

Our Pilgrimage



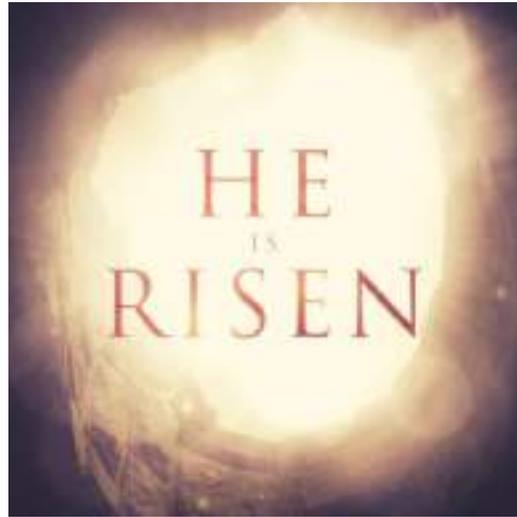
1 APRIL 2018, VOLUME 06
Easter Sunday

Alleluia! The Lord has risen!

In some ways we have experienced loss in our lives. It might have been just a loss of a sentimental ring or a loss of a greater impact like the loss of a mother. The days that followed the loss were spent in grief. Imagine the traumatic feelings the disciples had to grapple with along with the shame of having abandoned the Lord. Mary of Magdala must have loved the Lord much for despite her sorrow and loss went to do what was needed for the Lord. She visited the source of her pain – the dead Jesus only to discover something confusing had happened. She sought others for clarity about her confusion.

Out of love Mary went to the tomb. Out of love for the Lord, we too need to enter the tomb in our hearts. As Mary sought help from others, we too cannot remain in the darkness of our confusion. We who are in our pain should visit the source of our pain in order to overcome the confusion and contradictions that resides there. Only through death we believe comes new life.

The resurrection of the Lord should set us firmly in our belief that life does not end in tragedy but is a stage before new life unfolds. There is a need however to let go of the linen cloths in the tomb to leave of the tomb of sorrow and regrets. New life is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ.



Love and Adventure,
Fr. Terence Pereira

Questions for reflection:

Are you ready to allow Jesus Christ to conquer death in your life?

Are you ready for the new life with an open heart?

Are you ready for the new life that will take you to places where you least expect?

First Reading: Acts 10: 34, 37- 43
Psalm: 117 (118): 1- 2, 16- 17, 22- 23
Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1- 4
Gospel: John 20: 1-9

'Alleluia! The Lord has Risen!'



OUR LOGO

The two 'C' stand for the Christ (outer circle) encompassing the community (inner circle).

Christ Jesus is always present in his Church. The golden stylised sword represents the community rooted in the word of God ready to move as represented by the wings spread out to bring the Kerygma as represented by the cross to everyone.

- The colours are that of the Archangel
- The sword and wing represent the Archangel who is always there as our guardian.

VISION

A vibrant loving community of **disciples making disciples** for the Kingdom of God

MISSION

To Create moments of God encounters

To Form Disciples in Christ

To Nurture community spirit through the Word of God

'Whom are you Looking for?'

"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned to him and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means teacher). – John 20: 11-16

After the dramatic events of the night before, we can imagine the poor, terrified Mary Magdalene bawling her eyes out at the empty tomb, thinking that someone had carried and hidden Jesus away. There appears to be some wry humour and irony at play when Jesus and the angels ask the innocuous question, "Why are you weeping?" when obviously Mary is weeping because she is heartbroken and sad. This humour is taken up a notch when Mary thinks Jesus who is talking to her, is the gardener.

Yet, this humorous turn of events is significant, for in this very short dialogue and the very first words that Jesus says after his resurrection, is found the very story of salvation. For after the fall of Man and prior to the Lord's resurrection, creation was crying out in lamentation for it had lost sight of God and did not know God. Even as Jesus was born, the words of Jeremiah came into fruition, "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." (Matthew 2: 17- 18) It is also significant that as Jesus carries his cross, he meets the weeping women and says, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children." (Luke 23:28) Thus, it is not coincidental that the first person Jesus meets after his resurrection is a weeping woman. Recalling the words of **Isaiah 25: 8** "**Then the LORD GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth.**" This is the very thing that the Lord does. He wipes the tears away and completely redeems creation from its despair. Jesus then goes one step further and calls Mary by name, in that very act ransoming our identity as children of God who are called by name. The imagery of Jesus as gardener also speaks about the redemption, reclamation, rejuvenation, and pruning of the Garden of Eden that was closed, unkempt, and made desolate due to humanity's sin. Where Adam once was chased out of the Garden of Eden, Jesus is now the new way which will enable us to return back to paradise.



Easter is a joyous time, yet there are many times when I am exactly like Mary Magdalene. The Lord has risen yet I am still sitting outside the tomb weeping my heart out, because I do not where the Lord is, nor am I able to recognise God from my myopia. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!

This year, Easter is slightly different. I see the stirring of the Holy Spirit in my parish and this is a wave of grace. I am heartened as the community is slowly but surely revived and made alive. That concurrently as we celebrate the liturgical solemnity of Easter, there is a new revival and a new resurrection of Jesus in our hearts. This can be seen from how the community has faithfully come together to break bread after the day's Lenten fasts, how the parish has rallied together to teach and to make customised Easter candles, and how there's a new fervor due to the increase in formation and the planting of good seed for evangelisation. This indeed, is a salient reminder to me that with God's help, I am a conqueror, I am a person of Easter, and Jesus who is already present tomorrow, is already victorious over sin and death. Truly as the Lord says, "**I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.**" (Jeremiah 31:13)

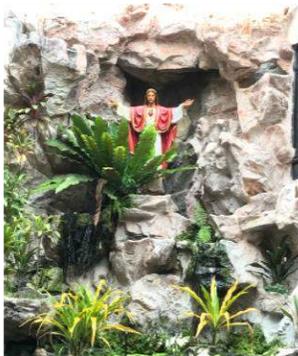
The image of Mary Magdalene recognising the Risen Lord is beautiful. It is also my prayer that filled with his Easter joy and hope, we may recognise and run to embrace him.

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

They took branches of palm and went out to receive him, shouting: 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel' – John 12:13

Just like the days of old, we waved our palm branches in remembrance of Christ's entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery. Father Terence explained the significance and solemnity of Holy Week and invited everyone to take full part in the celebration before blessing the palms. Together as one, we made our Palm Sunday procession with faith and hope in our hearts. The voices of the choir and parishioners echoed throughout the church, proclaiming Jesus as our Messiah and King.



Around the Neighbourhood



Bethany Prayer Group gathered for an annual luncheon two weekends ago at Quan Yin Yuan restaurant, where 50 members and friends of the Bethany Prayer group immersed in fellowship. Both Father Terence and Father John joined in the gathering and six birthdays were celebrated at the same time!

Bethany Prayer Group prays for the deceased and comforts families in their bereavement. Unlike other ministries, Bethany Prayer Group have many friends, who aren't members, but yet still come together to pray for souls and pray with their families

As many friends share Christ's love with those who are grieving a loved one with prayers at wakes and support at funeral masses, a special bond amongst members and friends of the Bethany Prayer Group is formed. Another special part of Bethany Prayer Group is that sometimes members of other ministries also come together to pray for the deceased.

This lunch together was an opportunity to thank everyone for their willing hands, to serve together at funerals and not forgetting the canteen too!

Raymond Quah, shares that what touches his heart is the warmth and humility that many have. And like many others, he too had encountered such moments through the different prayer sessions, wakes, funeral masses they go to together.

If you have a calling to share Jesus' love and comfort with those you meet in times of bereavement, please contact Raymond at 9007 3437 to find out more.



Sec 3 Confirmation Camp



Our L9 catechism class comprising 16 youths had their first overnight retreat for their confirmation camp at the Choice Retreat House in Jurong West from the 16 to 18 March. This is the first retreat programme organised by our parish priest, Fr Terence, together with a team of our own youths and youths from the Church of St Anthony as facilitators. The young ones had a fun time enjoying the 'Rubbish game', which was used to signify our tendency to protect our identity, resulting in use 'throwing' our baggage at others around us.

The sessions also revealed a sense of purpose, their identity as children of God to the youths, and the enormous love God has for them. There was positive feedback from their parents as they could see the a difference in their children when they returned home. Additionally, through this retreat, the youths have bonded with each other and delved deeper into their spiritual lives. As a catechist, I am heartened to see them mature spiritually in their prayer life. The youths are looking forward to the next retreat with Fr Terence from 31 August to 2 September.

By Thomas Sinnappen



Tips to better love your spouse

Have dinner together and pray together

A couple/family that eats and prays together stays together.

Prepare to love your spouse at all times

Love is more than feelings, it is a decision.

Fill your love tank for each other

Remove clutter from your lives and drop the need to think everything is important. Focus on the things/people that matter.

Love your children unconditionally

Spend time with them especially on weekends. Pope Francis encourages us to 'waste' them with our children.

Make a lot of noise together

Live, love, laugh.

Create a loving and welcoming environment for your spouse

We all want to come home to a loving spouse/family especially at the end of a busy day of work/looking after kids.

Listen to each other.

Listen to hear and taste the feelings. And be present as you listen. One of the biggest communication problems today is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.

Make each evening special

It is a sacred time to be enjoyed with both, by both. Share what you are grateful for and give Thanks.

#CoupleGoals #FamilyGoals

The home is the domestic Church. Every home is called to become a 'domestic church' in which family life is centred on the lordship of Christ and the love of husband and wife mirrors the mystery of Christ's love for the Church, his bride – Pope Benedict XVI (7 Feb 2007).

Tips inspired by Love, Daily Lessons from God and Worldwide Marriage Encounter Singapore



I have found the one whom my soul loves

- Song of Solomon 3:4

Speak Lord, let me hear your voice

I am a wonderfully-made special child of God and an Alleluia person!

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have no known.” – Jeremiah 33:3

My soul had been thirsting for the longest time to be still and hear God’s voice. I had heard that still, small voice once, more than 20 years ago at a Sr Briege McKenna rally, and since then have been yearning to hear it again. But the constant distractions and noise externally and internally have been an insurmountable obstacle. ***“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” – Hebrews 2:1***

The Adoration Room has been my go-to place the last few years where I often sought solace and healing. However, it had been a challenge to be calm, still and collected. I finally made the decision to stop working nine months ago so I could concentrate on devoting myself to the Lord’s calling. But still the chatter in my mind persisted, and I found myself losing the battle. I knew that the temple of my body, especially my mind, needed to be cleansed but I did not know how. At the Watchman Retreat, the four days of silence and solitude gave me the chance to focus my thoughts, absorb spiritual food, and finally break and re-order the pattern of my life. ***“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” – John 10:27***

I’m trying practise what I learnt at the retreat about being pre-occupied with thoughts of God throughout the day. Our thoughts will pass, but not God’s Word. Every time I sin, it breaks God’s heart. So I need to be focused on glorifying the Lord in all my thoughts and actions throughout the day. “

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” – Luke 11:28

Sometimes I read scripture before the Blessed Sacrament, but I mostly remain silent waiting upon the Lord. I nearly always come away feeling a deep sense of peace. I realise that even though there are times when I do not hear anything during my time of adoration, the answers will come later. When I was besieged by an illness, I chose to spend time in His presence, allowing His healing touch to heal me.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” – Romans 10:17 I learnt that the best time to offer our requests was during the Doxology. After receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, I thank Him for residing in me. I am in awe of the majesty of our Lord and humbled by the magnitude of His all-embracing love for me. I want to spend more time with Him in the Blessed Sacrament and intercede for others.



“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” – Romans 8:16

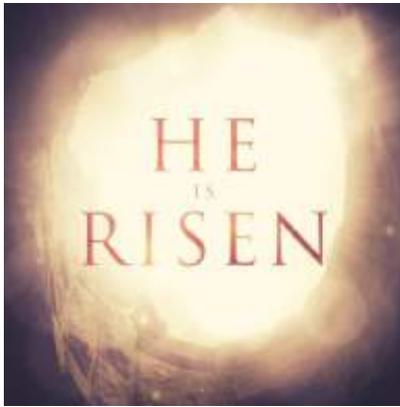
At the retreat, I learnt that angels will help us wait upon Him. I will ask them to intercede for me. I have felt drawn to join the cenacle with Mary in the Upper Room to pray for the 2nd Pentecost, and also to be like Mary (Martha’s sister), just sitting at His feet. With angels and holy souls present wherever the Blessed Sacrament is, I feel I am part of a larger holy community.

By Mary Pierre

Have you encountered God in your daily walk with Him? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email at esm.camms@catholic.org.sg

Easter Message

Fr. Terence and Fr. John, and Staff of
Church of St Michael wish all Parishioners
a Blessed and Happy Easter!



Welcome to the Family!

Let us welcome our mandarin RCIA Elects
John Chen and John Ang,
who will be baptized this Easter Sunday!
Let us pray for them to feel the power of the Holy Spirit in
their lives!

Upcoming Events in the Parish

8 Days of Easter Celebrations

As a parish, we will be celebrating Easter for 8 days as in the Liturgical Calendar. Do join us as we continue to share the joy and renewal of Easter. Everyone is invited!

Day 1	Sun, 1 Apr	11.30am	Symbols of Easter
Day 2	Mon, 2 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Life
Day 3	Tue, 3 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Joy
Day 4	Wed, 4 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Liberation
Day 5	Thu, 5 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Redemption
Day 6	Fri, 6 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Salvation
Day 7	Sat, 7 Apr	7.30pm	Renewed Community
Day 8	Sun, 8 Apr	11.30am	Renewed Vigour

Family Camp - 7 to 10 June

Please register at the parish office for this coming week if you have decided to sign up but we will be back at our registration booth on weekend of 7 and 8 April. So do come, talk to us and sign up. It is getting filled up real fast!

Parish Collection

Sunday Eucharist: \$6,946.50
Income: \$61,227.10
Expenditure: \$41,825.20

Celebrant Schedule

***New timing: Sunday Eucharist is now at 10 am**

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
7 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
8 Apr	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
8 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
14 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
15 Apr	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
15 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John

Archdiocese News

SJI Open House - 14 April

The open house is for current Primary 6 boys and their parents, from 9am to 1pm. Admission to the event is by registration only at www.sji.edu.sg. (Due to the limited parking spaces available within the school, the SJI carpark will be closed to public. All visitors are encouraged to commute to SJI via public transport)

He Loves me, He Loves me not: A weekend Retreat - 20 to 22 April

Is God's love for you in your head or your heart? This retreat helps you to grow in the conviction of God's love. Examine images of self and God, and become more aware of any obstacles to God's love, so that you can free yourself to fall in love with God. Presented by Spiritual directors at Montfort Centre.
Cost: \$300

Details / Register: anthony@montfortcentre.org or contact 96311943 (by 13 April)

Family Camp- 31 May to 3 June

Spend some time away with your family to encounter God in each other. Sessions for children, teenagers, and adults. Camp Master: Rev Fr Terence Pereira, Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation. Register at: www.one.org.sg/events

Theme: Love or Lost?

Venue: Batam View Beach Resort

Cost: \$350 per Adult / Teen, \$200 per Child (incl. accommodation, meals, transport)

Organised by: Archdiocesan Commission for the Family and Office for the New Evangelisation

FINAL AWAKEN #15 - 14 to 17 June

Calling Catholic Young Adults between 18 to 25 years!

A young adults conversion experience retreat conducted by Archbishop William Goh. Encounter the deep love of God for you at AWAKEN #15. Not just any love, but a love that's unconditional.

Ballot Registration: 14th April, Saturday at 10am at Catholic Spirituality Centre (CSC)

Address: 1261 Upper Serangoon Road Singapore 534796

(Doors open at 9.30am and close at 10.00am sharp for balloting)

Eucharistic Celebration

Opening Hours

Weekend Eucharist

Sat Sunset:

5.30 pm

Sun: 8 am (M), 10 am, 5.30 pm

Confession: 30 mins before masses

Weekday Eucharist

Mon-Fri:

6.30 am & 6 pm

Sat: 6.30 am

Eucharist on Public Holidays

7.30 am only

Holy Hour

7.30 pm, 1st Fri of the month only.

Followed by Eucharist at 8.30 pm (except during the period of Lent)

Parish Office

Mon-Fri:

8.30 am - 5 pm

Sat: 8.30 am - 11 am

Sun: Closed

Adoration Room

Daily: 7 am - 10 pm

Columbarium

Daily: 7 am - 7 pm

Prayers: every 3rd Sun of the month only.

9 am (M) & 11.30 am * (E)

*New Timing

Canteen

Sun: 7 am - 12 pm

Parish Directory

Main: 6291 9272 Parish Secretariat (ext 1) Email : esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Parish Priest: Fr. Terence Pereira (ext 6)

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. John Van Dich MEP (ext 5)