

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

16th Dec 2018, VOLUME 43
3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Advent Reflection

‘Anyone who has two tunics, must share one with the man who has none’. This was John’s answer to the question about what must be done. The question meant that the person or people had to be ready for a change. The attitude of the people at that time was that if a person had two tunics, then someone else need not have any. It is quite dissimilar to our attitude. Today, the desire when we have more seems to be correct regarding those who have less. The people heard John’s message and realised that they needed to change in order to be ready for the coming of the Messiah.

In those days, the obligation to share what one had, did not go beyond that of the family boundaries. Families that were living at the subsistence level did not and could not go beyond their family to share. Jesus of course challenged this as we see this later in the Gospel (Lk 9: 10-17). At times the family members themselves were filled with greed and did not share with their own family members: something that is happening even today. To widen one’s horizon in terms of living the command to love the Lord God with all of one’s heart, mind, strength and soul was the call of John’s preaching.

[Continued on P2]



1. What are the fruits of our repentance?
2. Are we in the right relationship with God now?
3. What about the relationship with our neighbours?
4. How are we preparing ourselves in this season of advent for the coming of Christ?

First Reading: Zep 3: 14-18
Responsorial Psalm: Is 12
Second Reading: Phil 4: 4-7
Gospel: Lk 3: 10-18

Someone is coming and He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:16



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

Advent Reflection (con't)

The tax collectors were under the employment of the chief tax collector, like Zacchaeus, who made a bid for the right to collect toll (tax) from the Roman authorities. To obtain this right, they would have to pay the assessment fee the moment they won the bid to have this right. The winner of the bid to this right will then have to devise his own way of trying to make back the amount that he had initially forked out. The Romans did not bother too much in the case that the chief tax collector collected more than he should. The chief tax collector will then usually hire those who are homeless and incapable of finding any work. These tax collectors were mostly honest in doing their work and any cheating on their part would usually benefit their employers. Not all the chief tax collectors were wealthy as Zacchaeus. John was addressing these chief tax collectors. John did not call for an overhaul of the system but called for a change of heart for those who were in the system.

Quite often we seek to change the system that exists, only to find that the new system does not work as well. This is primarily due to the people in the system. Corrupt people corrupt the system and usually instead of addressing the corrupt people, the system is blamed. John's call to conversion is a call relevant to each one of us today as we are tempted in every way to give in to the temptations of greed, abuse of power, and selfishness. Conversion is shown by an obvious change in one's behaviour.

To truly rejoice that the Lord's coming is close at hand, is to have taken the road of conversion. The waiting for the Lord will be an active waiting where there is much action as there is much anticipation. The action takes place in the heart that is being cleansed for the coming of the King. The heart is cleansed of the other so-called rulers of our heart like the internet games, drama series, and unnecessary attachments.

Love and Adventure,
Fr. Terence Pereira



The colour Rose for Gaudete Sunday

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, the priest dons vestments in the colour Rose. In a liturgical year, there are only 2 occasions for the colour Rose: Gaudete Sunday during Advent, and Laetare Sunday during Lent.

The use of the colour Rose signifies a time of great joy amidst a time of penance when Violet vestments are usually worn. The time of preparation is coming to a close, and the great Feast approaches.

The Entrance Antiphon of Gaudete Sunday exhorts, "*Gaudete in Dómino semper!* (Rejoice in the Lord, always!)" and as Christians, our call is to be heralds of this great joy which will fill the hearts of all who hear the Word of the Lord. We are reminded to have joy and bring joy. As Pope Francis states, "Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. **God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.**"

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

SSVP and the Friends in Need



It was a memorable and meaningful experience going to the SEA Aquarium with the SSVP member and the Friends In Need (FINs). It was truly heart-warming to see that the FINs were enjoying their time at the aquarium, taking pictures, and conversing with one another. Even though it was tiring, it was also a very fulfilling experience being able to help the FINs. I also gained valuable knowledge from the SSVP members and volunteers, which has allowed me to learn more about the purpose of the work they do for the FINs.



We would like to thank you our parishioners for your generosity donations to our Friends in Need.

By Melissa Tan



Willing Hearts

“Being part of the field trip to Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen with the youth and Catechists of L8 (2018) was a most memorable experience as I witnessed Christ’s Love and Faith in action. It was heartwarming to see these youth being concerned for each other and their community (Hebrews 10:24).

Many of us don’t cook or clean up in our own homes, yet these youth, encouraged by their Catechists’ servant leadership, invested their morning cutting and peeling vegetables, some even volunteered for “door knocks” to deliver cooked food to residents. I am sure everyone felt warm and fuzzy just thinking about how the lettuce and kangkong they handled would soon find their way to someone’s tummy, also remembering that some of these residents have just one meal a day. I am inspired by our youths’ faith and humbled by their compassion, generosity and humility. (Colossians 3:12)

‘How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers all together!’ (Psalms 133:1)” - Yvonne - parent who joined us to volunteer at Willing Hearts

“Honestly, I find it very enjoyable since I’ve been stuck in home with not much to do. In fact, I find the work so fulfilling that when I was asked to go for a break with Vic, I was reluctant because I did not want to rest. I felt that I could have done more with that time. In a way, the work was tedious even though it was simple because there was so much to do - cutting 300 lettuces and picking through 1 huge crate of rotting kangkong. When we cannot spare the time to serve at Willing Hearts, we have other opportunities like giving alms to the poor. You can give them a helping hand by giving donations during Eucharistic Celebration yet the effort of taking out your wallet to put in money feels like a lot. Being a warden, I noticed that counting the money has gotten easier recently since less money is coming in. It used to be an hour but now it is shorter by 10 minutes ☺

Since I do not have any earning means yet, I look forward to serving at Willing Hearts again with my classmates because they helped me a lot and they gave me the motivation to try harder and faster.”
– Terrence, 14



Willing Hearts

“During this experience, I was given the opportunity to help out those in need, even if it wasn't very much. Seeing that this organisation had many volunteers who were very willing to do as much as they can to help: some even going there often, starting from the wee hours of morning until late in the afternoon, had deeply touched me and inspired me to want to play my part as well. I believe that this is a reminder to us that there are many people out there in the world who are not as fortunate as us. Thus we should be willing to offer our help so that together we can make this world a better place.” – Chelsea, 14



“I learnt in Willing Hearts what kind of work goes into the act of giving food to the poor and it is surely not easy work. Many people put their hands to all kinds of work from picking, cutting, carrying, washing, cooking to packing. I was dispatched to deliver the food and I thought it wouldn't take long but it took 3 people 4 hours just to complete 19 deliveries. I'm really thankful for this experience as it showed me the efforts many people made, such as getting up at 5 am because of the love they have for the poor amongst us.” – Aaron, 14



“The trip to the soup kitchen was a very good experience for me and I am grateful for the many blessings I have received in my life - the warmth of my family, the meals on the table and the opportunities to better myself. It was also a way for us to serve others who are less fortunate than us, to give back to the people and community. It reminds me of what Jesus said, in Matthew 25:35 ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome...’” – Randall, 14



Advent Reflections 2018

Date: 3 Dec to 23 Dec 2018

Time: 7pm, every evening



How are you preparing for the arrival of Jesus? Jesus is our most important guest at Christmas. Let us turn to the Word of God to help us reflect on what the Lord desires of us. Come join us every evening with session led by Father Terence.

Meet the Parents session

Fr Terence would like to meet the parents of children and youth attending Pri 1 to Sec 3 Catechism.

Date: Friday, 11 January 2019

Time & Place: 8pm, Worship Hall

Primary 1 Catechism Registration

Come register your child on the following weekends (ground floor)!

• 15-16 Dec / 22-23 Dec 2018

• 5-6 Jan/ 12-13 Jan 2019

Saturdays: 4.30pm to 7pm

Sundays: 9.30am to 12noon

For enquiries, email

thomassinnappen@hotmail.com

Starting dates for Catechism Classes:

• **Primary 1 to 6:** 20 Jan 2019

Time: 8am to 9.30am

• **Sec 1 to 4:** 19 Jan 2019

Time: 3pm to 5pm

Parish News

Seniors' Christmas Hi-Tea

Seniors! We invite you to a rockin' Christmas Party. Don't miss it!

Date: Saturday, 29 Dec

Time: 3 to 5pm

Register at the ground floor booth after the weekend Eucharistic Celebration!

Advent Reflections at CSM

Dates: 3 - 23 Dec

Time: 7pm **Venue:** Canteen

Join us for fellowship and Advent Reflections with Fr Terence.

Advent 2018 - Penitential Services

Time: 8pm

17 Dec, Mon: Church of St. Alphonsus

18 Dec, Tues: Church of the Sacred Heart

Christmas Eve & Day

- Eucharistic Celebration schedule

24 Dec, Mon: Midnight (E)

25 Dec, Tues: 8am (M), 10am & 5.30pm (E)

Christmas Octave 2018

- Hark The Herald Angels Sing

We celebrate this moment of our salvation for 8 days with the Word of God and with food. All are welcome to join us after each evening's Eucharistic Celebration.

Day 1 - 25 Dec: First Noel

Day 2 - 26 Dec: Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Day 3 - 27 Dec: Jingle Bell Rock

Day 4 - 28 Dec: I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus

Day 5 - 29 Dec: Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

Day 6 - 30 Dec: Christmas isn't Christmas

Day 7 - 31 Dec: Feliz Navidad

Day 8 - 01 Jan: Mary Did You Know

31 December Thanksgiving Mass

Even before the year ends, many of us have already set our 2019 appointments. Before we rush into the new year, let us give thanks to the Lord for his generosity, and for the gift of one another. With one heart and one mind, let us celebrate the Eucharist, which in Greek means Thanksgiving.

Time: 10.30pm

Weddings at 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.

Parish Collection

Weekend Collection \$5,172.20

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
15 Dec	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
16 Dec	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
16 Dec	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
22 Dec	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
23 Dec	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
23 Dec	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, 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)

Canteen
 Sun: 7 am - 12 pm

(M): Mandarin; (E) English

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email : esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Parish Priest: Fr. Terence Pereira (ext. 6)

Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. John Van Dich MEP (ext. 5)

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

GIFT Advent 2018

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at Parish Admin Office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.



Support The Catholic News by taking part in our survey!
<https://tinyurl.com/y9qq7kgj>
From now to January 7, 2019

The image also shows several copies of Catholic News magazine, including one with the headline 'Catholics celebrate Singapore's 53rd National Day'.

31 Dec Year-end Thanksgiving Mass (Indonesian Language)

The Indonesian Community in Singapore will hold their Year-end Thanksgiving Mass at the Church of the Risen Christ. Rosary recitation starts at 7.30pm followed by Mass afterwards. Celebrants: Fr. Kamelus Kamus, CICM & Fr. F.X.R. Sambodo, SS.CC. For further information, please contact: Sunny (91543490) or Angelika Sundari (91112030).

5 Jan Mass followed by Prayers for Healing, 2pm to 4pm

You are invited to join the praise & worship and Mass followed by prayers for healing. After Mass, prayer teams will pray with you for healing. Celebrant: Fr Tom Curran. Organised by Praise@Work. Venue: Church of Sts Peter and Paul. For more information, T: 97472467
Email: praiseatworksg@yahoo.com