

# Our Pilgrimage



13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019, VOLUME 47  
The Baptism of the Lord



[StMichael.catholic.sg](http://StMichael.catholic.sg)



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

## Liturgical Reflection

Today we mark the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time in the church.

John the Baptist was not the one who introduced baptism for the first time. The Jewish were used to baptism, but they did not submit to it. Baptism was an initiation rite for the pagan converts to Judaism from other faiths.

John clearly states that he is not the Messiah, but only the forerunner, the herald of Jesus' coming. He is ***"not fit to undo the strap of the sandals of the one who is coming"***. Undoing sandals was something only slaves did. John felt that, in Jesus' case, he was not even worthy of being a slave of the messiah.

John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins, as it still is today. Jesus had no sins. He was perfect - the sinless one. Why would he come to be baptized? Jesus baptism was to show his union with man and to show the need for man to repent. Jesus stepped forward at his baptism to identify himself with sinners.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. That is what Jesus came to do. He identified himself with sinners and our sin, by carrying their sins in order that our sins might be forgiven. Jesus was the sin bearer - and began his march to the cross there on the banks of the Jordan River. Even though he would not reach the cross for another 3 ½ years, he began to carry our sins.

[Continued on P2]

*'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'*

*Luke 3:15*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30

**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 3:15-16,21-22



### 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

# Liturgical Reflection (con't)

Jesus's baptism by John was a special moment – God appeared in three persons (*The Holy Trinity*). The Father in the form of the voice from heaven, The Son - Jesus, and The Holy Spirit in the form of the Dove. After Jesus was baptized he appeared publicly and preached to the people of Israel of their need for repentance as salvation was being offered to them.

What love Jesus has for you and me that he would leave his throne in heaven, where he had the greatest esteemed identity in the world – King of kings and Lord of lords, God Almighty! Jesus emptied himself and came down in human flesh, so that he, the holy God, would identify himself with sinners and live among us and teach us, in order to save us from our sinfulness.

What about our baptism in the Lord? As a baptized member of His Church, what are my commitments to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior? How do we conduct ourselves in the affairs of our community? Have we been inclusive or exclusive in our ways?

In Baptism, we celebrate our entry into the family of God, with God the Father as source of life, Jesus as our redeemer, and the Spirit as the one who communicates God's life to us and guides us in our lives as followers of Jesus.

As Baptism was an important moment for Jesus, so is our own baptism a very important moment in our lives because we enter into a new relation with God as our Father, the source of our life, with Jesus our redeemer and with the Spirit of God who will guide us in our lives as he guided Jesus.




*Do you want to become a more effective instrument of the Gospel of peace, mercy and righteousness?*

*Do you hear the calling of Pope Francis encouraging us to be missionary disciples of the joy of the Gospel (the Gospel is Jesus Christ himself, crucified and risen, who fills us with the fire of the Holy Spirit.*

*In His Service,  
Jackie Long & Terry Yee*

## EUCHARIST EXPLAINED



SUNDAY  
13 JAN 2019  
12.15PM TO 5PM  
WORSHIP HALL  
CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

COME AND UNDERSTAND  
THE SIGNS AND  
GESTURES OF THE  
EUCHARIST.

*Lunch/Refreshments will be provided.*

# The Three Trees

A popular children's tale tells us how there were three trees in a forest. These trees had bold dreams. The first dreamt of becoming a treasure chest holding gold and jewels, the second dreamt of becoming a great ship carrying kings and queens across the oceans, the third dreamt of becoming the tallest tree in the world, pointing towards the sky, that all may look up and contemplate God.

Many years went by, and the woodcutters came by. The trees were ecstatic as they thought that their dreams would surely come to fruition. The first was chopped up and was made into a trough to hold animal feed and hay. It was placed in a barn. The second was brought to a ship yard, but instead of being made into a magnificent ship was made into a humble fishing boat. The third, was left forgotten in a pile of timber. More years passed by and the trees lost all hope of ever having their dreams come true.

One quiet night, an intense beam of starlight shone unto the feeding trough as a woman and a man placed a child into it to rest. Angelic voices were heard heralding the new born, and the first tree knew that it carried the greatest treasure in the world.

One day, some men boarded a fishing boat and sailed out into the deep. One of them fell asleep on the deck. Suddenly, a tremendous storm arose and nearly capsized the boat. The burly men cried out in fear. Then the sleeping man awoke, and stretching out His hand to the water, said, "Be still!" and the rolling tempest quelled. The tree then knew it was carrying the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

The tree that was lying forgotten in a pile of timber, was yanked rudely from its slumber. Some soldiers fastened ropes to it and made a man carry it all the way to the top of a hill.

At the top of a hill, the man was nailed to the third tree, and died. After the third day, however, the stone of the man's grave rolled away and everything changed. The tree then knew that it had carried Jesus who died and he rose from the dead, so as to bring salvation to humanity. It would thus forever be a sign of God's love as all of Mankind gaze upon it.

In the end, when the trees had long but forgotten their dreams, the dreams of the three trees came into being, but not in the manner which they expected.

We will never know God's plans for us, but that dream that we have, has been planted in our hearts for a reason. Far beyond our wildest hopes and expectations, it is the LORD God who will perfect this dream in us in the right time and the right season.

**What is the dream which God has planted in your heart?**

*“For God does speak, once, even twice, though you do not see it: In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon mortals, as they slumber in their beds.”*  
— Job 33: 14-15



# Thank You Jesus

Check out all the photos on the website!

[www.stmichael.catholic.sg](http://www.stmichael.catholic.sg)



As missionary disciples of Jesus, we are called to bring Jesus to everyone and that's what our jolly band of CSM carollers did! Our Neighbourhood Christian Communities (NCC) and parishioners belted Christian songs and danced through lobbies and homes in different estates around our neighbourhood. The joy of Christ our saviour being born was definitely heard and seen through Potong Pasir, Whampoa East, St George's, St Francis, Jalan Bahagia! On another day in the heart of the Christmas Octave, we sang hymns and danced to the joy of the Lord at the Seniors Hi-Tea! We thank the Lord for the many new friends we made in this time together and couples who came to spend time with others in the CSM family.



*By: Julianne Danielle Lim  
Credit: contributing photographers,  
Henry Seah & Josephine Heng*



# Thank You Jesus

Check out all the photos on the website!  
[www.stmichael.catholic.sg](http://www.stmichael.catholic.sg)



In this never-before-done approach to celebrating New Year's Eve, we started the early evening by giving thanks with songs of praise and worship to God our Father with a grateful heart for 2018. I could not help but feel moved to tears, as I looked through the camera lens and recollected how far we have come as a CSM community in the last one year.

One could also feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving gently in the worship hall, as Father Terence led how we can rely more on

Jesus and less on ourselves. As he shared a few of the 22 love letters Witten to Jesus by parishioners, many wrote that they had never written letters like this before and yet, still persevered. Our hearts were full of appreciation of the amazing grace bestowed by the time it was adoration. The reverence and honour being in God's presence peaked at the doxology, as we counted down the last few seconds of 2018 and into a 2019. God makes EVERYTHING brand new!

*Written & Photographed by Julianne Danielle Lim  
Credit: Isaac Lee, contributing photographer*

**Primary 1 Catechism Registration**

Last days to register your child this weekend before classes begin on 20 Jan!

Saturdays: 4.30pm to 7pm

Sundays: 9.30am to 12noon

For enquiries, email

[thomassinnappen@hotmail.com](mailto:thomassinnappen@hotmail.com)

Starting dates for Catechism Classes:

- **Primary 1 to 6:** 20 Jan 2019

Time: 8am to 9.30am

- **Sec 1 to 4:** 19 Jan 2019

Time: 3pm to 5pm

*Infant Baptism 2019*

**Infant Baptism will take place on:**

Ist Sat of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep & Oct

**Preparatory Session for 2 February**

**Infant Baptism: 26 Jan, Sat @ 1.30pm**

To prepare for your infant's baptism on 2 Feb @ 4pm, please register with the Parish Admin Office by 21 Jan.

**Registration of Pregnant Mothers**

Moving forward, there are some changes to infant baptism. To help families prepare early for their baby's baptism, we invite pregnant mothers in their third trimester in January to register with the Parish Admin Office. We shall be in touch on the preparatory sessions. Please email to [esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

**Burning Bush – 20 Jan, Sun**

A process where participants will deepen their understanding of their baptismal calling. Come and learn to walk as a disciple of the Lord and to live our lives according to the Word of God.

**Time:** 2pm to 5pm

**Venue:** St Thomas Room

Register: [esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

**Presentation of the Lord – 2 Feb, Sat**

There will be blessing of candles at the 6.30am Eucharistic Celebration.

You may bring your own candles for the blessing.



**Chinese New Year (CNY)**

**Eucharistic Celebration Schedule**

- **4 Feb (Eve of CNY)**

There will be no 6pm Eucharistic Celebration

- **5 Feb**

8am (Mandarin)  
10am & 5.30pm (English)

- **6 Feb**

7.30am (English)

**CSM Seniors Club**

It's one more month to the start of our CSM seniors club! Join us!!

**Date:** 12 Feb, Tue

**Time:** 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Come and be part of the action

**'Someone is coming who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'**

**Luke 3:16**

**EVENING BREW**  
**18 JAN, FRI**



Relax with drinks & get answers to any aspect of our faith and practices.

Do send in your questions to [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

**Time:** 7.30pm to 10pm

**Venue:** Outside St Michael's Room

**Parish Retreat**  
**@ Majodi Johor Bahru**

**Date:**  
**1st to 3rd Mar 2019**

**Cost:**  
**\$50 per person**

**Registration will start**  
**on 20 Jan 2019**



**Rite of Christian Initiation**  
**of Adults**

The **Rite of Acceptance** to the order of Catechumens and Reception of Candidates into Full Communion with the Catholic Church will be held on:

**Date:** 26 Jan 2019, Saturday

**Time:** 5.30pm during the Eucharistic Celebration.

At the Rite of Acceptance, inquirers who have been undergoing a period of searching will declare their intention to know God and to be with Him. Baptised Christians will declare their intention to seek full communion with the Catholic Church.

**Please pray for our inquirers and candidates, and all who are involved in the RCIA process.**



**Holy Hour**

1 Feb, Fri at 7.30pm  
Eucharistic Celebration  
at 8.30pm

**Weddings at 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.

*Parish Collection*

Weekend Collection	\$5425.30
For the Poor	\$6082.80

*Celebrant Schedule*

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
12 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
13 Jan	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
13 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence
19 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
20 Jan	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
20 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence

*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, **1<sup>st</sup> 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** of the month only.  
 9 am (M) & 11.30 am (E)

**Canteen**  
 Sun: 7 am - 12 pm

*(M): Mandarin; (E) English*

*Contact Us*

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1),

Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email : [esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

Parish Priest: Fr. Terence Pereira (ext. 6)

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

We are at: **17 St Michael's Road, Singapore 327976**

**GIFT Collection**

Next weekend, 19 & 20 Jan, there will be a 2nd collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with support for the numerous archdiocesan organisations. More info is available at [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg).

**Catholic Junior College (CJC)**

**Open House 2019**

**Date:** 15 Jan 2019, Tuesday

**Time:** 10am to 4pm

**Address:** 129 Whitley Road, S. 297822  
 2-way shuttle: Caldecott MRT and CJC

**St Joseph's Institution (SJI)**

**Open House 2019 – IB Diploma**

**Date:** 15 Jan 2019, Tuesday

**Time:** 9am to 3pm

**Address:** 38 Malcolm Road, S. 308274  
 Visit [www.sji.edu.sg](http://www.sji.edu.sg) for more info.

**CNY Elderly Visitation**

**by St Raphael Singles**

**Date:** 9 Feb 2019, Saturday

**Time:** 1.30pm to 5.30pm

**Purpose:** To buy non-sugary groceries for the elderly, and to fellowship with participants.

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stRalph/>

**Email** [StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com](mailto:StRaphaelSingles@gmail.com) to confirm your participation