

Our Pilgrimage



21st Oct 2018, VOLUME 35
29th Ordinary Sunday

There are a number of people who want to be the first in everything. Being the best we can be is always good but when this becomes a competition, a means of showing that one is better than others, it does become questionable. We try to do our best and become the best we can be only because we want to be thankful to God our Father who has gifted us. What we are is a gift from God our Father and what we make of ourselves is a gift to our Father in heaven. We strive for the best for Him and for the well being of others. There is no place for selfishness in this striving. There is no place for pride in this pursuit.

Whatever the reason(s) that the brothers made their request is not known. We can only infer from the text. That would be for another article. However one cannot overlook the boldness that they had in making the request, "We want you to do us a favour."

The favour requested was based on a self-centered ambition and it comes on the heels of Jesus telling them for the third time that he was going to suffer grievously at the hands of the pagans. Their focus was obviously on after Jesus is no longer with them. Does this apply to our lives today? To some, Jesus is gone. He is no longer around and so it is 'me' time and 'me' focus. The gifts that we have are then used for an end to which they were not intended for. The gifts were given for us to grow in holiness, given for the good of the community. The gifts that we have are never meant for our own glory.

Love and Adventure,
Fr. Terence Pereira



Questions for reflection:

What are the gifts that I have? Am I aware of them?

Do I use the gifts that I have for the glory of God our Father?

Is the use of my gifts leading me to holiness?

First Reading: Isa 53: 10-11
Responsorial Psalm:
Ps 32 (33): 4-5, 18-20, 22
Second Reading: He 4: 14-16
Gospel: Mk 10: 35 -45

*For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many*

mark 10:45



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

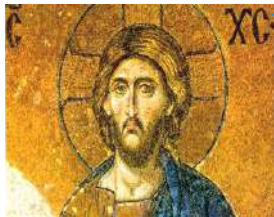
MISSION

To Create moments of God encounters

To Form Disciples in Christ

To Nurture community spirit through the Word of God

A Short History of the Church I



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar (A.D 14 - 37), Jesus begins his ministry to the people of Galilee, then to Palestine.

A.D. 30

A.D. 33

Jesus is delivered into the hands of the Romans to be crucified.



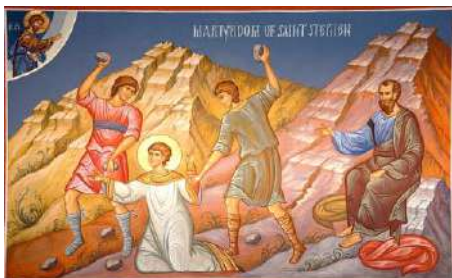
First Persecution

Peter and John are summoned before the Great Council and forbidden to preach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4).



First Christian Community in Jerusalem

The founding of the Church was completed on Pentecost Day. 3000 people are baptised. The number grows to 5000 in a few days. The Solemnity of Pentecost is thus the birthday of the Church.



St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr

St. Stephen becomes the first martyr when Pharisaic zealots seized and brought him before the Sanhedrin on the charge of speaking against the temple and the law. Without the formality of trial, his persecutors dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Saul was the one who stood guard over the persecutors' garments as they stoned Stephen. This begins a series of Jewish persecutions.

A.D. 33 - 36



Saul on his mission to Damascus to persecute Christians is converted by Jesus who appears and speaks to him. He becomes Paul and spends 3 years in Arabia.

After Stephen's martyrdom, Philip brings the Good News to Samaria. Simon Magus becomes the first Pagan convert (Acts 8).



Unstoppable Love

“Are you free to go to the Novena Youth Rally with me?”

“Okay!!” *[inserts emoticon]* I replied.

I am still surprised at how I replied that text message so spontaneously. I am one who spends much time deliberating before coming to any decision, but I am grateful for “losing that rationality” momentarily, to send that message across.

During the rally, there was a sharing that struck me the most. Her sharing went like this: “I was a very confident and adventurous girl since young. However, things began to change when I hit puberty at 11 years old. My body changed and my classmates started calling me names because I looked different from them. I was insecure. I hated myself. I was eager to enter secondary school because I looked forward to a fresh beginning for me. Fortunately, I was blessed and people around me started to shower me with compliments and love. However, I took it for granted and I started victimising a particular classmate. I thought it was cool to single a person out for cruel treatment. I forced her to queue for my food and carry my books from the locker...”

“I saw her a few years later and when I called her name, she looked at me straight in the eye...And turned away.”

We can never imagine how painful it is to be a victim of bullying. We may not always realise that we have caused distress to others. However, our seemingly trivial actions or even failure to help the vulnerable can cause grievous suffering to the victims. We have to keep in mind that everyone is a special child of God, created by Him in His image and likeness. Each and every single one of us is in no position to discriminate against another.

Instead, we should love, especially those who are the hardest to love.

“Love is patient, kind, without envy. It is not boastful or arrogant. It is not ill-mannered, nor does it seek its own interest. Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. It does not take the delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Father had also shared that there are 3 types of love: “If you love me” type, “because of” type and “in spite of” type.

“If you love me, you would ...”

“I love you because you are *beautiful*.”

“In spite of..., I still love you.”

Nowadays, we are becoming accustomed to the “If you love me” and “because of” types of love. We should perhaps start to shower the “In spite of” type of love to the people around us. Loving people without expecting anything in return and accepting them for who they are, just like how God loves us. We are all beloved children of God and He loves us so much that no matter how many times we have pushed Him away, He has never abandoned us.

While we are receiving an overwhelming amount of love from God, our family and friends, let us also do small things with great love for others.

“The biggest disease today,” Mother Teresa once said, “is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one’s neighbour who lives at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease.”

By Rebecca Tan

The Abundant Life

What is an Abundant life? It's a term used to refer to the fullness of life. If you had asked me a couple years ago before I converted to Catholicism, I would have told you, "YOLO" (*You Only Live Once*). Be happy, do what you please as self-happiness is more important than anything else. That was what fullness of life was to me then.

In this worldly pursuit of life, a good life is usually defined by owning your own home, having a car, and by nice vacations. Sometimes we see pictures on Instagram with an influencer seated in 1st class on Singapore Airlines heading to Iceland or New York with her Birkin Bag and we go, What a nice life! We would indeed like to live vicariously through them. A lot of us have achieved "the good life" but have we missed the abundant life that Jesus has promised to all who follow him?

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

The Abundant life that Jesus promised has nothing to do with collecting more stuff. It has everything to do with being right with God, through faith in Christ.

We need to understand that we will not always receive material blessings and yet we can still be blessed and live an abundant life in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Abundant life is not what we have or what we get. Ultimately, its about what we receive as a gift from the Lord and to live knowing we are the stewards of the blessings of God.

Jesus gives us the fruit of the Spirit and this is the abundant life.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" **Galatians 5:22-23**

An abundant life is one that keeps on giving.

God created us to want more, but which kind of "more" will we seek? Abundance in worldly pursuits or an Abundant Life in Christ? The more we desire God, the more abundant our life will be.



By Kelly Gabrielle Lob

Feed my Sheep



Luke 21: 1-4

“When he looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, ‘I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.’”

The city of Yiwu, 300km away from the South of Shanghai, is known as Santa’s Village, for sixty percent of the world’s Christmas decorations are made there. Yet for the “jolly elves” who labour for 12 hours a day for a maximum of £200 to £300 a month, the meaning of Christmas is without irony, quite lost to them. (Oliver Wainwright, *The Guardian* 19 Dec 2014)

Closer home, when we look at the splendid architectural forms of the Marina Bay Sands, rising up from the depths of the ocean, or the climate-controlled Flower Dome of the Gardens by the Bay, or the glitz and glamour of Orchard Road, it may be difficult to imagine that there exist in Singapore, persons and families who may not necessarily fit into the narrative of cosmopolitan affluence.

In a series of surveys conducted by the Ministry of Social and Family Development, it was discovered that as of 2017, there were 700 youth and children residing in welfare homes and shelters (18 May 2018). In the years 2011 to 2013, 565 individuals and 404 families were found camping on the beaches as they had no home to go back to (20 Jan 2014). In 2013 alone, 79333 individuals and 41036 unique households were documented as the needy who had received some sort of aid, not withstanding those who were undocumented and fell through the cracks (3 Nov 2014).

In Psalm 34:6 “This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him.” The Church has always been sensitive to this cry. The service of the poor and needy is what a disciple of Jesus is called to do. The early Christians for example, rallied together, “sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:45) (Pope Francis, First World Day of the Poor. 13 Jun 2-17)

However, there are instances, when charitable good works become a mere ostentatious show of wealth, or a performance of kindness and giving. There are other instances, where Christian employers justify with religion, incredulously low wages and terribly long working hours for their employees – that they are doing God’s work and should not expect remuneration. Thus conveniently forgetting that labourers in the vineyard have monthly bills to pay and families to provide for as well.

It may be worthwhile at this juncture to consider our patterns of giving and supposed good works. How many times have we given to the poor and the needy the things that we ourselves would not want? When we look into the donation bins of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, how many things do we see, that are old, stained, tattered, or broken? How many times have we not provided a fair and dignified wage for those under our employment? How many times have we walked passed that tissue paper seller outside church, while averting our eyes and pretending not to see him or her?

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

“Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Praying the Divine Office

I was introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office when I first attended the Archdiocesan Vocations Retreat in 2015. The seminarians would gather in the chapel in the morning to pray Lauds and in the evening for Vespers and as a sung call-and-response ensued as the psalms were prayed, I thought to myself that this is what heaven must sound like. The Seminarian Bro. Simon also patiently explained that the Divine Office was a means for the Universal Church to be praying at all times, for as one side of the globe was praying Vespers, the other, would be praying Lauds, thus resulting in a continuous cycle of global prayer. According to USCCB, “The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God (*Opus Dei*), is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer. At times the dialogue is between the Church or individual soul and God; at times it is a dialogue among the members of the Church; and at times it is even between the Church and the world.”

However, it was only during my observership at the Cistercian Monastery of Tarrawarra, Melbourne that I fully began to see the beauty of the Liturgy of the Hours – to enable a person to pray without ceasing, as Psalm 118 (119): 164 says, “Seven times I praise you.” The monks at Tarrawarra pray the full 7 hours and inter-disperse the time between with meals, work on the farm, or at the Eucharistic Breads Department, and formation.

“The purpose of the Divine Office is to sanctify the day and all human activity.”

– *Apostolic Constitution, Canticum Laudis*



At Tarrawarra Abbey, the Liturgy of the Hours is prayed at the following times :

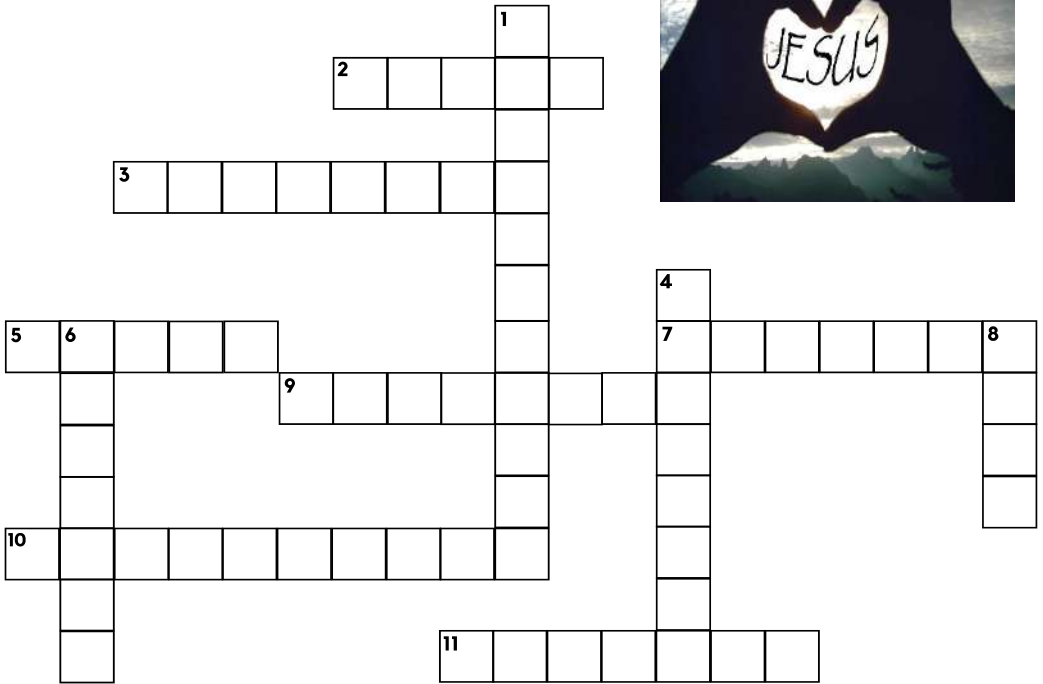
- The Office of Readings or Vigils: prayed at 4am.
- Morning Prayer or Lauds: prayed at 6am (or the start of the day’s work and the dawning of light).
- Mid-Morning Prayer or Terce: prayed at 8am (the hour too which marked the end of the Grand Silence that was observed from after Compline to Terce).
- Mid-Day Prayer or Sext: Prayed at 11.15am
- Afternoon Prayer or None: Prayed at 1.40pm. The day prayers unite us with God who created us.
- Evening Prayer or Vespers: Prayed at 6pm, at the end of the day to offer the work that has been done to God.
- Night Prayer or Compline: Prayed at 8pm to commend our souls to God and the protection of our Blessed Mother Mary.

As Universalis.com exhorts, “The Liturgy of the Hours is the richest single prayer resource of the Christian Church, with prayers, psalms and readings for each of the Hours, changing each day and through the seasons.” May I invite you to pray this beautiful prayer with me! The prayers may be found at:

<http://www.universalis.com/index.htm>

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Know your Scripture Crossword



ACROSS

- 2** "O _____ and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man that takes refuge in him!" - *Psalms 34:8*
- 3** "Do not be _____ by evil, but _____ evil with good." - *Romans 12:21*
- 5** "Man shall not live on _____ alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." - *Matthew 4:4*
- 7** "But the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to _____ life." - *John 4:14*
- 9** "The Lord is my _____, I shall not want." - *Psalms 23:1*
- 10** "And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been _____ over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God." - *Revelation 15:2*
- 11** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven." - *Matthew 5:3*

DOWN

- 1** "I can do all things through Christ who _____ me." - *Philippians 4:13*
- 4** "Do not fear, for I have _____ you; I have called you by name; you are mine!" - *Isaiah 43:1*
- 6** "This is the day the Lord has made, let us _____ and be glad in it." - *Psalms 118:24*
- 8** "Thy word is a _____ unto my feet and a light unto my path." - *Psalms 119:105*

Notice

Mission Sunday Collections (20 - 21 Oct, Sat & Sun)

Please be informed that the collections taken at all Eucharists on the weekend of 20-21 October 2018 will be for the spread of the Gospel.

Weddings in Church of St Michael

Those who desire to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Church of St Michael will have to book their wedding dates one year in advance. The booking will be confirmed only when the necessary documents are signed.

Infant Baptism

1st Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, December

Parish Collection

Sunday Eucharist Collection: \$ 5,960.00

Celebrant Schedule

| Date | Eucharistic Celebration | Celebrant | Preacher |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 20 Oct | 5.30 pm | Fr. John | Fr. John |
| 21 Oct | 10 am | Fr. John | Fr. John |
| 21 Oct | 5.30 pm | Fr. John | Fr. John |
| 27 Oct | 5.30 pm | Fr. John | Fr. John |
| 28 Oct | 10 am | Fr. John | Fr. John |
| 28 Oct | 5.30 pm | Fr. John | Fr. John |

Eucharistic Celebration

Opening Hours

Weekend Eucharist

Sat Sunset: 5.30 pm

Sun: 8 am (M), 10 am, 5.30 pm
Confession: 30 mins before EC

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)

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)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

We are located at: 17 St Michael's Rd, Singapore 327976

Events in the Parish

Lumen Gentium Part II – 26 Oct, Friday

Delve deeper into the Vatican II documents in this second part series
Venue: Worship Hall Time: 8pm

3rd High Tea for Seniors – 27 Oct, Saturday

Happy to welcome our seniors for another session of high tea and a fun time!
Time: 3 - 5pm Venue: Foyer
Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

O What A Night! – 5 Nov, Monday (Eve of Deepavali)

Enjoy the fellowship and fun with games and laughter. Bring your picnic basket with your family and friends. Transport provided.
Time: 6.30 - 10pm Venue: Toa Payoh Town Park (back by popular demand)
Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

St Mike's Games and Fun Day – 6 Nov, Tuesday

Fingers itchy? Toes twitching? Come join us for a fun day of indoor games and activities as we come together as a community this public holiday on 6 November. We will be commencing with free breakfast after the 7.30am Eucharistic Celebration.
Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

Parish News

Comms Ministry Recruitment Drive – 27 and 28 Oct, Saturday and Sunday

Lord, I am ready to Share Your Word, Share my Talent, and to Share my Story!
Be a contributor – share together as we come together as a community this public holiday on 6 November. We will be commencing with free breakfast after the 7.30am Eucharistic Celebration. Enquire: at the Comms booth before and after all Eucharistic Celebrations next weekend or email us: esm.comms@catholic.org.sg

Who's keeping our Church Spick n Span?

We need volunteers to help us on a regular basis to clean the church premises on a regular basis. No skills needed, just willing hands ☺
Contact: Parish Admin Office 6291 9272 or esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

RCIA Journey (English) - Begins 25 Oct, Thursday

A new process will begin. Do speak to your non-baptised friends and bring them to RCIA.

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)

1 Nov, Thursday Time: 6.30am and 8pm

31 Oct, Wednesday (Vigil) Time: 8pm

There will not be 6pm Eucharistic Celebrations on both days

Holy Hour – 2 Nov, Friday

Time: 7pm

All Souls' Day (Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed)

2 Nov, Friday Time: 6.30am and 8pm

(There will be the blessing of niches after the 8pm EC)

There will not be 6pm Eucharistic Celebration on this day

First Holy Communion – 3 Nov, Saturday

Please pray for our Level 3 children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion at the 5.30pm Eucharistic Celebration

Archdiocesan News

GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness)

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT campaign. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the Parish Admin Office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese.

More info is available at: gift.catholicfoundation.sg

Bridging Faith and Life in a Digital World – 4 and 5 Nov, Sunday and Monday

Sr Rose Pacatte and Sr Nancy Usselman, two Daughters of St Paul from the USA, are presenting workshops in the evenings at Cana, the Catholic Centre. Topics include Media Literacy and Mindfulness for the New Evangelisation, Digital Discipleship, Meeting Jesus and Growing in Faith at the Movies. More details at paulines.org.sg Open to all.
Cost: Love offering. Register: paulineseventsSG@gmail.com or Whatsapp 8505 9746