

Our Pilgrimage



26th Aug 2018, VOLUME 27
21st Ordinary Sunday

Jesus has the message of eternal life. Eternal life seems like a long time and seems like a long time away. As we are caught up in the present moment and not too worried about the distant future, the messages that come to us are often devoured based on whether it is useful for the present or immediate future. We all think that we have plenty more years to live and therefore are not too concerned about what will happen a year from today. We are bombarded with so much information that we put aside what is not needed for the moment until it is too late to realise that the message of eternal life is needed for every moment of our lives. To put aside God our Father's message is to put aside the very source of life.

The message of Jesus Christ must be accepted today as it takes time for us to understand the message as well as for us to implement it in our lives. To live life to the full, one needs wisdom and inspiration from the Word of God. Our spirits are dry within us as we starve it of the Word of Life as we strive to nourish the body that does not give life eternal.

Ignoring the message of eternal life on a daily basis leads us to question the wisdom of God our Father when he says, 'Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything.' 'Why should I submit to my husband?' is a usual response by those who have no exposure to the message of eternal life. Life is lived according to my experience and the experience of others. Life is lived according to the thinking of the world. There is no eternal life in this sort of living.

Love and Adventure,
Fr. Terence Pereira



Questions for reflection:

Am I a true follower of Jesus Christ? If so where is the Word of God in my life?

Do I know the wisdom of the world or the Wisdom of God my Father?

Am I willing to follow Jesus Christ if it means being forsaken by others?

First Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

Psalm: Psalm 33 (34): 2-3; 16-23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32

Gospel: John 6: 60-69

'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' John 6:68



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

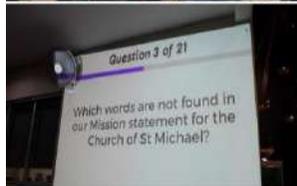
To Form Disciples in Christ

To Nurture community spirit through the Word of God

Meats and Bites



Check out all the photos here:
<http://bit.do/CsmSgMeatsBites>



On the 21st of August 2018, the Queenship of Mother Mary, the parish of St. Michael gathered for its inaugural Meats and Bites Barbecue event. Most fortuitously, the gargantuan custom-made barbecue pit arrived on the day itself at 3.08pm. The pit can easily fit 8 adults grilling simultaneously around. It was a night of wonderment and joy, filled with hymns and thanksgiving. The Kahoot quiz was also an instant hit with its multi-player capacities and real-time features.

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Movie Appreciation Day: The Judge



On the 22nd of August, the Church of St. Michael gathered for breakfast after the 7.30am Eucharist, followed by the movie screening of *The Judge* directed by David Dobkin. The audience was stirred and moved to an animated discussion by the facilitators Josephine, Marilyn, and Benjamin - which ran the gamut of unpacking paternal wounds, the problems of pride and self-righteousness, excavating truth, reconciliation, the motherly concerns for her second child, God as the merciful father. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing. Kudos and more please!



By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Finding GOD in the Cinema

We live in a world where we are constantly bombarded by images, text, and information. We have found coping mechanisms to filter through this flux – some of these become retained as useful and necessary information, some of these become white noise. The challenge then is for us to discern God’s voice from our own voice, the voices of the world, and the voices of the devil.

The cinematic form is a powerful tool of communication. It’s a visual text that moves its audiences in very tangible and visceral ways. We go to the cinema, and identify with the protagonists and the storylines. We laugh and we cry, we are awed to silence, we project ourselves vis-à-vis the on screen characters, we ruminate and perseverate upon the tropes and motifs – we sing the theme songs in the shower long after the credits have rolled. The cinema too is a wondrous experience of perceived community and cinema halls have been known to reverberate with one symphony of hearty laughter.

Therein lies a greater urgency to be discerning in what we watch and to seek all the more actively for the presence of God through the filmic media. Upon closer inspection, we may find the things which we deem innocent to be rather subversive. For instance, Ariel the Little Mermaid makes a pact with a seawitch, while the minions in the opening scene of Despicable Me, are found searching for the most “evil overlord” and “despicable master” they could find. We must remember that fairy tales were in fact first written for adults and spoke of the lore and enchantments of the medieval times. However, hidden under fluffiness and characters which are adorable, we often gloss over and ignore these subtle hints of subversion, when in fact our alarm bells should be going off, or at least, our senses should be tingling with their spider senses on.

While we are not called to be puritan and scrupulous when it comes to movie-watching, we are called to be discerning and informed audiences so that our cinema going may in turn feed our souls.

A way to do this is to discover how Catholic Social Teaching permeate our lives and the movies we watch.

“Catholic Social Teaching emerges from the truth of what God has revealed to us about himself. We believe in the triune God whose very nature is communal and social. God the Father sends his only Son Jesus Christ and shares the Holy Spirit as his gift of love. God reveals himself to us as one who is not alone, but rather as one who is relational, one who is Trinity. Therefore, we who are made in God's image share this communal, social nature. We are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice.” (USCCB, Catholic Social Teaching)

“Catholic Social Teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.” (USCCB, Catholic Social Teaching)

The tenets of CST are Life and Dignity of the human person, Call to Family, Community and Participation, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Rights and Responsibilities, Solidarity, Care for God’s Creation, and The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. More information can be found at : <http://www.caritas-singapore.org/catholic-social-teaching/#.W32coOgzblU>

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Why I Have a Spiritual Director

Throughout my career, I have had a few mentors at work and I will actively seek them out through different channels such as networking sessions or trainings. I strongly believe we need guidance on our career path to get to where we want to be professionally.

Having said that, I always ask myself, 'What about my spiritual life?' I don't exactly know what to do except go for regular confessions and attend Mass regularly. How do I deepen my relationship with God? How do I discover my purpose and calling in life? I could read a book about the topic I am interested in or Google for the answers. What can be better than to talk to someone about it?

I got to know my Spiritual Director from Kingsmead Center. She is a mature Catholic lay person who is neither a counselor nor a therapist and I see her once a month.

A Spiritual Director is dedicated to guiding people and helping them to explore matters of the faith. Together, we discern what the Holy Spirit is doing and saying. I am then guided to act on that discernment and draw nearer to God in Christ. She will explore God's presence, voice and activity in my life. Through prayer, conversation, listening and asking questions, my spiritual director guides me in deepening my intimacy with God.



10 reasons to get a Spiritual Director:

1. To learn how to interpret and explore your experiences with God
2. Integrate prayer practices in daily life
3. Deepen your relationship with God
4. Discern how to make important life decisions or changes
5. Discover your purpose and calling in life.
6. Share joys, fears, desires and struggles in a safe environment
7. Spiritually heal from past wounds and hurts
8. Receive the encouragement and guidance in this spiritual growth
9. Get spiritually unstuck
10. Become who we are meant to be

This is my 4th session journeying with my spiritual director. She constantly reminds and nudges me towards the wisdom and grace God is already pouring into my life.



A Godly Response With Grace

Do we judge others because of their attitudes, actions, or words? Or do we give people **respect**, understanding that everyone has different ideas, different ways of doing things and sometimes people make mistakes? How would we respond to each of the following situations?

- Someone doesn't seem to appreciate you
- Someone says unkind words about you
- Someone criticizes you
- Someone seems stuck up or ignores you
- Someone expresses an opinion you think is terrible
- Someone seems lazy or irresponsible
- Someone acts like a hypocrite
- Someone doesn't invite you to a gathering

What does God say?

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

-Colossians 3:13

It's normal to feel irritated or upset with other people, but God wants us to learn a different way to respond.

Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble-1 Peter 3:8

Responding to others with grace means "bearing with" (or graciously putting up with) people. It means acknowledging that everyone has areas of weakness and that we all are works in progress. It means loving people in spite of their personalities, habits, and faults.

To Reflect

What does it mean to show grace to others?

To Pray

Ask God to help us bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances we may have against one another



How should we respond when we are irritated?

Pray when someone bothers us

Responding with grace does not come easily to most of us. Pray for that person.

Pray to love and for the concern for others

God has called us to be genuinely concerned about the needs of others. When we love someone first over the task, we are less likely to take offense. If someone does or says something wrong, we pray for them instead of reacting with anger.

Pray for people who bother us

It is God who changes hearts of people. Sometimes we can help by talking with them, but we need to be sensitive.

Pray to live in harmony and to be peacemakers

It is inevitable that we will be upset with others from time to time. Let us pray for wisdom and to be a channel of Jesus' peace.

Pray to overcome anger

When we find ourselves becoming irritated, grumpy or angry, pray immediately for the Holy Spirit to give us the courage to respond with love and concern, not anger.

By Julianne Danielle Lim

Confessions of a Closet Catholic

As a child in the 1970s, being Catholic was a breeze. I attended a Catholic school, attended Catechism classes and even had a crush on one of the male catechists. I did not have many questions about the faith. I simply went through the motions. In primary school, I dutifully had the sacraments – Holy Communion and Confirmation. In secondary school, I trooped to church with my schoolmates on holy days. In junior college, I can only recall stepping into the prayer room once, maybe twice.

Looking back, I realise now how weak my foundation as a Catholic was. When I was a teenager, I didn't believe the bread and wine was really the body and blood of Christ. Just symbolic, right? But even in my twenties, I wasn't really challenged as a Catholic. If you asked me my religion, I would automatically reply Roman Catholic proudly. But no one questioned what I really believed in. So did I go to church on Sundays? Yes I did. Did I attend Novenas on Saturdays? That I did. Did I go to confession? Errr... skip the question.

Did I Pray?

I guess I did pray. I must have prayed to do well in exams when I was in school. I studied overseas and came back in one piece. And still no one questioned me about my faith, much less if I believed there was a God or knew who Jesus was. Being Catholic was easy-peasy.

So did I tell people who Jesus was?

I guess you know the answer to that one already. A flat no. Come on, we live in a multi-racial society with friends from various religions. Why offend them by bringing up the subject that you are Catholic? I won't even talk about religion in front of non-Christians. Maybe I was afraid I wouldn't be able to answer their queries.

My closest friends were not Christians. Did I try to convert them? No. A close friend I had for more than 20 years had cancer and she wanted to know how to cope with the disease. I would tell her that we had groups of people that would pray for each other. Did I think of bringing her to Church? No, too shy. Did I take the opportunity to tell her about the awesome healing power of God? Nope, I knew she was really into her own religion with her huge Goddess of Mercy altar in her living room and her constant visits to the temple to pray, to get her destiny foretold.

The missed chances I had to bring her to the Lord became starker when she passed on and her last words to me in Mandarin were "What to do?". I prayed but it was too late. And even as I write this, I receive an email that drove home this message and my need to share my story. Tears.



You are called shepherds; see that you do not act as hirelings. But be true shepherds, with your crooks always in your hands. Do not go to sleep, but guard on all sides the flock committed to you. For if through your carelessness or negligence a wolf carries away one of your sheep, you will surely lose the reward laid up for you with God.

Blessed Pope Urban II
(A.D. 1042 – 1099)

**Pray for our Confirmands
- Confirmation Camp**

(31 Aug to 2 Sept)

God our Father, grace our confirmands with an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit, that they may love You, the teachings of the Catholic Church, and their neighbour. Empower them with the swords of piety and purity, charity, hope, and faith, and shield them with the Gospel of Peace and Truth. Give them good faith communities to journey in and help them to shine forth with the light of Christ from within.

Parish Collection

Sunday Eucharist Collection \$ 5,419.70

For the month of July:

Income \$ 58,599.70

Expenditure \$ 50,543.40

Celebrant Schedule

*New timing: Sunday Eucharist is now at 10 am

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
25 Aug	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
26 Aug	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
26 Aug	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence
1 Sep	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
2 Sep	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
2 Sep	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, **1st 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 **3rd 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 : csm.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**

Bible Study - Genesis Part 2 - 7, 14, 21 Sep, on Fridays

The Bible Study sessions will resume on the Fridays of 7, 14, 21 Sep.

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Register: At the booth on level 1 after all Eucharist Celebrations

Holy Hour - 7 Sep, Friday

Time: 7.30pm

Eucharist Celebration: 8.30pm

There will be no 6pm Eucharist Celebration on this day.

Parish Cleaning Day - 8 Sep, Saturday

Come help us spruce up our Parish for our Feast Day! Bring your cleaning items; Join us!

Time: 8.30am onwards

Evening Brew - 15 Sep, Saturday

It is time to kick back, relax with a drink, and talk about theology.

If you have any question on any aspect of our faith and practices, bring them to this casual

Q & A Discussion Gathering.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Outside St. Michael's Room

Feast Day Triduum - 26 to 28 Sep Wednesday to Friday

During the three days of the Triduum, there will be the recitation of the Chaplet of St. Michael at 7.30pm before the Eucharist Celebration at 8pm.

(26 Sep) Day 1's Theme: **Know Our Faith**

(27 Sep) Day 2's Theme: **Faith to Serve**

(28 Sep) Day 3's Theme: **Faith to Share**

Feast Day and Consecration of Altar - "Vibrant in Faith" -29 Sep, Saturday

Archbishop William Goh will celebrate our 57th Feast Day Eucharist at 5.30pm. His

Grace will also consecrate our altar. A light dinner will follow after this celebration.

Parish Feast and Fair - 30 Sep, Sunday

To close our Feast Day celebrations, come join the festivities, food, and games at our

Parish Feast and Fair after the 10am Eucharist Celebration.

Parish News

Marriage Encounter (ME) Weekend - 7 to 9 Sep

The programme is focused on building a better communication between spouses and enhancing their married life. Please keep the 20 couples from CSM in your prayer.

RCIA Journey (English) - Begins 25 Oct, Thursday

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

Archdiocesan News

New Wine Conference 2018- 15 Sep, Saturday

What does it mean to be holy in today's world? Speakers at the conference include Msgr Ambrose Vaz, Fr Ignatius Yeo, and Fr Luke Fong. The conference will spotlight on the communal nature of our baptismal call to holiness. PPC, EXCC, Ministry leaders and members, and Small Christian Communities, are encouraged to come.

Organised by: Office for the New Evangelisation

Time: 930am - 4pm **Venue:** SJJ International School (490 Thomson Rd S298191)

Register: www.one.org.sg/events

Treasure Retreat- 20 to 23 Sep

As young working adults, we spend our lives searching for the one treasure that can satisfy our hungry hearts. What are you seeking? Come and see what the Lord has in store for you at this encounter retreat! Registration fee: \$130

Date & Time: 20 Sep (Thu) 7:30pm – 23 Sep (Sun) 6:00pm

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

Register: oyp.org.sg/treasure10 - or contact treasureretreat@gmail.com

Jesus For Everyone- Evangelisation 101



You're sure to know a family member or friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ.

Consider creating an opportunity to share your faith with this person!

This week, invite your family member/friend for a simple meal.

Or give him/her a call to find out how he/she is doing.

Likewise, share your faith journey and life with them!