

# Our Pilgrimage



28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018, VOLUME 36  
30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

Bartimaeus cried out in a loud voice continuously regardless of those who sought to shut him up. He was blind and not deaf. He would have heard about what Jesus had done for those considered less-than-complete by the society at that time. Bartimaeus had this one chance as Jesus was passing by to make his needs known.

Bartimaeus had faith and he had the courage to put his faith into action despite the odds he was facing. He had to overcome a less than compassionate crowd in order to get to Jesus. It was one man's voice against the voices in the crowd. Bartimaeus persevered. He was certain about his need, as he was certain that Jesus would listen to his plea.

There are times in our lives where we have a need or an aspiration, but courage and determination is wanting and the outcome far from our desire. A blind man shows us what determination can do.

The Lord responded positively towards Bartimaeus and the Lord is waiting to hear our heartfelt plea as well. We do cry out to the Lord but is it a heartfelt plea? Approaching the Lord with confidence in his love for us will only deepen the relationship that we have with him. The approach that is made in love will only serve to deepen our faith. If we approach the Lord just for our needs with no regard for a deeper relationship with the Lord, we cheat ourselves of what the Lord can truly give us.



Love and Adventure,  
Fr. Terence Pereira

Do we seek the Lord for what he can give us or do we seek the Lord for who he is?

How deep is your desire for the Lord?

Are we running away from our sufferings or are we embracing the cross?

First Reading: Jer 31: 7-9  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125 (126)  
Second Reading: He 5: 1-6  
Gospel: Mk 10: 46-52

## Go; Your Faith Has Saved You

mark 10:52



### 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

# A Short History of the Church II



## The First Roman Convert

A.D. 39

In Caesarea, Peter baptises Cornelius, a Roman Centurion and his family. Henceforth, Christianity ceased to be a national religion, and became international.

## The First Apostle Martyr

In the reign of Emperor Claudius, Herod Agrippa was appointed king of the Jews. In A.D. 44, James the Elder was seized and beheaded.



Peter was also imprisoned at this time, but was miraculously freed by an Angel.

## Christian Community at Antioch

Due to the persecution, the disciples had been scattered to places as far as Phoenicia and Syria. Some settled in Antioch. At Antioch, the followers of Jesus came to be known as Christians. Barnabas and Paul ministered to Antioch for a year.

A.D. 42



Herod Agrippa, according to *Jewish Antiquities* died shortly after in A.D 44, eaten by worms, as he was exhibiting a show for Emperor Claudius.

## The Apostles make Headway in Cyprus and Asia Minor.

A.D. 46

Beginning in Cyprus, from Paphos the Apostles cross over into the mainland and make their first stop in Pamphylia. In the late summer of AD 46, Paul and Barnabas arrived in South Galatia. At Lystra, Paul and Barnabas were hailed as gods then stoned at the instigation of some Jews.

Paul and Barnabas set sail for Cyprus.



A.D. 50/51

## The Council of Jerusalem

The Church takes the bold step of breaking away from Jewish norms, emphasising her universality instead.

# How Welcoming a Church are we?

There was once a homeless man who entered a church in a Southern land. His hair was in dreads, his outfit, a layering of worn out, stained, smelly clothes dug from the bins of the Salvation Army. As he entered the church, the congregation began to stir with a murmur of clicking *tsking* tongues. Some ladies became histrionic and started pointing their fingers at him. The gentlemen joked that he was better off in the streets. As the homeless man made his way slowly up to the front pew, the clamour of disapproval arose. The homeless man arrived at the pulpit, turned around and introduced himself, "Hi, I am Pastor James, the new pastor of your congregation." The congregation dumbfounded and utterly ashamed, fell into a stunned silence. "Did Jesus not say that whatsoever you do to the least of your brethren, you do it unto me?"

While the above is a parable for our times, and rather extreme an example, perhaps it may be a good springboard for us to consider how welcoming our own church has been this past year or so. Have we left visitors and fellow parishioners feeling cold-shouldered? Have we been genuine in our welcome? What vibe have we given to the people whom we have encountered? It may be salient at this juncture to take stock of how welcoming our church has been, amidst the events and activities.

As an introvert, who tends to be energised when being alone, and who on one hand, may be able to host a fabulous social gathering and party, but on the other, would often take twice the amount of time to recharge post-party, making conversation, or being friendly even with the people I know, may not necessarily be my best attribute or gift. Conversations tend to be awkward, after all, who wants to talk about the *Interior Castle* or *Summa Theologica* on their first meeting with a stranger. Yet, it is important to be the person who would make the first step

of introduction and welcome. Over time and in the course of my work, I have had to go beyond my comfort zones to extend a hand to others. You must understand that this does not at all come naturally at all to me, but has taken years of training and practice. When it becomes overwhelming to muster up a smile, I deploy a number of strategies, with prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament being a huge part of the arsenal.

I draw strength from my experience as an observer in a Cistercian Monastery in 2016/2017. The monks became the embodiment of Christ as they welcomed me a stranger. I was fed, given rest, and allowed to heal in my time. As an added plus-1, I was often a hindrance with regard to the work on the farm, and I committed a number of inhospitable faux pas such as showering after the hour of Compline during the time of the Grand Silence. Nonetheless, the monks were embracing and warm. While I was often selfish and judgemental, the monks through God's immeasurable Grace and years of exercising their charism of hospitality, managed to love me for who I was.

Mother Mary too becomes an unassuming model of hospitality. When she discovers that her cousin Elizabeth is with child, she sets out with haste to be with her and care for her in her time of need (Luke 1: 39-56) At the Wedding of Cana, she observes without having unnecessary attention drawn to her, that the wedding entourage has run out of wine, and she quietly directs the necessary action to the one who would know exactly what to do: Jesus (John 2).



# How Welcoming a Church are we? (con't)

Thom Rainer, a consultant to help churches become more welcoming, has surveyed a number of churches from various denominations and has come up with the observation that in general, the church members found themselves welcoming, while guests and visitors found their experience unfriendly. The guests often felt as if they had crashed a private party. He goes on to describe that many guests and visitors often see a cluster of “holy huddles” or cliques and provides the insight that, “the welcoming church is more an attitude than a disposition. It represents the mindset of an outward focus rather than an inward focus. It is about serving rather than being served.”

The entire experience of how warm and welcoming a church is, often begins from the very moment a person steps into the compound of a church. Infrastructure aside, the human mind is subconsciously picking up signals and making resonances about how clean a place is, or how safe the place is. The carpark greeters are very often the first people a congregation meets. So if they meet a sour-faced greeter, chances are that their experience of the Eucharistic Celebration would be tainted by their first human contact in the carpark.

I once had to attend a lunchtime Eucharistic Celebration, on the Solemnity of the Assumption. The church was packed, and throughout the Eucharistic Celebration, all I could think about was how rude the hospitality ministry was in herding the crowd along, in their refusal to open up the additional storeys to accommodate more people, and how rudely they were chatting among themselves during the different parts of the Eucharistic Celebration. Instead of being immersed with the beauty of the God-experience at the Eucharistic Celebration, I had become distracted by the petty human undercurrents.

A strategy that a good friend and mentor has taught me is this: Begin with someone who you are familiar with first. Warm-up and make a genuine connection with this familiar person, then move on to someone who you do not know. Introduce yourself and make an effort to learn the name of the person whom you have introduced yourself to. Often times, the people around us may be equally if not more intimidated to be present than ourselves.

An authentic smile also works wonders. I take inspiration from this MRT staff whom I happen to pass each morning on the way to work. She never fails to grin and smile genuinely at every passenger.

There is also the lost art of truly being present, listening, and giving people your time. When we partake in conversation with others, oftentimes, are minds are wandering and we are formulating replies in our heads, rather than truly being present and listening to the person before us.

We can do our part to become more welcoming as a Church, and the onus is not merely on the members or leaders of Ministry, or the parish priest, but the onus is on us. We make the difference. We are in fact, God’s gift, and God’s providence. We start with baby steps.





...to share  
your word



...to spread  
your word

## Lord, I'm Ready

Let your talent be a gift back to God.

Come talk to us if you love to write as we are looking for parishioners of all ages to help write about our Christian faith and our church activities

See you at the Comms booth before and after all Eucharistic Celebrations this weekend or enquire at: [csn.comms@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csn.comms@catholic.org.sg)



...to share  
my story



...to share  
my talent

# Superheroes of Sainthood Proportions

The world has always been fascinated by the Superhero – from the mythologies and legends of Greek and Roman literary classics, to the DC and Marvel hero in capes. We have been captivated by the extraordinary strength, charisma, integrity, and nobility of these sentient beings.

However, **the world needs more models of Biblical and Sainthood disposition and proportion.** In preparation for All Saint's Day, here are some amazing Saints who via the Grace of God, were in more than 2 locations at a time, spoke to animals, healed, had visions, and great intellectual prowess.

## St. Anthony of Padua

(Franciscan Friar with the gift of eloquence)

Superpowers:

- Resurrected a dead child by interceding to God
- Talking to animals
- Bi-location

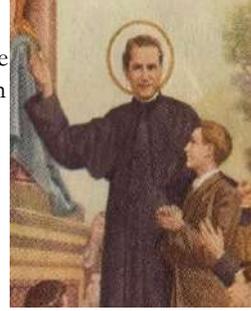


## St. John Bosco

(He dedicated his life to the education of street children and the poor)

Superpowers:

- Visions
- Telekinesis
- Healing



## St. Joan of Arc

(She single-handedly led the French Army to victory against enemy armies)

Superpowers:

- Deep Courage
- Visions
- Healing



## St. Rose of Lima

(She was a Third-order Dominican known for her piety and chastity)

Superpowers:

- Exceptional Beauty
- Slept only 2 hours a day
- Accurately predicted her death
- Endured grave penance and pain

## St. Joseph

(Foster father of Jesus on Earth, and spouse of Mother Mary)

Superpowers:

- Great humility
- Prophetic dreams
- Profound wisdom



**Have you discovered  
your superhero Saint yet?  
Holy Saints of God, pray for us!**

Sources:

- <https://catholic-link.org/saints-for-children-9-superhero-saints-that-you-didnt-know/>
- <http://www.catholic.org>

*By Brian Bartholomew Tan*

# Who wants to go to Heaven?

## Prayer for All Souls' Day

*Merciful Father,  
hear our prayer and console us.  
As we renew  
our faith in Your Son,  
whom You raised from the dead,  
strengthen our hope  
that all our departed brothers and  
sisters will share in His resurrection,  
who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.*



ShareCatholic  
[www.ShareCatholic.com](http://www.ShareCatholic.com)

Many of us would nod our heads or raise our hands if asked “Who wants to go to Heaven?”. However if asked “Who wants to be a Saint?”... fewer nods and fewer hands perhaps.

**ALL SOULS' DAY**, which comes at the heels of Halloween and All Saints' Day, is a day to pray for all our loved ones who have died. Halloween (which originated from All Hallows Eve, hallows being the Old English term for Saints) was originally meant to be a great holy party that culminated in worship in the Eucharistic Celebration of the feast of All Saints' Day, a day of obligation. Thus, ALL SOULS' DAY is actually a continuation of our celebration of all those who have passed on from this life.

### Sin results in Guilt + Punishment

To get to heaven, we need to give glory to God just like the Saints did; the Saints are already in heaven. To get ourselves and our loved ones who have passed on to our final destination, we need to understand that when we sin, we acquire the liability of guilt and the liability of punishment.

When we repent, God removes our guilt but temporal penalties may remain. It's like if you steal a car, you can repent of your actions but it is not enough to say you are sorry - you also need to return the car or make restitution. This is justice and God is just, right up to the last cent. God wants us to get to heaven but we will be judged first, and the Lord's judgement is rigorous. We can make up for our sins by doing acts of charity as “charity covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8), and also by living lives full of love of God and of neighbour.

### Be Generous to Those who Have Gone Before

It is not the plan of God that we fall into sin and go to purgatory before we get to heaven. Revelations 21:27 says, “Nothing unclean may come into it (may get to heaven)”, so we either purify ourselves in this world, or we purify ourselves after this life.

Fortunately, we can help our brothers and sisters who are in purgatory. If we were in purgatory, wouldn't we want the prayers, sacrifices and Masses of the faithful? So let's be generous especially on All Souls' Day, we should offer up our rosaries, our sacrifices and especially the uniting of ourselves with the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist and the suffering of souls who are waiting to enter the glory of heaven.

“As we enter Heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming toward us and thanking us. We will ask who they are and they will say: ‘A poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.’” - Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

*Written by Karen Roberts-Fong with excerpts from Fr. Ignatius Manfредonia's Homily on the need to make temporal punishment for sins either in this world or the next (6 Nov 2008).*

## Notice

### Car Park

Driving Parishioners attending All Saints' Day (8pm) Eucharistic Celebration on 1 Nov, Thursday, please park at the Buddhist Temple. Kindly follow the instructions of the Wardens. Parishioners with a disabled decal will be allowed to park in Church. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Weddings in Church of St Michael

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

### Infant Baptism

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, December

## Parish Collection

### Sep 2018

Income: \$ 83,335.99  
Expenses: \$ 86,162.37

## Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
27 Oct	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
28 Oct	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
28 Oct	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
3 Nov	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
4 Nov	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
4 Nov	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence

## 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

**Columnarium**  
Daily: 7 am - 7 pm  
Prayers: every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of the month only.  
9 am (M) & 11.30 am \* (E)

**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)

Columnarium (ext. 3)

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

## Events in the Parish

### O What A Night! – 5 Nov, Monday (Eve of Deepavali)

Enjoy the fellowship and fun with games and laughter. Bring your picnic basket with your family and friends. Transport will be provided and leaves church 7pm sharp  
Time: 7pm - 10pm Venue: Toa Payoh Town Park (back by popular demand)  
Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

### St Mike's Games and Fun Day – 6 Nov, Tuesday

Fingers itchy? Toes twitching? Come join us for a fun day of indoor games and activities as we come together as a community this public holiday on 6 November. We will be commencing with free breakfast after the 7.30am Eucharistic Celebration.  
Register: After Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

### Evening Brew – 9 Nov, Friday

Come join us for another session where topics of the faith will be discussed.  
Time : 7.30pm Venue: Outside St Michael's room

### Sessions on Gaudium et Spes – 16, 23, 30 Nov, Fridays

This is a document of Vatican II that directs our thoughts and actions in the modern world. We look at how we can be Church in this time and age. These sessions will break down the document for the participants.  
Time : 8pm to 10pm Venue: Worship Hall  
Register: Next week after Eucharistic Celebrations at ground floor

## Parish News

### Who's keeping our Church Spick n Span?

We need volunteers to help us clean the church premises on a regular basis. No skills needed, just willing hands ☺  
Contact: Parish Admin Office 6291 9272 or [esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

### Rosary Procession around the church - 31 Oct, Wednesday

Time: 7pm

### All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)

**1 Nov, Thursday** Time: 6.30am and 8pm  
**31 Oct, Wednesday (Vigil)** Time: 8pm  
*There will not be 6pm Eucharistic Celebrations on both days*

### Holy Hour – 2 Nov, Friday

Time: 7pm

### All Souls' Day (Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed)

**2 Nov, Friday** Time: 6.30am and 8pm  
(There will be the blessing of niches after the 8pm EC)  
*There will not be 6pm Eucharistic Celebration on this day*

### First Holy Communion – 3 Nov, Saturday

Please pray for our Level 3 children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion at the 5.30pm Eucharistic Celebration

## Archdiocesan News

### One way to tell others about Jesus is through stories.

*Try this: This week, post a short note on social media about a time when you encountered the Lord. Also share this testimony with one of your Catholic friend.*



### 'Review of Life' Workshop by Caritas Singapore - 20 to 21 Nov, Tues and Wed

How do we make sense of our daily life challenges? How do we see clearly with the eyes of faith, live the Gospel daily and grow in faith?

Join us on 2 consecutive evenings to learn the Review of Life (ROL) method, to understand how to better integrate faith and life.

Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Venue: Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh

For more information and registration, please refer to the Caritas Singapore website: [caritas-singapore.org](http://caritas-singapore.org) or email to [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org)