

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

7th June 2020, VOLUME 120
Most Holy Trinity

Liturgical Reflection for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

The solemnity of the Holy Trinity which we celebrate today is a mystery of love and the central mystery of our Christian faith. "It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 234)

The feast of the Trinity draws three preceding feasts together and makes manifest the authority and sovereignty of God, in Three persons, yet One God. The Resurrection focuses on the Father - as the life giving one, the Ascension, on Jesus as the vindicated and exalted One, the Pentecost, on the Holy Spirit as the empowering One.



[Continued on Page 2]

'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.'

John 3: 17

First Reading: Exodus 34:4-6,8-9
Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Gospel: John 3:16-18



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)

At Baptism, God our Father brought us into His family, we must therefore come to know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the members of that wonderful family to whom we belong.

One of the first things that we learnt when becoming Catholic was to sign ourselves, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit". Later we learnt that this gesture was a prayer itself and not just a way to begin or end a prayer. This makes prayer a very public act showing others what we are doing as Catholics. As we celebrate this feast, we witness that all three Persons contribute to and share in the work of the redemption of humankind.



In the old Testament, God is revealed to Moses in Exodus 34:6 "The Lord, a God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity." In spite of the people's infidelity, God continues to remain faithful. Like Moses we too will say, "Let my Lord come with us. As Father and Creator, God loves us as the apple of his eye. He wants to relate to us as our Abba, a "Daddy" who teaches and cares for us.

As we give our worship to our Triune God, we also become instruments and channels of God's saving love to humanity.

Today, the faithful are encouraged to celebrate Trinity Sunday with great love just like the love that our Triune God has been giving us. We are invited to reflect not so much on what God has done but more on WHY He has done these things. This will help us to love Him more perfectly.

It was love that moved the Father to send his Son Jesus for our ransom, to save us so that we may be restored to life. Love is the reason why God is still present among us through His Spirit, the Advocate, the Helper.

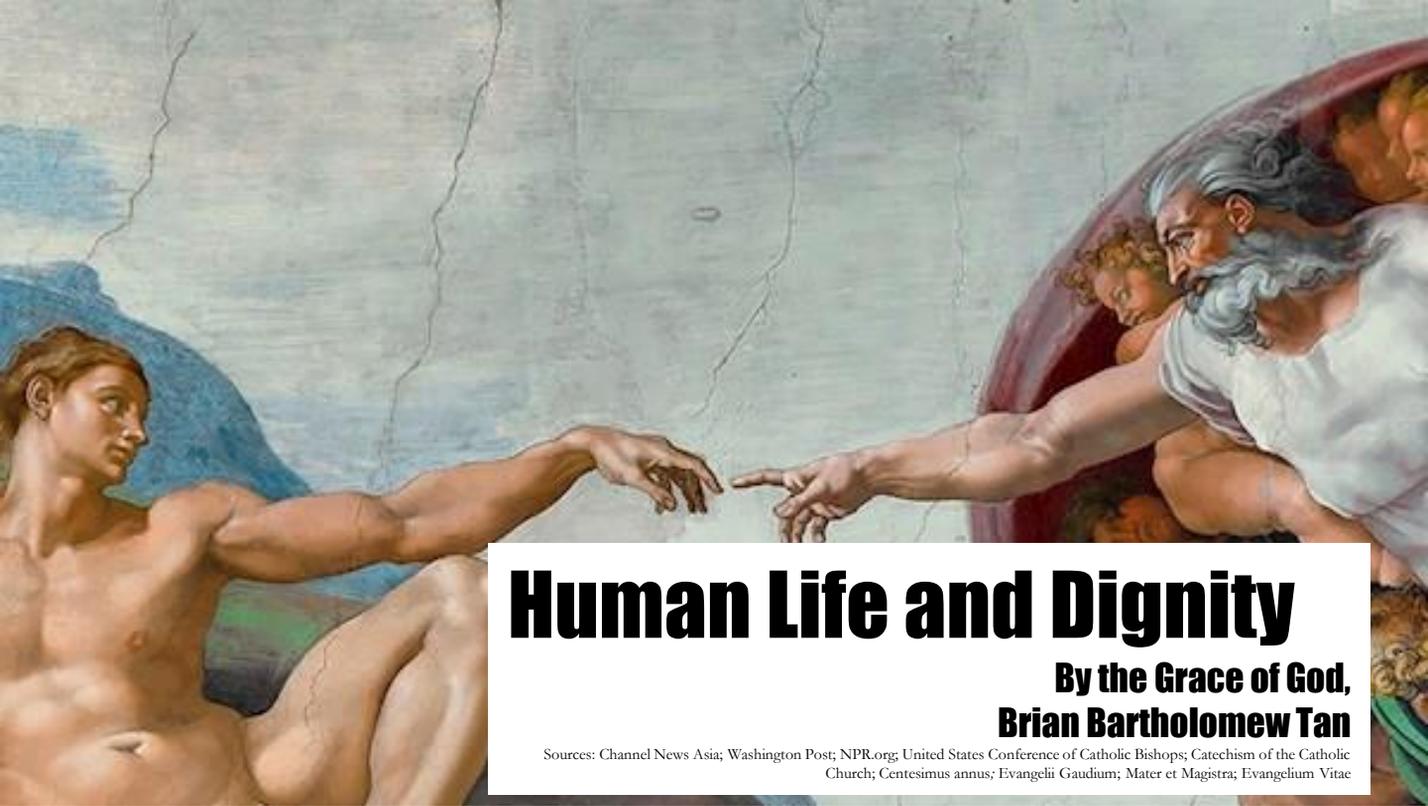
The Holy Spirit is the person of God who is present in the here and now. At the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, "And remember I am with you always to the end of time". (Matthew 28:20) The Eucharistic celebration is where we are able to meet the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is invoked on the gifts of bread and wine. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to recognise Christ and through Him in return, are able to meet God our Father.

The Trinity is all about the importance of relationship as the three persons of God share a communion of love – **Love is not a thing. Love is a relationship with the Holy Trinity who offers us life.**

Gerard and Lawren

**"I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord."
- Prayer found on the Breastplate of St. Patrick**





Human Life and Dignity

By the Grace of God,
Brian Bartholomew Tan

Sources: Channel News Asia; Washington Post; NPR.org; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Catechism of the Catholic Church; Centesimus annus; Evangelii Gaudium; Mater et Magistra; Evangelium Vitae

A recent outrage swept over the globe as the news of a Minnesota policeman murdering George Floyd, an African American whose neck was pinned under his knee came into light via social media platforms. The victim was seen pleading for air as the police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for over 9 minutes. Of controversy was how Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd after he had lost consciousness, and for a full minute more after paramedics arrived. On 3 June, Wednesday, Chauvin and his colleagues were charged for second-degree murder.

Prior to the court's decision, hundreds and thousands had taken to the streets of America to protest the actions of Chauvin, causing civil unrest, and excavating America's painful past of slavery, racial segregation, and discrimination.

Catholic Social Teaching has always upheld that human life is sacred and that the dignity of a human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

Today, that dignity of human life has been threatened and devalued through things like Abortion, IVF, Stem-cell Research, and Euthanasia. In many countries and corporations, human labour is cheap, and the value of human life is deemed as insignificant. This has led to a flawed rationalisation that some human lives are worth more than others, and others worth nothing at all. In turn, this has warped people's mindsets to justify paltry wages, and the mistreatment of fellow human beings.

According to Pope St. John Paul II, "Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are." (*On the Hundredth Year* [. . . *Centesimus annus*], no. 11) Created in the image and likeness of our Father God, there is immeasurable worth to a human being's life.

At the heart of the George Floyd controversy is the deep seated racism that is embedded into society. Equally disturbing is how a person's life can be taken from him as he cries out for help, while nobody steps forward to help him or stop the perpetrator, and as this human person is dying under the noses of the bystanders, it is perversely recorded on video.

As Pope Francis has exhorted in response to what has happened, Catholics cannot tolerate racism and also "claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." At the same time, we have to recognise that "the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost"

In Scripture, we see clearly how each person is precious and valued far more than things.

Genesis 1: 26 – 31 states, “God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them” (25) and God saw that what he had created was good.

In Deuteronomy 10:17-19, we are given an insight into how the Lord upholds the widow, the stranger, and the orphan.

While Psalm 139 tells us that before we were made, the Lord God knit us together in the secret of our mothers’ wombs and that he knows us intimately, having saw our days before they were formed, and that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” (14)

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus spoke of how the Samaritan recognised the dignity of the person who was lying injured by the road, and took him up and treated him with care and respect. (cf. Luke 10: 25-37)

Yet again in John 4: 1-42, we see Jesus breaking away from the societal and cultural norms of his time to speak with the Samaritan woman at the well, and to honour her dignity as a person.

Proverbs 22:2 tells us that God made both the rich and the poor and that there is no distinction between either.

Romans 12: 9-18 gives us the gold standard of how to treat each other: to love one another, and contribute to each’s needs.

Unfortunately, tainted by upbringing and societal biasness, and a culture that exonerates the rich and the powerful, privileging the people of certain classes and ethnicities, we fail to acknowledge the worth of the human embryo, the person of colour, the person with disabilities, and the person who is poor. This speaks about a cultural malaise that is plaguing society and “as a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalised: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape. **Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded.** We have created a “throw away” culture which is now spreading. It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society's underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised – they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the “exploited” but the outcast, the “leftovers”.” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* [Evangeliu Gaudium], no. 153)

The mark of a matured civilisation ultimately is seen in how its society treats the poor, the different, those who fall through the cracks, and those who do not fit into the society’s narrative of what normal is. If human beings are rightly taken to be “the foundation, the cause and the end of every social institution.” (St. John XXIII, *Mother and Teacher* [Mater et Magistra.], no. 219)

Then how we treat the prisoner, the migrant worker, the poor, the homeless, our brothers and sisters, is indicative of the health of the society.

Yet, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out, “There exist also sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel: Their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace.” (CCC 1938)

The case of George Floyd thus brings to fore these inequalities and the exploitation of human life as cheap, as insignificant, and to be considered of little worth, even ignored, or objectified. This case should rightly perturb us. As Pope St. John Paul II says, “Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. John 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God...” (cf. Mk 16:15). (*The Gospel of Life* [Evangeliu vitae.], no. 3)

All lives matter.



Truth, Beauty, and Goodness as Strategies for the Disaffiliated

By the Grace of God,
Brian Bartholomew Tan

Sources: Catechism of the catholic Church; Grammar of Assent; Mass Exodus; Pew research

Timothy P. O'Malley in his review of Stephen Bullivant's *Mass Exodus*, which examines the phenomenon of the mass exodus of Catholics out of the Catholic Church in the United States of America and the United Kingdoms, states that "Disaffiliation is rarely a single moment in the life of a Catholic. Instead, it is a process in which one no longer identifies as a Catholic."

At a heart of the matter is the issue of a Church that for a very long time has been in maintenance mode, that sought to speedily sacramentalise the congregation, maintain attendance of the regular church-goers, without evangelising its people and introducing them to Jesus. St John Henry Newman suggests that belief is complicated and is embodied and has to be experienced.

While theory works to help us make sense of things, reality is embodied, and in actuality gives the mind the complexity it needs in order to believe. It is not one singular thing which convinces us of our faith, but a series of experiences and arguments in an accumulative effect which eventually influences belief. (*Grammar of Assent*) **What this means is that there is a search for Truth and that Truth has to be presented in a way that excites and stimulates the intellect.** It cannot be an abridged version or a watered-down version, because that does little to convince the mind. For example, young persons as little as 13, were seen to be leaving the Church across the globe from statistics by Pew Research, because they had found little relevance of their faith to their everyday. These been told what they had to do or believe, without the why of their actions.

Second, as we are created in the image of God, **humanity is intrinsically wired to beauty.** "Even before revealing himself to man in words of truth, God reveals himself to him through the universal language of creation, the work of his Word, of his wisdom: the order and harmony of the cosmos—which both the child and the scientist discover—from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator", "for the author of beauty created them." (CCC. 2500) **Through Beauty, humanity is led to the True Beauty who is God, himself.**

Last, is rooted in Man's search for **Goodness.** People have always been drawn to the Catholic Church because of its works of mercy, its hospitals, its missions, its schools, and its advocacy of Justice.

Around the Archdiocese



Tell others about Jesus.

Hope is the necessary ingredient for faith as scripture tells us that 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' (Hebrew 11:1) By faith through hope, we will overcome our difficulties.

Pray and reflect upon 3 things that you are grateful for and 3 things that you hope for.

In this time of turmoil and distress, know that Jesus is close to us. He has his arms around us, giving us strength, giving us hope.

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)

Society of St Vincent de Paul An Urgent Plea for Donations

Please help SSSVP 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

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>

In the Community

LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL WELLNESS



SPEAKER:
GEMMA FERNANDEZ
CSM Parishioner who works with people with mental issues

The importance of our mental health has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The possible effects of this crisis on our mental health are just beginning to show. How can we recognise the signs so as to get help early? What is the correlation between faith and mental health?

19 JUNE, 2020

| 8-9.30 PM

VIA ZOOM

Pre-register at
<https://tinyurl.com/TalkaboutMentalWellness>

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

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 25 May to 31 May

Sunday Collections	\$6,930 <small>(excluding 25 May to 29 May for World Communications Sunday)</small>
Donations	\$950

Consolidated Income/Expenses

Income for March	\$58,881.34
Expenses for March	\$56,089.64 (amended)
Income for April	\$78,935.98
Expenses for April	\$51,378.94



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.

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.

Sharing your story

We invite you to share with us how has it been like during this period of the circuit breaker. What were or are your challenges and how you overcame them.

What were or are your concerns that you have been thinking about?

We share this so that others who are in difficulties will be heartened to carry on during this period.

Please write your story and send it to the parish at csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg and we will publish it in the Pilgrimage.

As you were generous with finances, we hope you will be generous with your stories.

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

CSM Eucharistic Celebrations via Zoom

Sunday, 11am.

Do join us to pray together in thanksgiving as a community.

Registration Link for CSM Zoom Eucharistic Celebrations via Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/SundayECs>

Eucharist Intentions Offerings

For those who wish to submit Eucharist intentions please send an email to csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg stating 1) Name, 2) Date, 3) Time of EC (11am Sunday/ Weekday Morning or evening) 4) Intention of Eucharist and 5) Cheque number, **14 days before stated EC, followed by mailing a cheque made payable to Church of St Michael to Church of St Michael, 17 St Michael's Rd, Singapore 327976**

Your Weekly Donation

Dear Parishioners of St Michael,

I would like to thank you for your constant flow of donation that has made it possible for us to continue with our ministry.

As I look at the donations that have been coming in, I am edified by your generosity.

I am also uplifted by your care and concern for the parish during this time.

Let us continue to make this journey a meaningful and memorable one.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are in the process of submitting our Safety Management Plans to MCCY and will move accordingly.

Do be patient for further announcements.

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

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

