

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

24th May 2020, VOLUME 118
7th Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Reflection for the 7th Sunday of Easter

As I reflect on what has happened in my life, I can't help but recall the most difficult time of my life during last year's Lent, when my son was battling for his life in ICU. Why has these 2 past Lent been so challenging for me? Today's 2nd reading reminds us that we should be glad if we are tested and share in the sufferings of Christ...

"My dear friends, do not be taken aback at the testing by fire which is taking place among you, as though something strange were happening to you, but in so far as you share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, so that you may enjoy a much greater gladness when His glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

It is like the tempering of steel where God moulds us and gives us virtues and gifts without even us knowing it at that moment. God deserves our praise in ALL of our adversity, for it is through these that He moulds us into the children He wants us to be. How often do we thank God for the challenging moments in our lives?



[Continued on Page 2]

"Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ."

John 17: 3

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 26(27): 1, 4, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

Gospel: John 17:1-11



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'd)

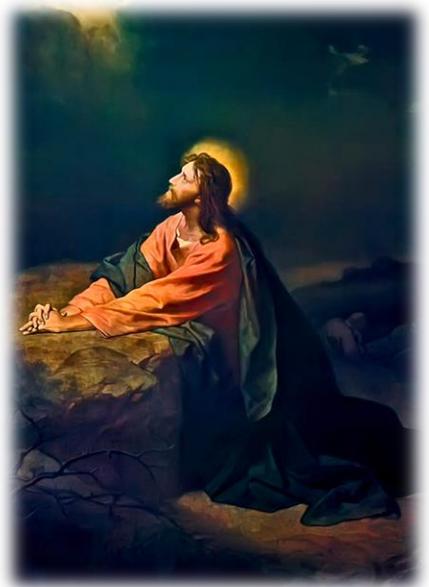
Our adversity can sometimes be truly daunting, and it would be very difficult for us to weather these storms by our own strength. Jesus in today's Gospel knew He will be going through the toughest part of His ministry...His passion and death on the cross. Like us, Jesus was very troubled, but He drew strength from the Father by praying to Him. "Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you" (Jn 17:1). True glory is love and Jesus is asking the Father to fill Him with His love that will allow Him to finish the work that the Father wants Him to do. We too in our trials need to pray for the experience of our Father's love so that we will be able to draw strength from His love. Often, we struggle in our adversity because we are unable to feel God's love, we even question if God loves us.

We can only experience and know God's love if we grow in our relationship and intimacy with our Father. The more we get to know God through His words and allow Him into our lives by living out His word, the more we will feel His love and be strengthened to overcome our challenges. Jesus also reminds us in today's gospel that to know the Father and Christ Himself is Eternal Life (Jn 17:2). Knowing is not just knowledge but an experiential knowledge that can only come from an intimate relationship with the only true God and Jesus Christ. It is good to ask ourselves where we are in terms of arriving at this eternal life. How eager are we to have this intimate relationship with the Father, to know and experience the power of His love so that we can not only overcome our trials but even conquer death, like our Lord Jesus Christ?

So sisters and brothers in Christ, when we feel overwhelmed by our problems and challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic that we are all experiencing, let us pray constantly to our Father like the apostles and Jesus did that our hearts be filled with the silence and peace so we can hear His voice from heaven?

Vincent and Jeffrey

LR Layout by Melliana



World Communications Sunday 2020



Source:
*Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th World Communications Day*



Pope Francis has dedicated this year's theme for World Communications Sunday, to Storytelling.

"That you may tell your children and grandchildren"
(Exodus 10:2)

As we come to the realisation that amid the cacophony and the chaos of voices and messages that surround us, more and more we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty around us, that we are part of

a living and interconnected tapestry that has been weaved together by God our Father. This World Communications Sunday, we are invited to live the Story of all stories – written and spoken by God who is both creator and narrator.



What is my Calling?

**By the Grace of God,
Brian Bartholomew Tan**

Sources: *Christus Vivit; Novo Millennio Ineunte;*
Ralph Martin, "Called to Holiness", Catholic Education Resource Centre

Moses was going about his every day work tending the flocks of Jethro, when the Lord God appeared to him in the form of a burning bush and gifted him with his calling. He was to lead God's people out of the land of Egypt. Yet, in spite of encountering God face to face (who ever has that kind of experience??), Moses' first response to the calling of God was to make excuses for himself. God, this all sounds amazing, in fact I can't really believe this. Why me? Call someone else. Say have you met Aaron my brother? See I don't speak very well. (c.f. Exodus 3) We forget that Moses was in fact trained in Pharaoh's court from infancy.

While our call from God could take place in the form of something spectacular, like Our Lady appearing to Jacintha, Francisco, and Lucia at Fatima, or even like St. Paul, who encountered the Lord in the form of an intense light, often our call happens in the ordinary everyday.

Very much like the prophet Elijah, God is found "after the fire, a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:12) That is not to say that God is not found in the billowing gale, or the earthquake – those resound with the glory of the Lord, but that God often chooses to speak when we have quietened our hearts to hear Him, in quiet and stillness. Like Gideon threshing wheat, like King Saul tending his donkeys, like Zechariah going about his priestly duty, like Moses, like the Apostles, God reaches down when we are going about our ordinary labour and presents our call and vocation to us.

The word, "vocation" can be traced etymologically to the Latin, *vocare* and *vocatio*, meaning to call, or a calling. In 13th century Old French, *vocacion*, the word "Vocation" has an added connotation of "consecration". A calling is sacred and comes from God.

To understand what it means to have a calling, let us borrow from a developmental theory we may be familiar with: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This is a theory that comprises 5 tiers of human needs. The needs on the lower level must be fulfilled before a person can attain to the higher needs – The Basic Needs of food, water, warmth, rest, security, and safety must be in place before the Psychological Needs of intimate relationships, friends, prestige, and a sense of accomplishment can kick in. At the top of the tier, is the attainment of Self-fulfilment Needs – there is self-actualisation and the achieving of one's full potential.

What if we throw a spanner in the works right now, to propose that it is only in fulfilling our God-given vocation, that we can attain to self-actualisation as God our Father intended and envisioned us to be?

Frederick Buechner writes, “Vocation is where our deep gladness meets the world’s deep need.”

Many of us are unhappy, because we have not been living our lives the way God intended. We spend a lifetime doing the things which satisfy us superficially, but do not give us lasting and profound joy. We spend our lives running away from God’s call and making excuses, pretending not to hear. We search for meaning and happiness in the wrong places, and as we do so we lose more and more of ourselves, and fall further away from the things which give us true life.

St Catherine of Siena says, “Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world ablaze.” It is precisely that we are not living as God meant us to live - we are not living out our vocation, so instead of setting the world aflame, we are choking in its smothering ashes.

So what is my calling and how do I discern if it is a direction from God?

A Christian’s primary call is holiness. In *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, Pope St. John Paul II affirms that, “All the Christian faithful, of whatever state or rank, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.” (NMI 30; cf. LG 40) This holiness is embedded in a loftier call, “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48)

Perhaps salient in these times of COVID-19, Pope St. John Paul II continues, “The time has come to repropose wholeheartedly to everyone this *high standard of ordinary Christian living*: the whole life of the Christian community and of Christian families must lead in this direction.” (NMI 30, 31)

According to Ralph Martin S.T.D., In Ephesians, “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him’ (Ephesians. 1:4). To be holy is not a matter of how many Rosaries we say or how much Christian activity we're engaged in; it is a matter of having our heart transformed into a heart of love. It is a matter of fulfilling the great commandments which sum up the whole law and the prophets: to love God and our neighbour, wholeheartedly.”

Thus our primary calling is to unite our wills as St. Teresa of Avila says, to the Will of God.

Within the universal calling of loving and serving God and neighbour, God our Father customises and handcrafts a specific vocation for each person. This is a vocation that best fits our personalities and abilities.

In *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis writes, “To discern our personal vocation, we have to realise that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus. When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have. It will not necessarily be what is most expensive or hard to obtain, but what we know will make them happy.”

As Pope Francis continues, answering our call thus “has nothing to do with inventing ourselves or creating ourselves out of nothing,” but rather, has to do with “finding our true selves in the light of God, and letting our lives flourish and bear fruit.” While our work may be an expression of our vocation, it is culminated as a path which guides our efforts and actions toward service to others.

Due to the fact that vocation is God’s personalised gift to us, answering that call brings us more joy and fulfilment than anything could in the world. This does not come from how rare or extraordinary that gift is, but rather that our vocation and calling is something that will perfectly fit us. It would make perfect sense and it would fit perfectly into our lives.

Some questions that we can ask ourselves as we discern our call:

1. Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart?
2. What are my strengths and weaknesses?
3. How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the church?
4. What is my real place in this world?
5. What can I offer to society?
6. Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service?
7. Could I develop those abilities?

At the end of the day, answering a calling, does not mean that we get a clear map, without obstacles, or a GPS system about where to go or what to do. Answering God’s call for us could be more accurately seen as an invitation to an adventure. Shall we go on an adventure led by the Holy Spirit?

We are faced with a thousand and one decisions on a daily basis. Encountering the prospect of deciding may come across as daunting to some. For others, they may adopt the slogan of a popular Sportswear company, “Just do it.” While there is something to be said about spontaneity, where is God in our decision-making process?

Am I coming to a decision because I am led by my ego, or by peer pressure, or am I truly discerning what God’s Will is for me in my life?

Discernment is ongoing. After we make a decision, prayerfully evaluate it. If the fruits (outcomes) of the decision—our words, actions, and behaviours—are good, then it is a good indication that the decision made is good. If the fruits are “rotten,” then that is a good indication that we may need to alter our course. True discernment results in good fruit (even if it's something we wouldn't normally pick out for ourselves).

In the Ignatian tradition, two things, Consolation and Desolation are important in helping us come to a decision.

These refer to whether something is drawing us towards God, bringing about Consolation, or drawing us away from God, bringing about Desolation.

Signs of Consolation include:

1. Our focus is directed outside and beyond ourselves.
2. Our hearts are lifted so that we can see the joys and sorrows of other people.
3. We are bonded more closely to our human community.
4. There is the generation of new inspiration and ideas.
5. Balance is restored and our inner vision is refreshed.
6. We see and understand where God is active in our lives and where He is leading us.
7. We are rejuvenated with new energy in us.

On the other hand, Desolation may look like this:

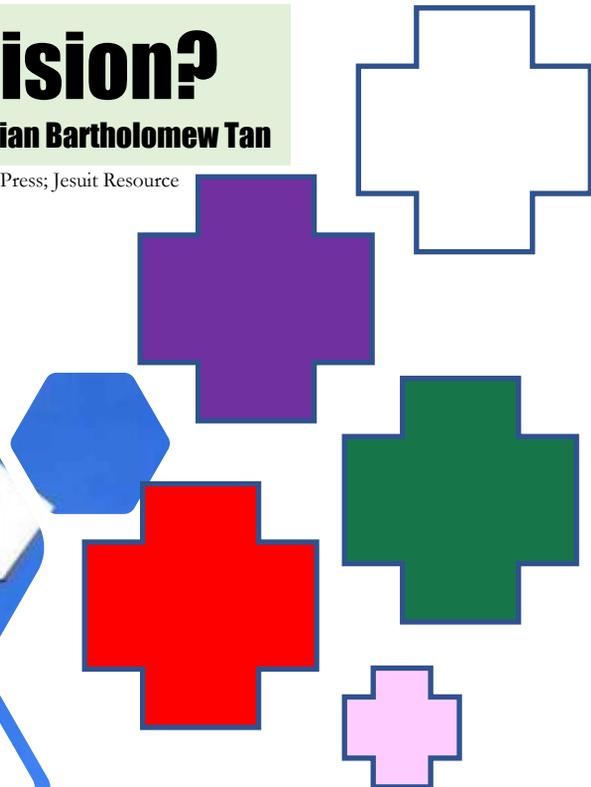
1. Desolation turns us in on ourselves.
2. We are driven down a negative spiral ever deeper into our own negative feelings.
3. We begin to cut off ties from our community and we start to isolate ourselves.
4. We give up and despair about things that used to be important to us.
5. Our whole consciousness is taken over and we cannot see the big picture.
6. Our landmarks are covered up.
7. We feel lethargy and our energy is drained away from us.

The challenge of good decision making is honouring the place of God’s Will in our lives, and the fruit will tell us if we made the right decision.

How Do I Come to a Decision?

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Sources: Loyola Press; Jesuit Resource



GIFT Appeal



Please support the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese.

You may contribute online at <http://www.catholicfoundation.sg/give>, or through PayNow at UEN 201231391K (please leave your contact details under remarks to receive an acknowledgement)

Supporting the Catholic Businesses During this time

To support Catholic businesses during this time of COVID19, click on the CBN Market Place link provided:

<https://www.cbn.sg/web19/index.php/cbn-market-place>

CBN
catholic business network singapore
www.cbn.sg

CAREER COUNSELLING for PMEs

- CAREER GUIDANCE
- WORKPLACE WELL - BEING
- CAREER TRANSITIONS

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."
Milton Berle

HOW TO REGISTER?
To make an appointment +65 6801 7491 or email : admin@cbn.sg or Scan QR Code or http://bit.ly/CareerCounselling_REGIS

All sessions are by appointment, no walk-ins. Non-Catholics are welcome. There will be a nominal charge of \$10 to cover administrative cost. All PMEs are welcome.

SCAN ME TO REGISTER
www.cbn.sg

Society of St Vincent de Paul An Urgent Plea for Donations

Please help SSVP to continue helping the poor. They spend \$330,000 every month to support its 3,300 Friends in Need (FINs), and in this time of uncertainty, they have not been able to collect donations. You may give

- (1) By cheque made payable to **SSVP NC Singapore** and mail to:
Society of St Vincent de Paul
7A, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
#04-01 Agape Village
Singapore 319264
- (2) By PayNow - UEN number S61SS0149BNCS or visit the website www.ssvpsingapore.org to scan the QR code

World Communications Sunday 2020

As with previous years, the Church collections collected during the weekend of World Communications Sunday will be channelled to the efforts of the Archdiocesan Media Apostolate.



The Catholic News is going Digital!

Bookmark the website – catholicnews.sg or visit the facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/catholicnews>

Come and read the personal reflections and articles that bring you spiritual nourishment.

It will continue to offer the latest updates concerning the Church locally and universally.

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272 **Parish Admin Office** (ext. 1)
Columbarium (ext. 3) **Email:** csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg
Address: 17 St Michael's Road, Singapore 327976

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 (ext.7)

Income for 11 May to 17 May

Sunday Collections	\$8,722
Donations	\$240
Total Income	\$8,962

Prayer binds the community together

There will be daily prayers at **8am, 12.30pm** and **6pm**.

We invite you to join us. We will be praying the prayers of the Church, namely, Lauds, Midday and Vespers.

This is one way we can stay connected with each other. The prayers are invariably 15 to 20 minutes long. Please sign up at:

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Transport and Drivers Needed for Less-Abled and Elderly

If you can provide transport using your own vehicles. Please contact the Parish Admin Office.

Seniors Club

As seniors club has discontinued indefinitely because of our current situation please be advised that our seniors team will keep in touch and stay connected via phone calls or online with seniors until we can meet again in the church premises. If you do not wish to be called, please let the team know.

In the Community

Staying Connected

In view of current situation please be advised that NCC reps will keep in touch and stay connected via phone calls or online with our neighbourhood parishioners until we can meet again on church premises, during neighbourhood gatherings or events. If you do not wish to be called, please let your NCC reps know.

Anointing of the Sick

Please be reminded that the anointing of the sick can be requested before you go to the hospital for surgery or for some procedure that would require you to stay in the hospital. You do not need to be in the hospital to call a priest for anointing. **Please note that for this time, the Anointing for the Sick will only be done for extreme cases.**

Wedding Bells

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

Recruitment Drive Sing for the Lord - Sunday, 5.30pm Eucharistic Celebration

Chorus Angelus Paxorium is looking for Choir members to Praise and Glorify the Lord.

Choir Seeking Organist

Coro di Velli Angeli Choir for the 5.30pm Sat Sunset EC is looking for an Organist.

Comms Ministry

We are looking for a few passionate parishioners who love to communicate and have skills or an interest in writing, design, photography, etc.

Please contact the Parish Admin Office to express your interest in the above ministries.



CSM Pentecost Rally via Zoom

Dates: 27 to 30 May 2020, Wed to Sat

Time: 8pm

We pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over our community. Join us to be ministered to by the Holy Spirit. There will be preaching and Praise & Worship.

Join us by registering at

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

IMPORTANT NOTICE
In line with the stricter measures, the church will be closed from 7 April 2020, Tuesday until 1 June 2020.

For urgent spiritual needs, please contact the Parish Admin Office for assistance.

Your Weekly Donation

Dear Parishioners of St Michael

We look forward to your generosity to sustain the general operations and maintenance of the church. A weekly donation to the Church by electronic bank transfer using PayNow is available.

Alternatively, you can issue a cheque (payable to Church of St Michael) and mail it to the Parish Admin Office. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Here is what you need to do:

- Step 1: Select bank transfer**
- Step 2: Key in Parish UEN # T08CC4028F**
- Step 3: Check Name – Church of St Michael**
- Step 4: Key in amount**
- Step 5: Key in Ref - Mass Collection**

God Bless.

Parish Priest
Fr Terence Pereira