



Provincialate : 4A Chestnut Drive, Singapore 679330. Tel: 67602461 website: [www.chij-sisters.org](http://www.chij-sisters.org)

## Our Founder of the IJ Mission in Singapore - Mother Mathilde



***Meet Mother Mathilde, a woman gripped by a sense of mission. Her deep faith, courage, fortitude never deserted her in her struggle to bring her dream of education for women in Singapore and Malaysia into being.***

Mother Mathilde Raclot was a woman with a vision and a deep sense of mission. She was a trail blazer. Amidst all odds and through her deep faith in God, daring courage and a belief in the dignity of every person especially girls and the disadvantaged, she was instrumental in bringing education to girls in Asia and contributed to their growth and development in their God-given talents.

### [A brief history of Mother Mathilde](#)

**[NEW → A Beacon of Compassion and Perseverance](#)**

**[NEW → Ballad based on Mother Mathilde's life](#)**

[Reading of the above ballad](#)

<https://youtu.be/weqdvoJiyZA>

**[\(with graphics and read by students of CHIJ Katong Convent](#)**



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## [A Pioneer in Education](#)

Rev. Mother Mathilde Raclot, the founder of CHIJ in Victoria Street, was selected for the inaugural list of ladies for the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, launched on Fri 14 March 2014. Its purpose is to honour women who have made or are making an impact on the nation - boundary breakers and record holders, risk-takers and change makers, role models and standard setters.

They are women who, at a time when social norms set limits on what a woman could do, pushed back the barriers and led the way for others. They were the pioneers, the pathfinders. They dared to dream and they turned their dreams into a new reality for the women of their time and the generations to come..

All of us rejoice at the recognition of her extraordinary contribution in the field of education in Singapore. It is a wonderful coincidence that this recognition comes on the bi-centenary of her birth and on the 160th anniversary of CHIJ in the year 2014!

**There are three books about her:**

[The Life of Rev Mother St Mathilde](#) by Sr St Francis de Sales

**NEW** [Biography](#) written by Sr Francis Xavier

[Where there is Darkness](#) by Fr Paul Jenkins SJ

**and 5 Booklets on Mother Mathilde**

[Booklet 1](#), A short life of Mother Mathilde Raclot, Foundress of the IJ Sisters' Missions in Asia  
From Suriauville to Departure for Asia (1814-1852)

[Booklet 2](#), Mother Mathilde Raclot From Paris to Penang (1852-1853)

[Booklet 3](#), Mother Mathilde Raclot Singapore (1853-1872)

[Booklet 4](#), **Mother Mathilde Raclot Japan (1872-1911)**

[Booklet 5](#) Mother Mathilde Raclot Fioretti

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

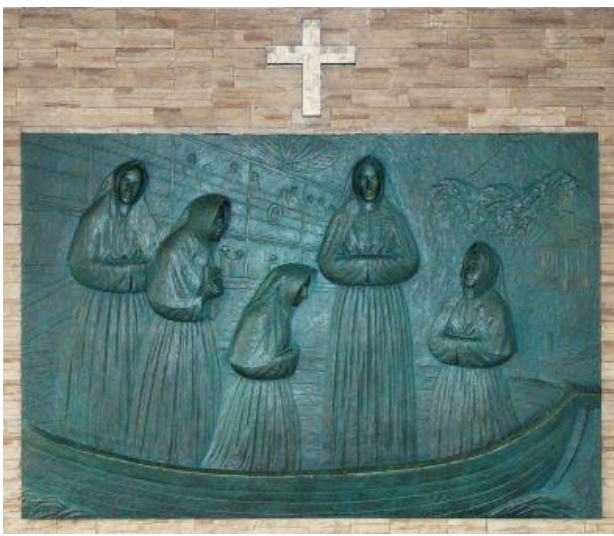


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Her [Profile](#)

➔ Her [Virtues](#)

**NEW** ➔ [Celebrating the bi-centenary of her birth](#)



Mural on wall of IJ School in Yokohama showing Mother Mathilde's arrival



At Mother Mathilde's grave in Yokohama



At the grave of deceased Foreign IJ Sisters in Yokohama

(Her grave and those of the early Sisters are cleaned every month by the staff and students of the IJ School in Yokohama.)

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## [A Prayer to God for the gift of Mother Mathilde \(at her grave in Japan\)](#)

### [A Call to serve](#)

Here is a writeup of Mother Mathilde, a pioneer of Catholic education in Singapore, and her call to serve in the East. [... read more](#)

### [Her Life](#) by Tina DeCruz