

# Our Pilgrimage



27 May 2018, VOLUME 14  
Holy Trinity

In normal circumstances when a man is called 'father' he is at the same time a husband and at the same time a son and yet he is but one man. In normal circumstances this man is one existence but seen in three different ways. He is known from these three or may be more different ways. The Trinity is far simpler in existence to the extent that we do not know how to explain this simplicity. The human mind can comprehend with time complex existence yet when existence is too simple, there is always a difficulty in understanding it.

We often understand the Trinity in their activity, something known as the 'Economy of Salvation'. The Trinity is known better by the action that each carries out for the salvation of souls. The relationship between the Persons in the Trinity is that which keeps them completely one is that there is just one God.

While it is good to dwell on the mystery of the Trinity and try to fathom the reality of such an existence, we might praise the Trinity if we are to try and live in unity with those we love and those in our community. The Trinity beckons us to emulate them. It is a high ideal but then what is the point of an ideal if it is not a lofty goal that challenges us to move towards it. As we try to be like the Trinity, we will be better off than where we are today. The negative thing to do is to look at the Trinity as an impossibility and look to something else to strive towards. God isn't a Trinity to frustrate us. God isn't a Trinity to ridicule us. God is and God is love. This is the ideal love to which we should attempt towards in our relationship with one another.



Love and Adventure,  
Fr. Terence Pereira

*Fr. Terence*



## Questions for reflection:

How deeply are you one with the Trinity?

How seriously are you one with the persons that you love?

Does your attitude towards the community reflect your understanding of the relationship in the Trinity?

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34; 39-40  
Psalm: Psalm 32(33):4-6;9;18-20; 22  
Second Reading: Romans 8: 14-17  
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

*'Go, therefore and make disciples  
of all the nations.'* Matthew 28:19

## 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



# The Beckoning Call of the Holy Trinity

**Dexter, tell us more about the first time you heard God's call.**

When I first received God's invitation to discern this call to priesthood, I was actually quite shocked because I never wanted to be a priest. In fact, I always frowned when people said that they were praying for me to become a priest, as I've always dreamt of having my own family. Even after experiencing His love, mercy, and forgiveness at a conversion retreat, priesthood was never once on my mind. But this invitation soon led me to find out more about the priesthood.

There was an occasion where I unintentionally visited the old seminary website and chanced upon then rector, Bishop William Goh's comments about the signs if one was called to the priesthood. As I went down the list, I found myself nodding my head at every point he listed. At that instant, my mind went, "*No way! You can't be serious?! I'm called to the priesthood?*" So there were lots of doubts when I first received God's invitation to discern this priestly vocation. Initially, I doubted God's choice, then subsequently, I doubted myself most of the time.

**Any spiritual encounters or God moments during your journey that you'd like to share?**

I think it is very common for any young man or woman to doubt themselves when they first hear God's call to the priestly or religious life. The root of my doubts stemmed from my sinfulness and feelings of unworthiness. Therefore, as I discerned this call with my Spiritual Director and through the Vocation Discernment Recollections and Retreats, I started to realise that no one can call themselves worthy of this call, nor can they say they are sinless. Just look at the Apostles, St Peter, for example. He denied Jesus three times, yet he became a saint and was our first Pope. Thus, "*God does not call those who are justified, He justifies those whom He calls.*" This was one of the God moments during my discernment journey that has kept me going. Even up till today, I still have those feelings of unworthiness, but I have learnt to make a choice not to allow that sense of unworthiness hamper me from fulfilling God's dreams, plans, and ambitions for me. On the contrary, it is now my driving force in striving to be a better person, a better disciple of Christ.

**What advice do you have for those who are discerning their vocation?**

For all young men and women out there, the world has become very 'noisy'. The world offers instant joys and happiness in the forms of achievements, but these only last for a short while. The dreams, plans, and ambitions that God desires for us offer a joy that not only lasts forever, but it is also the fullest. Hence, do make time to get away from the 'noises' around us to seek God and His dreams for us. Do also get a Spiritual Director to journey with you. It is almost impossible to discern alone. Find a priest, nun, or someone whom you are comfortable with so that they can help you reflect upon your thoughts.

For parents, do encourage your children to seek God's will and try not to be that stumbling wall between your children and the fullest joy that God has in mind for them. As parents, I am sure you have always wanted the best for them, right? What more God, our creator. He not only knows us better than we know ourselves, but He knows what would make us happiest and what would not. So encourage your children to realise God's dreams and ambitions for them.



(Bottom row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left: Dexter Chua) with fellow brothers in Christ on his discernment journey

## **Prayer for Vocations**

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving— for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

— Pope Francis

*Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations.*

*Contributed By: Dexter Chua  
Prepared By: Charlene Sng*

# Witnessing as One: Pentecost Rally



*Most Holy Trinity, we adore you, we bless you, we thank you. We consecrate all that we have and are to you!*



This Pentecost, Archbishop William Goh's calls us to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill our lives and our Church. That we may be filled with the graces of forgiveness, zeal and love to continue building a vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. With the Pentecost Rally's theme, Witnessing as One, the Rally drew God's faithful to the heartbeat of the Holy Spirit which is love, mercy and unity itself

Held on 20 May 2018, at St Joseph's Institute Junior, this year's collaboration was by three Archdiocesan bodies: Singapore Archdiocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal (SACCRC), the Office for Catechesis (OFC) and the Office for the New Evangelization (ONE). The participants of the Pentecost Rally were commissioned by the Archbishop at the Eucharistic Celebration of the Rally to be witnesses of God.

While Msg. Ambrose Vaz gave the talk, Fr Thomas Lim and Fr Tom Curran, SACCRC spiritual director, and his team then prayed for various intentions and blessings. They also prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and various prayer teams came forward to pray over those who wished to receive God's love and healing.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal's gift for every Catholic is to help people receive a conscious experience of the risen Lord, a definite, concrete sign that God is with us in our lives is the gift of tongues.

The Burning Bush from St. Anne's Church led praise and worship, with many who found the rally very inspiring.

Concluding the rally, Archbishop Goh exhorted everyone to be continuously exercising their different charisms and using their gifts to make present the Holy Spirit.

# The Love of GOD the Father

**“While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.” (Luke 15: 20-24)**

The love of God, the Father is difficult to comprehend and even more difficult to define. Our image of God the Father is shaped and distorted by our own relationships to our earthly fathers. This is made even more complex in relation to today’s wounded fatherhood. There are fathers who are absent from the lives of their children; there are fathers who break the covenant of marriage with infidelity; there are fathers who instead of sheltering and protecting their families with love, condemn and bring forth terror and fear; there are fathers who do not provide and who do not live out their vocation of provider for the household; and there are fathers who would go through lengths to abandon their own children, or even to abort them. A friend of mine was sharing that he dreads to go home to even meet face to face with his father, as the father would subject him to all sorts of verbal abuse – this friend of mine is in his forties. Another friend shared that at the age of seven he was chased out of his home by his biological father, and has since had to fend for himself – This friend is a man also in his forties.

For me, God the Father had always seemed to be nebulous and indeterminate, to the extent of being distant and not present at all. My earthly father was addicted to gambling and the reins of looking after and providing for my family fell unto the shoulders of my mother. The years of estrangement just caused my parents to drift apart. He too was not very involved in the lives of his children. I had to tell a half-truth that a secondary school campfire needed the compulsory attendance of both the parents for him to be around. Not having any paternal models of love, it was difficult to love, and my attempts at loving others was anything but giving and selfless. It didn’t help that I had never seen my paternal grandfather as he had passed on before I was born, while my maternal grandfather was more concerned about his hourly drink of brandy and the occasional hitting of his grandchildren with the wad of newspaper he would spend his last days reading. My godfather, too was only present during my baptism, after which nothing was ever heard of him, as it was wont during those years in the 1980s to simply pick a godparent from the congregation for the sake of convenience. What are the odds? Yet God was and is merciful and faithful.

So what is the love of God the Father like? The parable of the Prodigal Son is precisely who God the Father is. He is waiting at the gate, he sees his child from a distance, he drops everything he has, and runs to him. Point of Grace has an amazing song, Jesus Doesn’t Care that goes like this:

*For so long you've run from the Father  
Into a life of sin  
And each time He lovingly called you  
You turned your back on Him  
But no matter if your failures are great or small  
There's no way to hide them He already knows them all*

*[Chorus:]  
Jesus doesn't care what you've done before  
How you've rebelled or slammed the door  
No matter how far you've run or how long you've been untrue  
Jesus doesn't care He still offers forgiveness to you*

*How many tears will you cry, until you cry out to the Father  
So many tears  
An honest plea for mercy He will not deny  
Trust him and your gonna find*

Matthew 7: 9-11 states, “Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.” The love of God remains infinitely greater, more faithful, and more total than any man’s (*God as Father*, Pope Benedict XVI). The most wondrous thing, and Pope Benedict XVI offers this definition, is: GOD is the creator and maker of the universe and of us all. At the same time, He is Our Father.

John 3:16 says, “For GOD so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever may believe in Him, may not perish, but have everlasting life.”

This is GOD the Father, who loves us so much that He gave us Jesus to redeem us completely. My encounter with God as a loving Father, came from the Conversion Experience Retreat I attended, and also from an observership that I did with the Cistercian monks in Tarrawarra, Melbourne in 2016. The monks were so generous, tender, loving, and kind, that borne by fraternal love, I encountered a foretaste of the Heavenly Father’s providence and immense unconditional love. The love of the Father, is also summed up in the prayer that Jesus taught us. Let us pray the Our Father for the reclamation of the image of God the Father in our lives, and also for all fathers around the world. St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus here on earth and model of all fathers, pray for us!

*By Brian Bartholomew Tan*

# Our Lifesongs as Praises to GOD

Glory to God Most High!  
How beautiful is thy name through all the earth.  
All living creations in heaven and earth bounds,  
Sing and praise you, O Lord.

Glory to God Most High!  
Crowned in Majesty.  
The works of thy hand manifest thy awesome glory.  
All mouths shall praise you, O Lord.

Glory to God Most High!  
I see horizons of the earth,  
The clouds, sun, moon, stars.  
The birds flying, the fish swimming, mortal men singing  
around:

Glory to God Most High!  
How awesome is thy name.  
How beautiful are thy works.  
The wonder of thy holy presence.

*By Angela Tan (Lectors)*

You Lord are my light and my salvation.  
My hope in times of trouble.  
You shine bright like a beacon in the sea.  
Like the morning star you give hope to the hopeless.

What more can I ask of you, my Lord.  
You are my stronghold and my rock.  
The rock, the cross, the Passion,  
The steadfastness that holds me close.

Your glory Lord is in the immense blue that forms the  
ocean and the sky.  
Your glory Lord is in times of old.  
Your glory Lord is in the stillness of the night.  
You breathe life into my heart.

And so I embrace your glory as I take this pilgrimage of  
faith.  
Knowing my path would be filled with your mysteries and  
truth.  
You will unravel your glory in time.  
As I longingly wait one day to be in your embrace.

*By Janice Chua (Ephrem Music Ministry)*

Praise the Lord with gladness.  
Now there is no more sadness.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! I shout with joy!  
Crowned with glory and honour, this precious little boy.

Your mighty name I glorify.  
No other names I magnify.  
My Lord, my God, my Father,  
Glory be to you and none other.

Your light, they shine so bright!  
In my blindness, they give me sight.  
I yearn for your presence in my waking; as I am working  
and when the day is ending.  
O Lord, my love, my shield and my King.

You created heaven and earth,  
All mankind bow at your birth.  
When I call your name,  
I am strong again.  
Thank you for your death on the cross,  
I will cling on to you and not be lost.

*By Angelina Choo (Lectors)*

Heavenly Father, we glorify you  
You are the Almighty  
Forever and ever  
There's no one greater than you.

Thank you for the beginning  
The sun, moon, stars and sea  
For the lighted path for us to follow  
And your angels too.

Yet, Heavenly Father, with all things given  
We have not walked the way  
Your love is so great that you sent your beloved son  
To die on the cross for us.

We are grateful, Heavenly Father  
That you are again lighting up the path  
We pray for our hearts, eyes and ears to be opened  
And are glad that we are surely walking the lighted path to  
our Heavenly home.

*By Mary Ow (CVA)*



# The Hiroshima Chronicles

The Summer heat of Hiroshima, 2017 was searing. It was as if the particles of the air were charged with some microwavable quality of the aftermath of the atomic explosion. The buildings retained a staunch industrial vibe of the post-war era and were slabs of concrete put together – ugly but utilitarian. The saving grace was that the oysters were gargantuan and as big as my face. I do not exactly have a very small face. Although, that, the oysters, may in actuality be a result of mutative elements.

Trying to better understand God's will for my life, I had flown into Tokyo on the wind tip of a typhoon and had transited to Hiroshima, where a calm belied the electric-blue and very clear sky in the week preceding my 34<sup>th</sup> birthday. My purpose there, or so I thought, was to present some academic papers as part of the 72<sup>nd</sup> memorial celebrations of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, to promote world peace and equality. However, as I sat in a room, which had a horrendous vase featuring some sort of phoenix, and which was filled with overtly pretentious academics, some of whom had blatantly decided to quote Wikipedia and Home Living magazine as part of their exegesis, I was filled increasingly first with existential questioning, and then with the thought that there was most likely something more to my visiting Hiroshima. There are usually never any coincidences in life, and we are often brought to particular places to fulfil some God-ordained appointments in those places.

That night, the real work began. Hiding my rosary in the pocket of my cardigan I started to walk along the riverbank where my lodging was located, and as I walked, I prayed the decades of the Rosary.

When the atomic bomb fell in Hiroshima in 1945, it obliterated some 140000 citizens. This was followed by another 74000 in Nagasaki three days later. (*After the A-Bomb*, Guardian.com) Nagasaki is the site where 26 martyrs of the Christian Faith were executed in 1597. (Visit-Nagasaki.com) Now that is a substantial number of souls whom do not have anyone to pray for them and make reparation for.

A funny thing happened in Hiroshima. I was completely caught up with the need to pray for souls and to pray for peace. Somehow, at the back of my mind was the idea that sometimes Holy Souls from Purgatory would visit the Faithful and request for prayers. For example, St. Padre Pio would often have the Holy Souls climbing the mountain of the monastery to visit him. One of the days, I was praying the rosary in the rented dwelling, when I heard someone knock on the door. Opening the door, I thought, "Oh! Is this what happens when Holy Souls visit and request for prayer?" We engaged each other in conversation and it turned out, that the person was actually a door-to-door insurance salesperson. Therein stems the need for deeper prayer and greater discernment. Also, the reminder that God reveals Himself as He chooses to the individual in different ways.



Hiroshima at night: Water ducts of the river.

While I would never know the impact of my work, God in His infinite wisdom knows what He is doing. Peace Cathedral – it's pity that it was under renovations when I visited. However the words of St. John Paul II ring true: "War is the work of man. War is destruction of human life. War is death. To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace."



Where the Firmament of Heaven touches the Sky.



A glimpse of Hiroshima



The river near my lodging.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is also a site of great poignance and is worth paying a visit to pray a rosary at.

By Brian Bartholomew Tan  
Photos: Writer's own

# The Hiroshima Chronicles



Declaration for Peace by St. John Paul II, 1981



Hiroshima Dome



Impact of Atomic Explosion



Stations of Cross in the Crypt of the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace



Paper Cranes at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



Address of the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace

## Special Mention

*Let us grow in holiness together and keep up to date of what is happening in our parish. Never miss a copy of Our Pilgrimage by signing up to receive an electronic one in your inbox weekly!*

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

## Parish Collection

Sunday Eucharist:	\$ 6,253.00
Apr'18 Income:	\$ 81,056.07
Expenditure:	\$ 67,986.25

## Celebrant Schedule

**\*New timing: Sunday Eucharist is now at 10 am**

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
2 Jun	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
3 Jun	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
3 Jun	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
9 Jun	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
10 Jun	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
10 Jun	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 masses

**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)

\*New Timing

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

## Parish Directory

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext 1)

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 Dieh MEP (ext 5)

Columbarium (ext 3)

## Upcoming Events in the Parish

### Rosary Month – 31 May

There will be a candlelight procession on Thursday, 31 May around the church at 8pm. Kindly bring your Easter candle with you.  
 A potluck fellowship will follow after the rosary. All are welcome.

### Holy Hour - 1 Jun

Eucharist Celebration will be at 6pm instead of 8.30pm followed by Holy Hour at 7.30pm. 24 hours Adoration will continue after Holy Hour.

### 24 hours with the Lord - 1 & 2 Jun

We come together as a community in praise, adoration, thanksgiving and prayer to our Lord who invites us to remain with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us respond to His loving invitation by spending as much time in loving adoration with Him as possible

Time: 1 Jun 7.30pm to 2 Jun 7.30pm

### Holy Spirit Retreat – 15 Jun to 17 Jun

Many of us have been baptised but many have also lost the meaning of what they had gone through during the ritual of baptism. This retreat is for participants who want to have a deeper experience of their baptism. Limited to only 40 participants

**(10 spaces left)**

Register: The booth downstairs on level 1 after Eucharist Celebration

Cost: \$50 per person

Venue: Majodi Retreat Centre, Johor Bahru

## Parish News

### Saturday Sunset Choir, CVA – Looking for Organist/Keyboardist

Please do sign up to play for the evening sunset Eucharistic Celebration on Saturday. For more information, please contact Jennifer Noronha at 9857 7505

### RCIA Journey (English) – Begins 25 Oct

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

## Archdiocese News

### Office For Catechesis Open House 2018 – 2 Jun

The Office For Catechesis (OFC) is having an Open House on 2 Jun (Saturday). Find out more about becoming a Catechist, the Archdiocesan Catechetical Trainer's Programme, volunteering with OFC and other programmes offered by OFC.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ugnlfh> or at [www.catechesis.org.sg](http://www.catechesis.org.sg)

Time: 10am to 12 pm

Venue: CAEC, 2 Highland Road (549102)

### Kickstart - 23 to 24 Jun

Entering university this year but unsure of where to meet fellow Catholic students?

Come on down to this year's Kickstart, an overnight Combined University Freshmen Gathering. The Office for Young People invites students who are entering NUS, NTU, SMU, SIM, JCU, SUTD, SIT, Yale-NUS, or other local and overseas universities for a time of worship, fellowship, encounter and more

Date: Sat 23 Jun 2018, 10am to Sun 24 Jun 2018, 6pm

Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lorong Low Koon S(536449)

Cost: \$10

Sign up: <http://oyop.org.sg/kickstart2018>

### Caritas Singapore – Social Mission Conference 2018 – 21 Jun

The theme of the conference is "Whole of Me, All of Us, One in Christ"

This conference aims to look at the social teaching of integral human development – where the whole person is developed (i.e. physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual) and all persons are included in the development of our society.

The keynote speaker is His Eminence, Peter Kodwo Appiah Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.

For more information and registration, pick up a brochure from your parish or register at [www.caritas-singapore.org/smc2018](http://www.caritas-singapore.org/smc2018)