

# Our Pilgrimage



5<sup>th</sup> August 2018, VOLUME 24  
18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday



‘To see is to believe’ and this is what some if not most people would say. There are others who would say as in today’s gospel, ‘What sign can you do’. When the Lord asks us to do something, quite often people ask for a sign and when they receive a sign, they continue to ask for another sign. Even if another sign is given, they might still not believe and think it was a coincidence.

Faith is to continue even though there are doubts. The doubts as we move along should be clarified and not clarified and then move along.

Sometimes one doubt leads to another and one question leads to another and eventually we do not move at all. Sometimes the Lord tells us what we need to know as we move along and not tell us everything at once.

Are you willing to take that one step in faith without knowing the rest of the steps? The question in today’s gospel, ‘What are we to do?’ should be asked in faith. The question should be asked only when the person is ready to make the response in action.

As in the Letter of St. James, to state that faith is present is to find it in action. In the gospel, ‘it is not those who say *‘Lord, Lord’ who will enter the kingdom of heaven but the one who does the will of my Father.*’ (Mt 7:21)

The faith must be visible for the individual to know what sort of faith is present. The visibility of the faith becomes a testimony to others. These others may sometimes need to the example of our faith actions to motivate them into wanting to act out of their faith.

Love and Adventure,  
Fr. Terence Pereira

## Questions for reflection:

What have been the visible signs of your faith?

What has the Lord been calling you to do?

What actions of others have inspired you to do great things for God our Father?

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15  
Psalm: Psalm 77(78):3-4,23-25,54  
Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17,20-24  
Gospel: John 6:24-35

## ‘Put aside your old self and put on the new’

*Ephesians 4:17*



### 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

# Roadmap to Holiness (Part 3)

Phase	Normal	Transition	Extraordinary
Focus	Am I existing or living?	Does it build my relationship with God?	One with the Lord
To be			
How to			
Gifts			

*Do I only use the gifts I have for personal social influences or to influence others towards Christ?*

Does it build my relationship with God?

## Why does God give us gifts?

Christ gave

*Ephesians 4: 11*

### The gifts

He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers

For the

*Ephesians 4: 12*

Purpose

Equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Until

*Ephesians 4: 13*

Duration

All of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ

By Julianne Danielle Lim

## Which gifts do I have more of?

God will be calling and raising leaders in each and every one of us. Which one (s) do you resonate more with?

### Apostles (Healers)

The term 'apostle' means sent one. These individuals go into uncharted territory and establish the church of God. They define the basic truths of the Gospel: who Christ is, how a person is saved, what the Gospel is, etc. The apostle focuses on a region.

### Prophets

One who speaks as God speaks, bringing the message of God into our world, into the human family, into our lives. At baptism, as the priests anoints the baptised, he says "As Jesus was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of His body." The prophet focuses on the relevant target, be it group or individual.

### Evangelists

One who is an agent of Christ in our daily living. It not the charm or winsome personality but the Spirit of God working through the evangelist's message that releases the Gospel into the hearts of people so that the Spirit of God can use it to convert the souls the person is working in. The evangelist focuses on the unreached.

### Pastor -Teachers

The pastor-teacher is a shepherd; a person who cares for a flock of sheep. He leads them to a place where they can find food and water. He keeps the flock together, so it is safe from attack. At the same time each sheep receives individual attention. Those that stray are brought back to the flock, and any sick sheep is healed. Each one is known by name. The Pastor- Teacher has a narrow focus.

# Roadmap to Holiness (Part 3)

## Who are we called to be?

In this phase of Transition, in all that we feel, do and think, we must ask ourselves daily “does it build my relationship with God?”



### A Living Sacrifice

Our living sacrifices will be an eternal gift to God. *I don't want your sacrifices. I want you to know God; that's more important than burnt offerings- Hosea 6: 6.* When we love someone, the sacrifices we make will not be accompanied by grumbles. Think of the sacrifices that we make for God and not how much the person should appreciate us for what we have done. Are our sacrifices sick or healthy?

### Love Somebody



We are called by God to love. We must ask ourselves each day, why did God put us with the people we work with or with the people in our ministry or community. God has placed some people in our lives so that we can love them, reach out to them. We are called to love even when there are differences. We are called by God to expand our hearts and love our neighbour who are difficult and challenging. God loves each of us so much and his commandment is for us to love somebody. We can love people in many ways, for example:

#### 1. Christ at Work

We are full time Catholics. Our work should also be our ministry. It is an opportunity to bring Jesus to those who do not know Him at all. It is also an opportunity to reach out to those who are distant from the church. We pray that all that we do and say will have others see Jesus through us, all for His glory.



#### 2. Communities

We must love each other by praying for each other, for our priests and bishop every day. The Church is a family. And like the father of any family, a bishop (and priests) needs the love, support and prayers of his family to serve with the courage God intended. We love our ministry members and all those whom we meet in other groups, by praying with them and praying for them.



#### 3. The Underprivileged

**God loves us equally, whether rich or poor.** We can love by engaging in advocacy to stop hunger, pledging to help the poor, getting involved with soup kitchens, minimising food wastage and praying for the poor and hungry. Let us love someone else we may not know at all today. Check out, CHARIS (Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore): <http://charis-singapore.org/>



## How do we build our relationship with God?

What is missing with the woman Jesus meets at the well? *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge- Hosea 4: 6.* If only she knew she was talking to Jesus! Therefore, it is very important to know the word of God through the Bible, and also through papal documents of the church. This is how we hear the will of God for us. Otherwise, we fall prey to others who will confuse us instead. Start here: [www.catholic.sg/participate/formation/](http://www.catholic.sg/participate/formation/)

### Live in Abundance

If we are so caught up on personal glory, recognition, fame, fortune, we will lose the freedom to live in abundance that the Lord has in store for us. Why? Because we will be slaves to constant comparison, envy and jealousy. So how can we live abundantly? We must have fun!



### Have Fun

Surely life is not just about being in constant misery and only enjoying some good times right? What is the purpose of coming to life? Our purpose is to live meaningful lives for our Lord. But if we are always taking everything so seriously and everything is no fun, we are not enjoying the life that God has given us. And if we are not enjoying our own lives, how are we going to bring joy to others?



### Be Open, Try Everything

What is the most unreasonable and crazy thought one may have? “I am not good enough”. This is a lie and destroys one. We must stop ourselves immediately when we notice this. We are made in the image and likeness of God. We must acknowledge that “I Cannot do everything”, I do not know everything”, “I cannot be everything”. And that is why we must depend on Jesus’ grace and His blessings. Be open, try everything after the heart of our Lord! Only then can we start to see the gifts God has given us.



### Praise God in Every Moment

In every moment, we have 2 choices:

(1) Praise Jesus (2) Grumble and beat yourself up. Do not let any moment be without praise for God.



### Help Each Other Grow in Holiness

Do not conform to the ways of the world. When someone does something well or good, do not just clap. Go up and affirm the person! Help each other to be more Christ like.



### Stay Rooted

Stay rooted in the word of God and continue building our relationship with God every moment, every day.



# Prayer of Contrition

Lord, I'm sorry for the times you were there for me but I was not paying attention to you. I am sorry that I have neglected you even though you accepted me as I am.

Lord, You have blessed me with many gifts and talents but I have not used them fully for the glory of God. Lord please forgive me.

Lord, many times I do not unite my sufferings and pains with Yours on the cross, choosing to feel dejected, helpless and indulging in self pity. Forgive me Lord for not trusting that You will care for me

Lord, I have not respected others sometimes having unkind thoughts about them. I need to learn to respect the worth of every person. Lord please forgive me.



Lord Jesus, forgive me for not trusting you enough in times of difficulties

Lord, I'm sorry that you have blessed me so much good and yet I'm not grateful towards you

Lord Jesus, I'm sorry for taking my ability to see, to breath, to hear, to sleep, to talk and to eat for granted, not knowing it was you who make all these possible

Lord Jesus, You have told us to love our sisters and brothers as you have loved us, but I have constantly judged them and alienate them. Lord I am sorry to have hurt you with my selfishness, pride and jealousy

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, for the bosses whom I have worked with and who have helped me grow into a confident person

Thank you Lord, for turning me from all my worldly indulgences and pleasures, and offering me new life

Thank you, Lord, for the 32 years of meaningful career that has enabled me to help the youths be trained to their fullest potential and cope with circumstances

Thank you Lord, for breaking me away little by little from slavery, and being able to enjoy the freedom you give



Thank you, Jesus, for changing our family's financial troubles into beautiful memories, that love truly never fails

Thank you Lord, for forgiving me each time I sin or turn away from you, and yet you still love as I am. I am truly thankful and grateful

Thank you Lord, for Father Terence, who has given so much to lead, guide and challenge us to grow in holiness, and be the salt and light in the world for Christ

Thank you Lord, for my parents and family who have been the support in my life

# Prayer of Praise

---

I praise you God our father,  
that you are the reason  
everything is good and you  
make everything brand new

I praise you Lord, for you are  
the divine healer and consoler  
of souls

I praise you Lord for your  
creative power that is displayed  
throughout the universe

I praise you Lord for the joyous  
symphonies of the birds, insects  
and creatures that sing of your  
great love for us

I praise you Lord for  
you are my hiding place  
and refuge



I praise you Lord for  
you are the most  
constant energy in my  
life

I praise you Lord for you are a  
generous God who gives peace and  
freedom

I praise you Lord for  
you are the mighty  
hand that protects the  
weak and meek

I praise you Lord for your glory and  
reign everlasting



# GOD who Moves the Mountains

Waiting for the LORD is uber tough and verily difficult.

For the past 6 years, I have been moving listlessly from job to job, trying to find the best fit. I have been consciously seeking out a job or career that would bring about flourishing and fulfilment, yet inevitably have settled for something lesser. I have been in my current occupation in a non-profit organisation for a year and 2 months and again those same relentless feelings of restless yearning, of ennui are stirring. The seasons seem to be changing, but not yet.

A part of me desires to move on, knowing intrinsically that there is something waiting for me, that is better and more suitable. A part of me is wondering whether it is just my ego speaking, and another part of me fears the drudgery of having to apply for jobs and go for interviews, starting from ground zero and from scratch again.

Having been through close to a year of unemployment in 2015 was a sobering and painful experience. There were escalating defaults on bills that needed to be paid off and I chalked up an exponential amount of credit card debt, which until today I am through God's Grace and Providence paying off.

However, as I look back at the 34 years of my life, these years and the things that happened to me were necessary to prepare for what is to come. God in His tender mercy was and is doing the impossible – letting me be emptied of myself so that He could fill me with Him; pruning and cutting away the branches that did not bear fruit; and stripping away the falsities of pride and the lies that I had told myself and perpetuated.

God in His goodness never abandoned me.

Those 2 years in that local company selling chocolate as a 2-bit salesman - taught me the skill of how to tie beautiful bows that I may now use to bless others. Those years teaching in the mainstream schools in 2012 and 2014 provided me with the knowledge of the current syllabi which, (and never would I have imagined this,) is necessary for my current portfolio in this current organisation that I am working in. Grace is never wasted. I do not know the reason why I am in this place for this time, nor would I fully comprehend why I had to make pitstops in these places, but God has a plan for me that is greater and which surpasses all imagination.

There is something inspiring in the Faith Chronicles of Abraham seen in Genesis chapters 17 to 21. Abraham was a man of Great Faith, but he presented with initial doubt that the promise of the Lord would be fulfilled in Sarah and he. He did not wait on the Lord and took matters into his own hands. He slept with Hagar, who bore Ishmael. It was only 14 years later that Sarah finally bore Isaac and brought the Lord's promise to fruition. While those 14 years seemed like a long time chronologically, it prepared Abraham to trust completely in the Lord's plan and providence, so that when it came to the Lord testing Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham could say confidently, "The Lord Himself, will provide the ram for the sacrifice." Coincidentally, the number 14 is echoed in Salvation History: King David came into being 14 generations after Abraham, and Jesus was born 14 generations after King David.

Waiting on the LORD may not make sense to our finite minds. It may even seem impossible, but we are exhorted by Jesus in Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17:6, to "have faith the size of a mustard seed."

This saying may come across as odd. Here I am asking God to increase my faith, and he says, "If you only had faith, the size of a mustard seed", however we must understand that it is impossible for us to have any faith on our own merits. Faith comes from the Holy Spirit. When we speak about having faith the size of a mustard seed, it is faith that is not in relation to our ridiculously pathetic faith, but in relation to the source of Faith, God Himself. Of course when I have even a tiny portion of God's faith, I can for sure move the mountains.

*Sirach 2: 10-11*

***"Consider the generations long past and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? Has anyone called upon him and been ignored?"***

***For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; forgives sins and saves in time of trouble."***

*Psalms 27: 14*

***"Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!"***

Dear Beloveds, the LORD is not too slow to save, nor is His hand too short to save. Jesus loves you very much. When the seasons change, things happen quickly. The seeds are currently germinating and you and I may not be able to see what is ahead of us, but the LORD GOD has an impeccable timing, design, and plan. At the right time, the right door will be opened. At the right time, the harvest will be gathered. Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*By Brian Bartholomen Tan*

Prayer for the Watchman Retreatants  
(9 to 12 August)

*Loving Father, we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all participants at the Watchman Retreat, that every heart be open to experience your love in a life changing way*

## Parish Collection

Sunday Eucharist Collection: \$ 6,432.10

## Celebrant Schedule

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

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
11 Aug	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
12 Aug	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
12 Aug	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
18 Aug	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
19 Aug	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
19 Aug	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 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)

## \*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 Dich MEP (ext. 5)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

We are located at: 17 St Michael's Rd, Singapore 327976

## St Mike Celebrates the Nation - 8 Aug, Wednesday

Join us with your family on this special occasion to celebrate Singapore's 53rd birthday! Come dressed in red and/or white or ethnic wear. It will be a night of fun, surprises, games, performances, songs and of course sparklers! It's going to make you say "O What a Night!". So, come and join in the celebration.

Remember to bring your mat for sitting at the foyer area and the food contribution that you have indicated. For those who have not registered, just come and join in  
Time : 7.30 to 10pm Venue: Foyer (Level 1)

## 2nd High Tea for Seniors - 11 Aug, Saturday

Our precious seniors had a whale of a time at our high tea a few weeks ago. We now invite you again to come join them if you didn't and enjoy good clean fun, makan and fellowship.

Time: 3 to 5pm Venue: Foyer

Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at the booth on Level 1

## Parish BBQ Meats &amp; Bites @ St Mikes - 21 Aug Tuesday (Eve of PH)

Time of fellowship on the eve of the public holiday through a BBQ. Through this relaxing social time, we will get to know each other and bond as a Parish.

Time: 7.30 to 10pm Venue: TBA

## Movie Appreciation Day - 22 Aug, Wednesday (PH)

Let us come together to watch the "The Judge" starring Robert Downey Jr and Robert Duvall. We will pause the movie from time to time, to discuss how some scenes either echo or challenge our faith. Since it is a public holiday, we can start the day with the Eucharist at 7.30am, followed by a free simple breakfast at the canteen and we will start the movie at 8.45am, in St Michael Room. Some snacks will be provided and you can bring your own.

## Same Sex Attraction Talk (SSA) - 25 Aug, Saturday

This is an invitation to all ministry leaders, elderly, parents, grandparents, young adults and teens to know, be educated and change attitudes in informed ways.

This talk aims to help us understand the factors behind and around homosexuality - from the psychological science viewpoint. Know the difference between "having SSA (Same Sex Attraction)" and "being Gay/Lesbian". Understand why "inclusion into the extended Christian family" is so important. This talk is not pro nor anti-LGBT, but provides insights from the Psychological Sciences for conservative communities. It will explain why SSA is not chosen by the person who has it, the factors that contribute to it, the various ways harm can be done including quack therapies. It aims to remove fear, prejudice and misconceptions while suggesting appropriate stance each community can take. It is in line with the precepts of all major religious faiths.

Time: 1 to 5pm Venue: TBA

Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at the booth on Level 1

## Parish News

## Seeking for Doctors, Nurses or First Aid Trained, Police and SCDV (Full Time)

Come Protect St Michaels. Step up and serve to protect our Patron Saints house of God. If you are security and fire safety trained please step forward. The Lord is calling you .

Come forward and say yes to Him. We are seeking help/volunteers if you are a trained doctor, nurse or first aid including AED, Security, Fire Safety and Emergency trained, we would encourage you to come forward and sign up with the Parish Admin Office at 6291-9272 or email to [esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg). We look forward to your participation.

## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - (Day of Obligation)

14 Aug, Tuesday (Vigil) Time: 8pm

15 Aug, Wednesday Time: 6.30am and 8pm

There will be no 6pm Eucharistic Celebration on both days

## RCIA Journey (English) - Begins 25 Oct, Thursday

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

## Archdiocese News

## Faith in the City 2018, 25 Aug Saturday

What is 'faith' from the Christian perspective? What do we mean when we say we have 'faith'? You're invited to a day of meaningful conversations, and witness the Word of God take shape before you through a form of visual art.

You can also bring your non-Catholic friends and family members to this event to experience art from a faith perspective.

Time: 2 to 4pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954

Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation

For more info and to register: [www.onec.org.sg/events](http://www.onec.org.sg/events)