At the heart of our first reading (and psalm) is this remarkable insight, written after the Jewish people were exiled in Babylon, that our Lord is God for all people. Isaiah uses the image that God will bring together all the different people to one mountain. God will listen to them there and God will *make them joyful in [God's] house of prayer*.

Furthermore, our Gospel reading presents a Christian paradigm for encountering the foreigner. Jesus meets a Canaanite woman — thus, a person who is marginal on two accounts; not only is she ethnically different from Jesus, she is also a woman. At first, Jesus insists on his ministry to the *lost sheep of the house of Israel*. This Canaanite woman seems unperturbed by Jesus' insulting reference to house-dogs, but remains kneeling at his feet, pleading for his mercy. She is persistent in trying to show Jesus that she is just like the lost sheep he wants to serve. If Jesus indeed came for the sinner, the broken, the forgotten, here she is! Jesus changes his tentative stance towards her, and acknowledges her claim to his heart: *Woman, you have great faith*.

First, our encounter with the foreigner always begins with this attitude of **tentativeness**. We need to assert our own identity and unique mission, and at the same time learn to suspend our prejudices.

Parish Priest	Fr Leslie Raj, SJ
Assistant Parish Priests	Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja, SJ Fr Matthew Tan, SJ
Parish Administrator	Angela Kurnadi
Parish Accountant	Joyce Setiawan
Catechetical Director	Jeremy Aloysius
Youth Coordinator	Gerard Robert Cheryl Lek
Sacristan	Robert Ong
Operations Manager	David Saw
Facilities Manager	Steven Leong
Communications Manager	Therese Gian



Sunday 20 August 2017

Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Monday 21 August

St Pius X

Tuesday 22 August

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 23 August

Liturgy of the day

Thursday 24 August

St Bartholomew

Friday 25 August

Liturgy of the day

Saturday 26 August

Liturgy of the day

Sunday 27 August

Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

We need to steer away from two extremes; i.e. the rhetoric that we are all the same, or much worse, the rhetoric of hate. Second, we need to learn **to listen and to speak respectfully** to those who express views radically different from our own. Like the woman, speaking respectfully involves challenging set views with intelligence and humour. Like Jesus, listening respectfully involves the capacity to allow our views to be interrogated and challenged. Third, all this leads in the direction of **conversion of our hands and hearts**. Our hands were not made for violence, but to serve. Our hearts were not made for hate, but for love.

This week we have the privilege of witnessing the ordination of Deacon Jerome Leon to the priesthood. As we pray with him, may his ordination remind us of our own role not only to welcome the marginal person who bends their knee to plead their needs at our feet, but that we are called to bend our knees to and wash their feet.

Fr Mark Aloysius, SJ

PARISH NEWS

MEMORIAL MASS for deceased is on Friday, 25 August, 8pm at the main Church. Please note that there will be NO 6pm mass. All are welcome.

PARISH MISSION PRAYER

Pray our parish's Mission Prayer at home and with your parish communities. Prayer cards are available at the Place of Gathering.

THANK YOU St Ignatius parishioners for your generous support of Canossaville Children and Community Services. A total of \$10,522.60 was raised during the weekend of 5/6 August.

CREATION IS SPIRITED & SACRED

Only 15 copies of *Creation Is Spirited and Sacred*, a book by Jojo Fung, SJ is available for sale. Malaysian Jesuit and professor of Contextual Theology in the Loyola School of Theology, the author is a facilitator of learning in the East Asian Pastoral Institute in the areas of Leadership and Cultures. He combines rigorous scholarship with personal experience of the sacred to bring forth this ground-breaking discovery that God's creation is spirited and sacred.



INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday, 10 September at 3.00pm. Parents and godparents are required to attend briefing on Sunday, 3 September, 3pm at La Storta Room. Registration forms at church office or website. Please choose a saint's name for your child. Contact Valeria (9189 3770) & Gerard Lee (9677 0078) or Lea (9173 8717) & Wahjudi Gunawan.

CCD 2017-2018 REGISTRATION

Catechism classes for International Schools

CCD is a faith formation program for children aged 6 to 13 years old in international schools. Grade 1 through grade 7 classes are weekly on Tuesday or Thursday, 4-5pm; Confirmation classes are on Sunday, 3:30-5pm. Begins September until end of May 2018.

✿ Online registration begins **1 August**. All students (new and returning) have to register **ONLINE** at www.stignatius.org.sg or google "St Ignatius Singapore CCD" for more information.

(Registration deadline: 31 August)

✿ After submitting the online registration form, please mail the required documents and fees to the Church office. For the sacraments of First Holy Communion (grade 2) and Confirmation (grade 8), a hard copy of the child's baptismal certificate is required.

✿ If you wish to volunteer to teach or assist in the CCD ministry, contact Chantal Wong at ccdstignatius@gmail.com

WEEKEND CATECHETICAL PROGRAMME

★ The final session for Term 3 is next weekend Sat 26/Sun 27 August. We wish our children and youths a blessed

break! Catechetical sessions resume in Term 4 from the weekend of Sat 16/Sun 17 September.

★ Parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion (P3) are reminded to attend the rehearsal on Sat 26 August, 3.30pm at the Main Church.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

GISS: GROWING IN THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Sharing on Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." The more we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, the more gifts we will receive to be more like Christ. And when we use these gifts, the more fruits we bear. All are welcome this Wednesday, August 23, at St Ignatius Hall, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) 2017/2018

Every Tuesday, 8pm to 10pm. Introduce friends or family to our Catholic faith. Enrolment forms available at the Place of Gathering and website. Contact Sandra (9628 6472) or Angela (6466 0625).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTHS (RCIY) 2017/2018

Invite non-Catholic friends and family (aged 17 and above) to share the joy of the faith. Enrolment forms available at the Place of Gathering and website. Every Tuesday, 8pm to 10pm.

Contact: Evelyn (9762 6330) or Aaron (8228 3419)

Email us: rciy.ignatius@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/stigsrciy/>

CONSIDERATE PARKING

Park only at designated lots in multi-storey, basement car park. Absolutely no parking on ramps and drive-ways. Parishioners who remain for prayer, fellowship and events apart from Masses, have found their cars blocked. Non-compliance also poses a safety concern if the car-park capacity is exceeded. Your immediate co-operation is appreciated.

NCC NEWS

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 8.00pm.

ZONE C DISTRICT 1

Friday 25 August, #02-05/06

Programme: Prayer and reflection on the Assumption of Mary

ZONE C DISTRICT 3 GRP 1-3

Monday 21 August #01-09

Programme: "The Bible & the Virgin Mary – lesson 12 : Always a Mother" by Scott Hahn

ZONE E DISTRICT 3

Thursday 31 August, SH-E

Programme: A video talk by Friar Dave Pironka on "The Holy Spirit – Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit".

The Joy of Service

I had just collected my cash from the slot. A little disappointed with my account balance (displayed on the screen), I turned to walk away from the ATM. That's when I heard it say: "Thank you for banking with us. It was a joy serving you."

My immediate reaction? I turned and remarked, "But you're a machine – you don't have feelings!" After I had chuckled to myself at my smarty-pants observation, I couldn't help but think further about that second line. "It was a joy serving you."

At first I thought to myself that some folks at that bank must have felt those words would enhance customer experience, hence their inclusion at the end of a transaction. I did leave the ATM *smiling* after all. Then, I started to recognise my train of thought picking up pace, mental gears in my head turning and smoke coming out of my ears. Okay, I'm kidding about that last bit.

But yes, I started to ask myself several interesting questions (my brain does this to me sometimes – I believe it's one of the ways the Holy Spirit works in me). For example, after people interact with me, do they walk away smiling? Perhaps feeling a little more joyful, since joy can be quite contagious? And on my part, can I honestly say I serve joyfully? Am I a minister of consolation to all?

Truth be told, the answers came easily and quickly. I was reminded that I am very much a work in progress, and that there have been times when I've been a better vessel of joy. Times I can look back on and strive to replicate.

Further pondering on this brought to mind the idea that I continue to be part of an Easter people, individuals who should be filled with joy always, for there's so much to be thankful for, not least the paschal mystery! I mean, Jesus died for *me*. He made a way to heaven for *me*. And His spirit continues to



work through, with, and in *me*. If these truths do not bring joy to me, I'm not sure what will.

But of course, it's easy to forget these things. So my prayer for you and me is that we'll be increasingly convicted by and rooted in this truth, that we are always an Easter people. And amongst other things, that means that...

God wants us to be joyful. After all, the word "joy" is mentioned over a 170 times in the NRSV Bible. That must tell us something.

We can draw from the bank of God's love and life daily, in prayer. Or as Jesuit Fr James Martin likes to say, "Holy people are joyful. Why?

Because holiness brings us closer to God, the source of all joy."

We strive to live and serve joyfully, so others may come to be attracted to our Lord. In the words of St. Katherine Drexel, "We must attract them by joy in order to lead them to its source, the Heart of Christ."

Meanwhile, I can't help but wonder if God whispers this as we approach Him every day with our needs, whatever our balances of good and evil deeds are with Him: "Thank you for coming to me. It was a joy serving you."

Keith
Neubronner

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 information. You can also contact Fr Agustinus Tanudjaja SJ or Fr Adrian Danker, SJ at mas-vocations@jesuits.net

CREATING SPACE FOR GREATER INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

This retreat offers married couples time

and space to renew and celebrate their marriage commitment. Couples will be invited to look deeper into various places where they continue to grow and empower each other, moving ahead towards a life of joy and love.

Dates & Times: Friday, 25 August (7.30pm) to Sunday, 27 August (5pm)

Facilitator: Fr Pham Hung Trung, SJ

Contribution (per couple): \$660 (aircon), \$540 (non-aircon), \$500 (stay-out)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/PhamHung>

Jesuit Regional Curia, Telephone: 6469 7356

Fr Christopher Soh SJ, Fr James Tan SJ

Kingsmead Hall, Jesuit Community, Tel: 6466 3225

Fr Gerard Keane SJ, Fr Gerald Tseng SJ, Fr Charles Sim SJ, Fr Colin Tan SJ, Msgr Philip Heng SJ, Fr Adrian Danker SJ, Fr Gregory Tan SJ, Fr Jerome Leon SJ

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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our monthly session is on every 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on Tue 22 August 2017. Our contact details are email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com and we can also be found on facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

CANA invites you to PIMBY KAMPONG BAHRU. Walk through the history of the area around the Church of St Teresa. Lots of stories of the zeal of early missionaries and the fervour of the laity, including a visit to Carmel. Next Sunday 27 August, 2.15 pm, meet at the Church of St Teresa. Registration: email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com or call 6338 4080.

CANA PRESENTS MY SOUL PROCLAIMS Fundraising event for the Cenacle Mission

An evening of stories and songs by Fr Valerian Cheong, Fr Edward Lim OCD, Fr Derrick Yap OFM, Fr Eugene Lee CSsR and Bro Nicholas Lye. Monday, 4 September, 7.45 pm @ Church of the Holy Family. Tickets (\$30) at Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, 2nd Floor (Monday-Saturday, 11am-5pm). Tel 63384080 or email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.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

Every Friday & Saturday: 5.40pm

Every 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 6
months before the wedding.
Contact: Robert Ong (8511 4614)

Columbarium Opening Hours

Daily: 6.30am – 8.00pm
Public Holiday: Closed

Inigo Bookstore

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:
4.00pm to 6.20pm and during
weekend Masses

Sick and elderly

Please contact the parish office
if help is needed for parishioners
regardless of which hospital
they are at. You may also contact
priests' residence at 6466 3225

Bereavement

Please contact the parish office
Sacristan, Robert Ong (8511 4614)
for help and advice before
contacting the funeral director.

**Church of St Ignatius has no
official social media accounts.**

WEEKLY

Rosary in Church

Monday to Saturday, after 7am Mass and
Monday to Friday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

Intercessory Prayers

Tuesday, 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall
Adoration Room, Level 2

Christian Meditation

Friday, 2.30pm in St Francis Xavier Prayer
Room (Kingsmead)

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.

Catholic content online, login:

www.FORMED.org; parish code: **4904ed**

MONTHLY – in Main Church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass

Every 1st Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)

Followed by

Generation CHRIST! Eucharistic Adoration

Children Eucharistic Adoration
Every 3rd Friday, 7.45pm

Memorial Mass

Every 4th Friday, 8pm (No 6pm Mass)