

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStmichaelsG

10th Feb 2019, VOLUME 51
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

Liturgical Reflection

Today's gospel passage gives us an idea of the call to discipleship. Faith and obedience are essentials in this apostolate. Jesus was at the Sea of Galilee preaching to a large crowd who did not leave him enough room to preach. He got into Simon's fishing boat and continued preaching to the crowd. Why did He choose Simon's boat?

Let's look at Simon's day. After a long night of fishing, the fishermen had nothing to show for their all their work. They were tired from all the physical work. Fishermen on the Sea of Galilee used nets, often bell-shaped with lead weights around the edges. The net would be thrown flat onto the water, and the lead weights would cause the nets to sink around the fish. Then the fishermen would pull on a cord, drawing the net around the fish. The nets have to be kept in really good condition.

They had to be washed to remove the weeds and dirt. They had to be mended if they were torn or broken. It had not been a good day for Simon and his companions. However Jesus had other plans. When He finished preaching to the crowd on the boat, he told Simon to pull out to deep water and to put down the nets for a catch. Simon's first response to our Lord was to tell Him that they had been working all night and had caught nothing. The night hours were their normal time of fishing. He must be wondering what was the point of fishing by day when the night produced no fish at all. However, Simon's surprising response to Jesus, "but if you say so, I will put out the nets" tells us a story of how Jesus enlists Simon as a helper in the spread of His kingdom.

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*'Put out into deep water and
lower your nets for a catch'*

Luke 5:4

First Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-2, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 137 (138): 1-5, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11



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 (cont)

Although they are tired and although it is not a man of the sea who gives the order, and although it is not the right time of the day for fishing, the fishermen pull out to deep water and lower their nets, out of obedience. This brings us to our present day situation. We are sometimes bogged down by work, by worries. We want to rest and repair our tired bodies. Nothing else matters! The question as to why we should obey the Lord comes up again and again especially when it makes no apparent sense.

In the apostolate, faith and obedience goes hand in hand. Of what use are our efforts if God does not have a hand in it. Even the most worthwhile of our efforts would be in vain. The fishermen completed the task they were told to do. What a surprise it was when they hauled up their nets to a great shoal of fish! Simon Peter was awestruck at this miracle and his response was to feel his own insignificance, his inadequacy. Simon Peter fell on his knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Our Lord calls each of us to be His messengers, whether we are sitting in an office, driving a taxi, working in a high position, a student or simply a homemaker, He calls all of us to be His instruments to spread His love to a world that seems to turn its back on Him. Jesus does not extend a formal invitation to discipleship, but says simply, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be catching men" (Lk 5:10). God takes the initiative. Just like he chose Simon Peter, He also chooses us His faithful and calls us to do His will. Jn 15:16 says "You did not choose me, but I chose you." Are we like Simon Peter, who pondered but who reacted quickly and followed the order given to him? Or are we feeling unworthy to be used as God's instruments? The 1st reading tells the story of the call of Isaiah, who protested, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man with unclean lips." Both Isaiah and Simon Peter felt the magnitude of their unworthiness in the presence of God.

Both protested but proved faithful to the call. Mother Mary was the first to be called to discipleship. She was frightened and yet she responded "Be it done unto me according to thy word" (Lk 1:38). Abraham, a man of faith, was called by God to leave his land to a place where he knows not where. Abraham obeyed and went as the Lord directed him. Do we have faith like Mary and Abraham, to name a few, to leave everything and to put our trust in God to lead us where we dare not tread? Our Lord has chosen all of us - some of us with a specific vocation - to follow Him, to imitate Him and to carry on in the world the work of His redemption. Are we ready to take up this challenge even in the most difficult moments?

There are two requirements in responding to God. Like Simon Peter, we must first recognize our own sinful state. We must also realize that we cannot work without the help of God. If we realize that Jesus is the only one who can help us, we will be willing to leave everything and follow Him. We are unworthy but God will use our unworthiness for His glory. Jesus calls us to be fishers-of-men. Are we heeding His call? Do we want to plunge right into deep water - into friendship with Him, into holiness, into carrying out His apostolate. If the answer is Yes, He will fill us with His strength and He will give us the grace to carry out His plan for our lives. Let us be constantly alert to recognize Christ's face in the realities of life which surrounds us, because He is very near to us and He alone is able to give meaning to all the things that we do.

Are we ready like Mary to say 'Be it done unto me according to thy word'?

Can we be obedient like Simon Peter?

Will we allow God to work miracles in and through us?

By Margie Choo

From The Heart of CMY 2019



The distribution of blessed oranges in bright cheerful red bags to Parishioners was made on 初一 (*the First Day of the Lunar New Year*) after both English and Mandarin Eucharistic Celebrations. Two days prior to this, eager volunteers had gathered to help the packing of 1,800 oranges. With everyone helping in the gusto of the community spirit, the exercise of packing oranges took only 30 to 45 minutes.

There is no better way to celebrate 初一 with the Lord in mind and heart - parishioners came dressed in various shades of red and in their best. Each gave thanks to the Lord before the commencement of the visiting and feasting with relatives, and were reminded in the homily to keep God in the centre of the celebrations. As we celebrate this joyous season, let us remember this verse:

"A blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you." Deuteronomy 23:5

By Kelly Gabrielle Loh

Praise God for Relations

As we celebrate the Chinese New Year (CNY), let us give praise to God our Father, with a deep sense of thanksgiving in being reunited with the members of the extended family. Family gatherings are times to thank God for His manifold blessings. It is also a time to remember our forefathers and those who have passed on in our families.



We thank God for all that He has provided yesterday, today and tomorrow.

8 Bible Verses

to dwell on during this CNY



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

— *1 Corinthians 13:4-7* —

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever

— *1 Timothy 5:8* —

The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope. Good people suffer many troubles, but the Lord saves them from them all

— *Psalms 34:18-19* —

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you

— *John 16:22* —



As we go about the cultural practice of exchanging gifts, let us be reminded how these emphasize the importance of building good relationships with our family members and friends. We take this time to show gratitude and respect to our families. In God's strength, it is also a time to forgive one another and to reaffirm relationships.



Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive

— *Colossians 3:13* —

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity

— *Proverbs 17:17* —

Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you

— *Exodus 20:12* —

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD

— *Joshua 24:15* —

By Julianne Danielle Lim

Combating Acedia

“Restore to me the gladness of your salvation; uphold me with a willing spirit.”

Psalm 51: 14

The Monastic Fathers have written extensively about the Noonday devil. It is called the Noonday devil because it comes when we are preparing to take a mid-day break from prayer and from our activity. It also comes when we let our guard down and become complacent - “Oh I have already done so much work. I deserve a break.” The spiritual term for this is Acedia. While generally translated as “Sloth”, a closer translation of the word, would be “Spiritual Apathy” or “Spiritual Weariness”.

St. Thomas Aquinas has referenced St. John Damascene in defining this term, and calls it, “Weariness in the face of work” (*Summa Theologica*). *Tristitia spiritualis boni*, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is a sadness or listlessness in response to the striving for a spiritual good. It may be defined today, as a type of melancholy, depression, restlessness, reluctance, or conversely on the other side of the spectrum, as an incessant need to keep oneself needlessly busy, distracting one from working towards Spiritual Progress. It is a lethargy and a sapping of the Spiritual Zeal, that St. Benedict speaks about in his Rule. St. Benedict goes on further to say that, “Idleness is the enemy of the soul.”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, **“Acedia or spiritual sloth goes so far as to refuse the joy that comes from God and to be repelled by divine goodness.”** (2094)

Evagrius explains that this vice may appear in either a depressed or an agitated form. While often experienced as slothful inactivity and apathy, Acedia may also manifest as eagerness or compulsion to do anything, everything, except the spiritual good that is most needful.

It may even masquerade under the guise of hospitality or prudence. These different manifestations all have in common a single goal: namely, to create within the victim an affective or intellectual state that causes him to ignore or abandon his spiritual project. THE cure for Acedia therefore lies in cultivating the virtue of perseverance and in rekindling spiritual zeal.

Some remedies for Acedia as recommended by the Desert Fathers, include, the praying and singing of the psalms of the Psalms, meditation, respecting one’s body, interjecting every moment of the day and our work with prayer. This leaves no room for Acedia to creep in. St. Anthony the Abbot, was struggling with Acedia, and he cried out to the Lord, “How can I be saved?” He was given a vision of himself sitting down at work, standing up intermittently with arms outstretched in prayer, and then again returning to an interval of work, with the words, “Do this, and you will be saved.”

What we can do today:

1. **Memorise and live out a scripture text for the day. Have an arsenal of Scripture ready.**
2. **Make modifications to live a healthier lifestyle. This could mean setting aside a day in the week to prepare your meals based on your daily macro nutrition needs, or quitting alcohol, or smoking, and exercising at least thrice a week. This has physical, emotional, and spiritual ramifications.**
3. **Spend at least an hour a day in prayer.**
4. **Interject every work and every hour with praises to God, consecrating everything.**
5. **Find a spiritual director and check in regularly.**
6. **Journey in a Faith Community.**
7. **Pray for someone.**
8. **Journal in a Faith Journal.**
9. **Attend and pray the daily Eucharist.**

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Parish Retreat @ Majodi Johor Bahru

Date: 1st to 3rd Mar 2019

Cost: \$50 per person

(by cash or by cheque

made payable to
Church of St Michael)

Register Today!

(booth at ground floor)

Retreat is for CSM

Parishioners only.

Registration closes 10 Feb 2019



CSM Seniors Club

It is finally here! See you at our

1st Seniors Club session on

Tuesday, 12 Feb, 9.30am to 12.30pm

And every Tuesday thereafter.

Jesus came to heal the whole body and soul

Eucharistic Celebration for Anointing of the Sick

Date: 17 Feb, Sun

Time: 3 to 5pm

Registration:

For anointing, please submit your name or names of your loved ones to the Parish Admin Office.

Do include health conditions, if Catholic or non-Catholic (blessings only).

Please register by 10 Feb, Sun.

Calling all Youths:

It Takes 2 to Tango

Calling ALL youths who are interested to learn and dance the Tango. Join us for 3 Sundays and the dance floor is yours!

Dates: 17 Feb, 24 Feb & 3 Mar

Time: 12noon - 2pm

Venue: Level 3 Classrooms

Register on 2-3 & 9-10 Feb

(booth at ground floor)

Sat: 5pm - 7pm; Sun: 9:30am-12noon

EVENING BREW

15 Feb, Fri

Come for an interesting evening with drinks, snacks, fun and laughter, and get answers to parishioners' burning questions.

Do send in your questions to

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Venue: Outside St Michael's Room

Movie Appreciation Night

Date: 23 Feb, Sat

Time: 7.30 to 10pm

Venue: St Michael's Room

Let us come together on a Saturday night to watch "Bohemian Rhapsody".

It is a movie based on the true story of Queen's journey as a legendary rock band. We will pause the movie from time to time to discuss how this movie can echo or challenge our faith, and help us appreciate movies from the Catholic perspective.

RCIA - The Presentation of the Bibles

The Presentation of the Bibles to the Catechumens and Candidates to help them discover God and His message of love will be held on **Sunday, 17 Feb 2019 at 5.30pm** during the Eucharist.

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

Holy Hour

Date: 1 Mar, Friday

Time: 7.30pm

Eucharistic Celebration @ 8.30pm.

There will be no 6pm EC.

Maintenance Team – Volunteers Needed

We are looking for more maintenance volunteers to be part of the Maintenance Team. Please do come forward to assist in the maintenance of the church.

Please register as a Maintenance Volunteer at:

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

St. Michael's Exercise

All who are interested in exercising on Saturday mornings at 7.30am, please register at:

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

GIFT Collection

Next weekend, 16 & 17 Feb, 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.

Celebrating the Golden Years

Hear from best-selling author, The Sunday Times' Invest Editor, Lorna Tan as she shares about CPF life. How have you lived your lives up till this point? How would you like to spend the rest of your years? In the second part of the talk, Sr Linda Lizada, RC will address some of these questions that come up as we go through the transition: questions about identity, relationships, meaning and fruitfulness of life.

Date: 22 Feb, Fri

Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Venue: Agape Village

(7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S.319264)

To register/for more info, email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (10am–6pm, Mon–Fri).

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email: csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Address: 17 St Michael's Road,
Singapore 327976

Notices

Weddings

Those who desire to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at the 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 will take place on:
1st Sat of Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep & Oct

Registration of Pregnant Mothers

To help families prepare early for their baby's baptism, we invite pregnant mothers in their third trimester in February to register with the Parish Admin Office.

We shall be in touch on the preparatory sessions. Please email to csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Priests of the Parish

Parish Priest:

Fr. Terence Pereira (ext. 6)

Asst. Parish Priest:

Fr. John Van Dich MEP (ext. 5)

Asst. Parish Priest:

Fr. Augustine Joseph

Parish Collection

Weekend Collection	\$6322
Collection for the Poor	\$6792

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
08 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
09 Feb	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
09 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence
16 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Augustine	Fr. Terence
17 Feb	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
17 Feb	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, 1st Fri of the month only.
Followed by Eucharist at 8.30 pm (except during the period of

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

(M): Mandarin; (E) English

Collection of Holy Palms

Palms blessed by our priests are holy objects considered to be in the service of God and should not be thrown in the trash.

Please return your holy palms to the box outside the Parish Office for burning **on Fat Tuesday (5 Mar)** and the ashes will be used for the

Ash Wednesday
Eucharistic Celebration.