



*Provincialate : 4A Chestnut Drive, Singapore 679330.*

*Tel: 67602461*

*website: [www.chij-sisters.org](http://www.chij-sisters.org)*

## News about IJ Sisters in Singapore

Blessing of Ministries held on 31 Dec 2023



*Sisters and Associates at the event in the chapel*



*Sr Joan lighting the candle to signify her commitment to her ministry*

# Infant Jesus Sisters, Singapore (founded in France, 1662, established in Singapore 1854)



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Welcome Sr Marina and Sr Felicia!



Srs Felicia and Marina (General Councillors) in Singapore in November 2023



Srs with the Pioneering Community together with Sr Boonyarak (Thailand)



Srs with the Provincial Team and Associates

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Welcome Sr Brigitte and Sr Jane!



Sr Jane (General Councillor) and Sr Brigitte (Superior General) in Singapore in late Feb 2023



Some Sisters with Sr Brigitte (Superior General) and Sr Jane in Feb 2023



Members of the Pioneering Community with Sr Brigitte and Sr Jane



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**Congratulations Sr Agatha and Sr Joan on their diamond jubilees!**



*Sr Agatha and Sr Joan each celebrated 60 years of consecrated life in the IJ Mission.*

*Fr Benedict Chng celebrated the thanksgiving Mass on 11 Feb 2023.*

**Congratulations Sr Agnes**



*Sr Agnes Lee celebrated her Golden Jubilee as an IJ sister on 5 Feb 2022.*



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## Singapore celebrates 200 years of Catholicism (SG200 Ignite and Shine)

Our IJ sisters and Alumni were also there to participate in the celebrations. Look out for them in the following videos.

- [Ignite and Shine with Faith](#)
- [Theme Song](#)
- [A Call to shine – history of Catholicism in Singapore](#)
- [Chords of Blessing](#)
  - An evening of praise and worship by our beloved priests, religious and seminarians as they share their vision of faith, hope and charity through music.

Watch the Infant Jesus Children's Homes and Centres [\(IJHCC\) video](#) presented at the **Catholic Social Mission Conference 2021**.

Listen to Sr Elizabeth and Sr Julia speak about the IJ Sisters to God's Little Helpers on CatholicSG Radio.

<https://podcasts.radioactive.sg/?id=a8df8621b326ba5992d4c6d7352be077&track=26>

## Congratulations Sr Maria

on receiving the IRO award 2021

in recognition of her invaluable contributions towards the promotion of inter-faith peace and harmony in Singapore. [Read the citation](#) here.



Receiving the award from Mr Heng Swee Keat

Read [a related article](#) in the Catholic News



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Cardinal Goh with Sr Maria and her Women of Faith Committee in IRO

## Our IJ Sisters in Mission

### SINGAPORE

Singapore, Malacca and Penang were British Straits Settlements during the time when the first sisters came to Singapore in 1854. With great faith and trust in God's Providence, they answered the call to come out to the East to provide education for girls who were deprived of such a privilege.

In the first days in Singapore, the Sisters dedicated themselves to giving a holistic education to girls under their charge and opened an orphanage to take care of the abandoned children left at the gate.

In 1965, Singapore became an independent nation. However, the Provinces of Malaysia and Singapore continued to remain as one Province until 2 Feb 1988.

Today the sisters, together with their lay partners, are involved in ministries which emphasise human and spiritual formation.

### Our 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We celebrated the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our founding in [May 2019 at the National Stadium](#)..

We remember fondly the pioneering Sisters from France and Ireland who, with faith and trust in God, left their beloved homeland to give education to girls in Singapore, to build a Christ-centred community with emphasis on our values of **trust, justice, freedom and love** and on service of others, especially the disadvantaged.

Our main celebration for **Founder's Day 2019** was a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by the Archbishop and concelebrated by 33 priests at the National Stadium on 28 May with 18,000 people comprising of all our pupils and staff from our 11 CHIJ Schools and Home and Centres together with parents, alumni, fraternity members, friends and well-wishers.

Watch the video clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbZdHL-D8S0>

Watch and listen to the voices at the stadium singing the CHIJ Song [Hold on to Your Dream](#)

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## Infant Jesus Sisters

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A [book Ever Seeking, Ever Serving: The Spirit Lives On](#) was written by Dr Eulalia Han, former student and current teacher of CHIJ Secondary, to commemorate the occasion.



*We thank God for sustaining us in our mission for the past 165 years,  
and our pioneering sisters for their daring courage to come to Asia.  
(Srs from Ireland, Malaysia, Peru and Thailand came to celebrate with us)*

### Our Provincial Team (Wef Feb 2021)



*Sr Maria Lau (Provincial), Sr Jocelyn Kang and Sr Teresa Lee*

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Sr Julia, Sr Maria, Sr Teresa and Margaret at the Day of Consecrated life Talk by Fr Joseph Zhang CDD



Sr Agatha at St Joseph's Convent 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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*Sr Elizabeth and staff welcome Sr Brigitte and Sr Jane to IJHCC*

Both Sr Julia Ong and Sr Elizabeth Moey spoke on the Religious Orders Series Ep 3: IJ Sisters to God's Little Helpers on CatholicSG Radio.

<https://podcasts.radioactive.sg/?id=a8df8621b326ba5992d4c6d7352be077&track=26>

Sr Elizabeth Moey at her final profession on 22 Apr 2018 with the Sisters from Japan, Malaysia and Singapore  
[... read more](#)



*IJ Sisters at Sr Liz's final profession*

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Sr Joan with girls at prayer



Sr Joan with her Catechism students praying the Way of the Cross

Sr Joan teaches catechism at CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity and CHIJ Kellock.

A peep into Sr Joan's life – educator, pioneering missionary in Bolivia ....

[... read more](#)



From left to right Sr Elizabeth, Sr Joan, Sr maria, Sr Celine, Sr Teresa



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Sr Teresa Lee ,78 , giving free tuition to children in Galilee Children's Centre  
(Ang Mo Kio branch of Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres)

*Sr Teresa with staff and parents at St Nicolas Girls' School*

Read Sr Teresa's [Vocation story](#) also on IJ Mission facebook

Read [Sr Celine's Vocation story](#) also on IJ Mission facebook

Congrats Sr Christine on her award in Health Care [... read more](#)

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*Sr Neriza (our Sr in the Philippines) empowering mothers to help their children*

[Read Sr Neriza's Vocation Story here](#)



*Sr Maria with leaders of our ten religions in Singapore at the Catholic Church to celebrate Christmas*

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Our IJ Sisters (with our guests from Ireland, Malaysia and Thailand) with Archbishop William Goh at our 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Back row: Sr Christine, Sr Roselind (+), Sr Theresa Khoo (+), Sr Simone (+), Sr Germaine, Sr Bernard, Sr Henry (+), Sr Julia, Sr Deirdre (+), Sr Dolores (+), Sr Joseph, Sr Philomena (+)  
Front Row: Sr Agnes, Sr Maria, Sr Elizabeth, Sr Agatha, Sr Joan, Sr Jocelyn, Sr Teresa



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*IJ Sisters with Archbishop William Goh*

*Back Row: Sr Maria, Sr Agnes, Sr Simone (+), Sr Celine,, Sr Julia, Sr Christine, Sr Pauline, Sr Roselind (+)  
Middle Row: Sr Joseph, Sr Henry (+), Archbishop, Sr Germaine, Sr Philomena (+), Sr Bernard, Sr Dolores (+)  
Front Row: Sr Jocelyn, Sr Agatha, Sr Elizabeth, Sr Joan, Sr Elsie, Sr Teresa*



## **The Way Forward**

*Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we continue to LISTEN and be open to accepting new challenges in the way ahead. The General Chapter held in June - July 2019 sends us on a new path in our partnership with the laity.*

## **Our Journey with our Lay Partners**

The IJ Sisters of Singapore have worked with the laity since they first arrived in Singapore in 1854. It is a relationship of esteem, collaboration and mutual respect.

From the early years up until World War II, this partnership was characterised by a sharing in the ministry of offering the gift of education to young girls from all backgrounds and diverse faiths. Lay persons also assisted the Sisters in caring for young children abandoned due to extreme poverty, superstition and the non-availability of medical care.



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Many of the lay persons who assisted in these two ministries were women of deep faith who admired the courage and quality of care shown by the early Sisters to those in need. They were deeply impressed by the beliefs, values and attitudes the Sisters revealed in their care of some challenging children. They, too, then came to take on these attitudes in their shared ministry.

### ***A New Vision***

The post war re-envisioning of our partnership with the laity emerged from the call of the Church with Vatican II, the successive International IJ General and Provincial Chapters from 1971, and more especially, from the challenges posed by the social changes of the last 50 years.

The new emphasis came from a vision of "growth together". "Together" is the operative word. It is a joint search where the Sisters and laity come together to encounter Christ at a deeper level, entering into a transformation where we look upon our world and on all we encounter in a more incarnational way, drawing strength together from the life and actions of Jesus, as revealed in the Gospels.

It is from this well of strength, this underpinning, that we are called to collaborate in shared ministry today.

### ***A Deeper Lay Partnership***

As the leadership of the 11 CHIJ schools and our IJ Homes and Children's Centres became progressively placed in the capable hands of lay leaders, the IJ Sisters recognised the need to invite our lay partners to deepen their understanding of the IJ spirituality. These leaders' capacity to become a formative influence in their community would, to a great extent, depend on their integration of this spiritual thrust, which provides the ethos of a CHIJ school.

Our lay leaders recognise that almost all who experience an IJ education treasure it deeply. They acknowledge that their role requires them to work with the Sisters to identify what is critical, so that they can provide the distinctive type of education articulated by our Founder and provided by the early Sisters.

The efforts undertaken were many. In tandem, we breathed new life into proclaiming our mission and to the meaning of the school crest, so that these would speak to and inspire the younger generation of students.

The efforts at working together are ongoing. They demand a continuous search for ways to engage the school leadership in their own spiritual transformation so that they, in turn, may transform their school community. Together, we seek to respond to the quest of our staff and students for meaning and purpose in life, and their search for a moral compass to guide them as they face the challenges of the future.

Besides being involved in the IJ mission, some of our lay partners have also responded to God's call to be missionary disciples, living the gospel with the IJ Charism and Spirituality in their personal and professional lives.

### ***Growth and Development of The IJ Fraternity***

In 2007, in response to the interest of our lay partners, working with us in our respective ministries in our CHIJ schools and IJ Homes and Children's Centres, alumni and well-wishers, we organized three meetings held in different locations in the East, West and Centre of Singapore to share with them an overview of all the ministries the IJs are involved in and to discern with them where God is leading us into the future and where they would like to be involved. At the meetings, these were some of the significant areas that, apart from the existing ministries, the people who attended the sessions



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- wanted to know more about the ministries both locally and abroad
- wanted to know what gives inspiration and sustains the Sisters in their mission, the IJ Spirituality
- proposed that we should set up an archive of our resources so as to draw inspiration from it
- proposed setting up a network for their contribution to the IJ mission

Subsequently in 2008, a meeting was organised for those who wanted to know in order to network with the people who were directly involved in IJ missions locally and abroad. An inaugural meeting was held on 23 February 2008 for those who wanted to know about the IJ Spirituality.

### **Spiritual Formation**

The group who came continued to meet monthly on a Saturday morning in the Upper Room of the Convent to pray together, to spend quiet time in reflection and to share what is taking place in their life. Each gathering ended with fellowship over a common meal.

With time, this group morphed into calling themselves the IJ Fraternity. They agreed to meet monthly and study the central tenets of the IJ Spirituality as shared with the first Sisters by Blessed Nicolas Barre. Themes of the Incarnation, Abandonment and Trust in Divine Providence, the Spirit of Freedom, the Spirit of Community were studied and reflected on.

Each year, the Fraternity members make an annual retreat together and we have been to Penang, Batam, Johore, Bandung, Bangkok and Malacca.

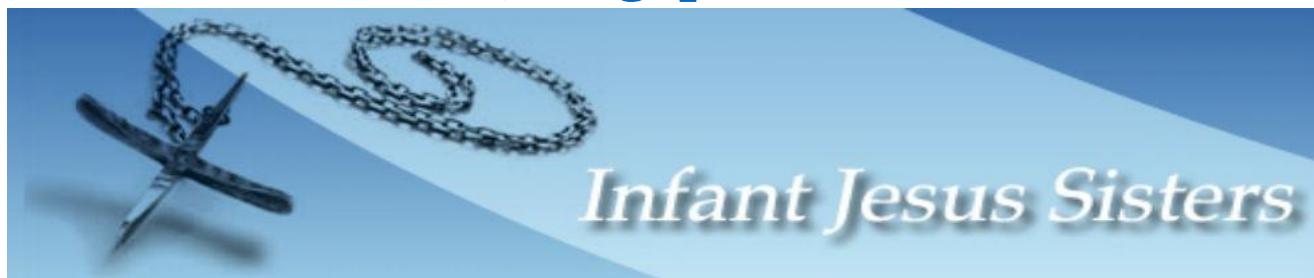


*Celebrating Sr Celine's birthday*



*At prayer*





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The IJ Fraternity make a commitment around the Feast of Blessed Nicolas Barré / Pentecost during Community Prayer.

### *The IJ Fraternity Commitment*

***“We are companions on a journey called to deepen our understanding of the Infant Jesus (IJ) Spirituality given through Blessed Nicolas Barre which is the inspiration of the Infant Jesus Mission in all its expressions. We celebrate the spirit that has brought us together, has sustained us and informs us in the way we work and live to promote the Kingdom of God.” Amen.***



*Our first Fraternity members*



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Our Associates (seen with Sr Brigitte and Sr Jane)



Some of our Aspiring IJ Collaborators with Associates and IJ Sisters

***In our journey with lay people, we discover together how God continues to draw us to live the charism.***

***We rejoice in the many ways lay people are drawn to our charism and spirituality. Journeying together on this path, we are called to formalise our partnerships with them.***

Given the different realities in our provinces, vice-provinces and districts, we see three levels of affiliation in our IJ family:



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[IJ Friends / Partners in Mission](#) are members of our IJ Board of Management, school leaders, staff, alumni, parents, IJ Ambassadors in our CHIJ Schools, the Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres (IJHCC) Management Committee, Managers and staff, benefactors, volunteers, well-wishers and those who support us in our respective ministries.

[IJ Collaborators](#) are

- ✚ Women and men called to live the Gospel values in the spirit and vision of Blessed Nicolas Barre.
- ✚ People drawn to the IJ Spirituality and IJ Mission.
- ✚ Catholics and people of other faiths
- ✚ People of integrity, financially independent and with the right disposition towards mission, focusing on those who are disadvantaged and at the margins of society.

The IJ Collaborators commit themselves to live the IJ Spirituality and Mission in their own lives, grow spiritually and promise to further the mission of the IJ Sisters through:

- ✚ Personal prayer and the [Prayer of Abandonment](#)
- ✚ Monthly prayer and reflection
- ✚ Annual retreat
- ✚ Bonding as a faith community
- ✚ Participating in the IJ Mission in all its expressions
- ✚ Participating in relevant local and Institute celebrations and events

The IJ Sisters will share with the Collaborators their...

- ✚ heritage,
- ✚ spirituality,
- ✚ mission and ministry, and
- ✚ prayerful support for spiritual growth

## **The Journey**

of an IJ Collaborator begins with an inquiry stage, followed by discernment and then a request to become an IJ Collaborator after a period of formation.

**Formation** will include:

- ✚ An initiation into the spirituality of the Incarnation (IJ Spirituality)
- ✚ Deepening the understanding of the message of the Gospels
- ✚ A study of the life of Blessed Nicolas Barre, our Founder
- ✚ The history of the Institute
- ✚ Selected writings of our Founder
- ✚ Opportunities to experience Mission with the Sisters
- ✚ Understanding the beliefs of others

## **Commitment**

Be willing to make a commitment annually to promote God's kingdom... [read the brochure](#)

IJ Collaborators advance to be IJ Associates when they decide to make a lifelong commitment.

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**IJ Associates** who are Catholics and who after a period of formation and discernment, officially make a life-long commitment to the Institute by making our spirituality and charism their way of life. They are received into the Institute publicly during a liturgical celebration in the Church.



*IJ Associates with the Sisters*

## Our IJ Friends



*Some members of the IJHCC management Committee*

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Facilitators and Participants at CHIJMES on their Learning Journey

Outside the chapel



Outside Caldwell House



Near the entrance

Story of CHIJMES - Memories of CHIJ town Convent Victoria Street still remain. Sr Celine Low and Ms Wendy Louis were interviewed [... read more](#)

. Refreshing you with our milestones

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*Connecting to reconnect with the convent*

<https://thelongwindingroad.wordpress.com/2014/11/10/connecting-to-reconnect-with-the-convent/>

*CHIJ old girls pay tribute to alma mater on its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/chij-old-girls-pay-tribute-to-alma-mater-on-its-160th-anniversary>

**Remembering our Sisters who had served in the mission in Singapore and gone home to God.**

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace Amen

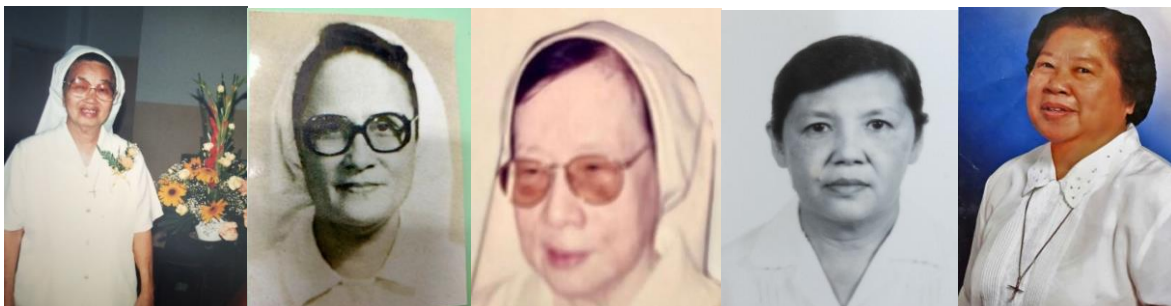


Sr Roseline

Sr Elizabeth

Sr Philomena

Sr Simone



Sr Dolores

Sr Edward

Sr Clarice

Sr Irene

Sr Theresa



Sr Gerard

Sr Mary Mag

Sr Henry

Sr Deirdre

Sr Cecilia



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Sr Roseline Lim (89) left us on 29 Aug 2022 [... read more](#)

Sr Elizabeth Browne (95) died in her sleep in Ireland on 3 Jun 2022 [... read more](#)

Sr Philomena Low (85) returned to God on 13 Sep 2021. [... read more](#)

Sr Simone Lim (74) died peacefully on 17 April 2021 [... read more](#)

Sr Dolores Wang (94) returned to God on 5 April 2021. [... read more](#)

Sr Edward Desker (99) left us on 1 Jan 2021. [... read more](#)

Sr Clarice Lim (93) died peacefully on 26 Mar 2020. [... read more](#)

Sr Irene Pang (79) has returned to God on 30 April 2019. [... read more](#)

Sr Theresa Khoo (76) died peacefully on 5 Nov 2018. [... read more](#)

Sr Gerard Lee (87) returned to God on 29 Aug 2017 [...read more](#)

Sr Mary Magdalen Cheng (93) left us on 16 June 2017 [... read more](#)

Sr Henry Tan, (95) returned to God on 30 Dec 2016 quietly [...read more](#)

Sr Deirdre O'Loan's legacy lives on (Sr died on 13 Aug 2016) [.... read more](#)

Sr Cecilia Chew died peacefully on 23 May 2015. [read more](#)

e. [Our links to St Joseph's Church \(Bukit Timah\)](#) as the Church celebrates her 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

[... read more](#)



*The IJ Spirit lives on ... the Sisters with the Lay partners, Collaborators, Associates ever seeking, ever serving, ever sacrificing ... to share the Good News ... that all peoples may come to know the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ and to share His life to foster the growth of all peoples, both in their human and spiritual development.*

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