



Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Nicolas Barre

OPENING HYMN All are welcome

Let us build a house
 where love can dwell
 And all can safely live,
 A place where
 saints and children tell
 How hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
 Rock of faith and vault of grace;
 Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
 And words are strong and true,
 Where all God's children dare to seek
 To dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
 And a symbol of God's grace;
 Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found
 In water, wine and wheat:
 A banquet hall on holy ground,
 Where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
 Is revealed in time and space;
 As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
 All are welcome in this place

INTRODUCTION

Today, as we celebrate Founder's Day, let us thank God for the gift of Blessed Nicolas Barre, whose vision and dream have brought us together. We celebrate too, your call to the Infant Jesus Sisters who continued to share this mission with us in our IJ family of schools and we celebrate each teacher and pupil in our IJ family of St Nick's whom you have brought together by your Providence and Love. Amen

Let us draw inspiration from the life of our founder, Nicolas Barre

As a child, he loved his sisters and brothers. His younger sister, Louise who was 6 years younger than him, became seriously ill and her condition grew worse each day. One day, on his return from school, he found that his sister who was ill had taken for the worse. Both the doctors and his parents had almost given up hope on her recovery. Nicolas who was deeply attached to his sister could not reconcile himself to her death. Without a word to anyone he went to his room where he had set up a little altar and there, in tears, his face bent to the ground, he begged God to cure his beloved sister, Louise. He prayed earnestly for the day begging God to spare his sister. Suddenly, in the depth of his heart, the conviction came to him that God had heard his prayer and his sister would be restored to health. With tears rolling down his cheeks he ran to tell his family. A short time afterwards, Louise made a complete recovery. This story told by his

biographers, Raffron and Thuilier, clearly illustrates the strong faith of the young Nicolas. It was a faith from which he would draw strength, as he later put it, to “hope against hope”.

Our founder Blessed Nicolas Barré ... was a man of prayer, a man of compassion, who was deeply aware of the lived experience of those around him. He was in touch with life as it was in 17th century Rouen, in touch with people – the rich and the poor, adults, young people and the vulnerable. His whole life was centred on God. He listened, he prayed and he noticed particularly the plight of the children in the streets. They had no education and was exploited. His prayer led to awareness, discernment and action. One step led to another in his response to God’s call in his life. His attentiveness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, his own human giftedness and the wholehearted response of the young women he gathered around him to teach the children led to the birth of the Institute. Our journey as an Institute continues with this same attentiveness to God’s call more than three and a half centuries later.

The spirit that Nicolas Barré wanted us to embrace is rooted deeply in the mystery of the incarnation, “We must follow Jesus in all His ways. Contemplation of the Word made flesh in our lives opens our hearts to see as God sees and to respond as Jesus responds. We grow in our commitment and openness to recognising God’s presence and God’s gentle and, at times, challenging guidance in the events of each day. This spirit is rooted in the mystery of the Word made flesh, who dwells among us (John1:14), we are called...”.

HYMN We are called by David Haas

1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the Kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show Your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another;
to walk humbly with God!

3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each
other
as sisters and brothers united in love!

OPENING PRAYER

O God, Your love is constant in our world of change. Be our light as we seek new pathways for sharing our IJ heritage with all the people in our CHIJ schools, IJ Homes and Children’s Centres and in all our ministries. Draw us closer to you and to one another as we work to be the change that will lift our world in joy and hope. Help us to embrace the differences we will encounter as we take on the challenge of daily living our vocation in our home and in our school. We give thanks for all who give themselves generously in the service of others and we ask your blessing on all in the IJ Family in Singapore and throughout the world Amen

FIRST READING: A reading from the letter from Paul to the Colossians. (Colossians 3, 15-17).

Leader: Let us be attentive and listen to God’s word.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and instruct one another in all wisdom, and with thanksgiving in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do

everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSE: Here I am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:22-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?' The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1. For the dream of education in the legacy of our founder: that the desire to learn will be given roots and wings in the lives of all students, that respect for one another will grow in our hearts, in our homes and in our school; that communities will know and enjoy the freedom that comes with knowledge and understanding – we pray to the Lord
Response: Generous God, hear us who pray with hearts open to be the change.

2. For the IJ education passed down to us by the IJ Sisters and the past principals and teachers who have gone before us: that all who teach in our CHIJ Schools will cherish the privilege of teaching and that families and communities will treasure the education given in our CHIJ Schools – we pray to the Lord.

Response: Generous God, hear us who pray with hearts open to be the change.

3. For the wonder of education experienced by all present here: it is a lifelong adventure filled with hope, change and challenge. Help us learn from and teach each other – we pray to the Lord.

Response: Generous God, hear us who pray with hearts open to be the change.

4. For the life of education: for its continued growth and development; for its power to change our world; for its ability to explain, to heal, to unite and to bless – we pray to the Lord.

Response: Generous God, hear us who pray with hearts open to be the change.

Let us pray for our own intentions...

Or

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: The response to our prayers is: We thank you, God

ALL: We thank you God.

For the gift of our country and the peace we enjoy as Singaporeans. We thank...

For the gift of our land in all its beauty. We thank you God

For the gift of our founder, Nicolas Barre and all IJ Sisters who passed on the vision and values of an IJ education to us.. We thank you God

For the gift of our food, and the farmers who grow it for us. We thank you God

For the gift of our parents and those who care for us. We thank you God

For the gift of our teachers, principal, vice-principals who help us learn in the light of our faith. We thank you God

For the gift of our faith, and the freedom to live as Jesus did. We thank you God

Leader:

Let us now add our own intentions and prayers of thanks to God, responding: Lord hear our prayer... We thank you God

Leader:

We are God's sons and daughters. With trust in God who gives us all good things, let us bring the prayers we have spoken and those still in our hearts before our Him, using the words that Jesus taught us. **Our Father ...**

OFFERTORY Let Us Be Bread

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.

1. I am the bread of life, broken for all.
Eat now and hunger no more.
One faith, one hope, one symbol of love
given to us in this one bread,
one cup. O let us be one in the Lord.

2. You are my friends if you keep my
commands,
no longer servants but friends.

3. See how my people have nothing to eat.
Give them the bread that is you.

4. As God has loved me so I have loved
you.
Go and live on in my love.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our Father, you gave us your greatest gift by sending Jesus, who showed us the way to live together in love. Through your gift of baptism, you made us one with Jesus, so that we could share in his rising from the dead and be with you forever. We thank you for all the blessings you give us. They remind us of your goodness and care. Help us to always be thankful and ready to share what you have given us, so that all people might know the everlasting love and kindness you give us in Christ. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION AND THANKSGIVING HYMNS

Hymn 1: Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words in foreign land and all will understand
You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid

I go before you always, come follow me

And I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters, in the sea, you shall not drown

If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed

If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side

Know that I am with you through it all.

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs

Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh

And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me

Blessed, blessed are you

Hymn 2: You are mine.

I will come to you in the silence

I will lift you from all your fear

You will hear My voice

I claim you as My choice

Be still and know I am here

Do not be afraid, I am with you

I have called you each by name

Come and follow me

I will bring you home

I love you and you are Mine

I am hope for all who are hopeless
I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light
Come and rest in Me. (Chorus)

I am strength for all the despairing
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame
All the blind will see, the lame will all run

Hymn 3: You Are Near

1. Yahweh, I know you are near,
standing always at my side.
You guard me from the foe,
and you lead me in ways everlasting.

Lord, you have searched my heart,
and you know when I sit and when I stand.
Your hand is upon me protecting me from
death,
keeping me from harm.

2. Where can I run from Your love?
If I climb to the heavens You are there;

free
And all will know my name (Chorus)

I am the Word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name, embracing all your
pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live.(Chorus)

If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,
still I'd find You there.

3. You know my heart and its ways,
you who formed me before I was born
in the secret of darkness before I saw the
sun
in my mother's womb.

4. Marvellous to me are Your works;
how profound are Your thoughts, my Lord.
Even if I could count them, they number as
the stars,
You would still be there.

Hymn 4: I am the Vine

I am the vine, you are the branches.
Remain in me you shall be fruitful.
Love for the world,
hope for the hopeless.

1. If you love, then you must root yourself in me;
for the branch will fail and die without the tree.

2. If you give, then you must give yourself to me;
for the well will soon run dry without the sea.

CLOSING PRAYER:

God our Father, you gave us your greatest gift by sending Jesus, who showed us the way to live together in love. We thank you for all the blessings you give us. They remind us of your goodness and care. Help us to always be thankful and ready to share what you have given us, so that all people might know the everlasting love and kindness you give us in Christ. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

Or

Almighty Father, we thank and praise you for the great love you have shown to your IJ family over the past years. Your promises have been the inspiration of our lives and our mission to our family, friends, people we meet each day and especially to those in need. May we always bear witness to our faith in you and move forward in joy, hope and fidelity to the vision of our Founder, Blessed Nicolas Barre. Amen

HYMN TO FATHER BARRE

De vos enfants exaucez la priere
Veillez sur nous O Saint Pere Barre
Choisissez-vous un essaim d'ouvriere
Par le seigneur a votre attirée
Dans l'institut conservez d'age en age
Un zele ardent, l'humilite, la foi
Le pur amour, la force et le courage
Pour observer a jamais votre loi (x2)

O hear our prayer, most holy Father Barre
We are your children, watch o'er us we pray

Touch many hearts to follow in your
footsteps
To delicate their lives to youth and poor
Drawn by the Lord to make Christ known
and loved
Fill us with zeal, humility and faith
Pure love and strength and courage without
fear
To keep your spirit alive in our hearts (x2)

HOLD ON TO OUR DREAM

IJ Spirit burning bright
Fill this world with love and light
Light that shines for all to see
Love that sets our spirits free

IJ friendships through the years
Born of simple joys and tears
Something tells us deep inside
IJ friends are friends for life

Hold on to our dream of peace
Don't stop believing
Our hearts and hands, ever seeking, ever
serving
Hold onto the sound
Of our friends all joyously singing
Our voices raised to the Lord our God
above

Hold onto our dream

IJ Spirit burning bright
Fill our hearts with love and light
Light to see ourselves anew
Love begins with me and you

IJ voices ringing true
Reaching out and breaking through
Every heart will hear our call
Share our dream of peace for all

Hold onto our dream, hold fast to the IJ
Dream
Hold onto our dream!



