

Our Pilgrimage



30th Dec 2018, VOLUME 45
Holy Family (Year C)



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStmichaelsG

Liturgical Reflection

The image of the Holy Family is represented often in a Christmas card in a scene that is loving and peaceful. However, this can be misleading. The picture we would need to encounter, is that of a real family which is filled with grace but still faces the difficulties and struggles of daily life. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were ordinary folks - Joseph was a carpenter who worked hard to support his family. It was from his father that Jesus learnt his trade that became a means of earning an additional income for a living.

The families during the time of Jesus were obliged to follow strict cultural norms. The boys were upheld in status over the girls. The mother, aunts, and sisters (remember how Moses was looked after by his sister when he was left floating down the river) would take an active role in bringing up the boys.

The boys would be breastfed twice as long as the girls. The boys would be fed as often as they wanted food. Some boys turned out pampered. Due to this, strong bonds would develop between the boys and mothers.

There was an absence of a father figure in their lives until the age of puberty. The boys would have an ambiguous identity until they arrived at puberty when they are initiated into the world of the male adults via a ceremony known as the Bar Mitzvah. Here they learn the harsh and hierarchical world of the men. From this age on, the fathers will teach their sons. However the bond that they had developed with their mothers remain deep and strong as this bonding was done during the impressionable period of their lives.

[Continued on P2]

Mary stored all these things
in her heart,
reflecting on them.
luke 2:19

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,
24-28 or Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 127
(128):1-5 or Psalm 83(84):2-3, 5-6,
9-10

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-
21 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52



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

Liturgical Reflection (con't)

It was not an obligation for Jesus to keep the festival at 12 years old but it would be when he turned 13. Passover observance lasted for 8 days. How did Joseph and Mary miss the boy when they were returning from Jerusalem? The men and their sons who have passed the age of adolescence take one route and the women and children take another route. Jesus was at this stage of his life where his father might have thought that Jesus was still attached to his mother and that he had gone off with her and Mary our Mother could have thought that her son had finally moved on to the next stage and was making the journey with Joseph. Only when they came to the converging point of their routes did they realise that Jesus was missing.

What was Jesus doing? Culturally, he was breaking into the men's world. He entered the world of the adults but more than that he was entering into the world of learned religious men. In the eyes of the rest, Jesus could be seen as just entering into the men's world but the way Luke presents Jesus indicates that Jesus not only entered into the men's world but into His own realm of the divine

by entering into dialogue with culturally learned men.

This is further expressed when Jesus said "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" This verse reveals Jesus, as the Son of God who understood His Mission. Jesus's question to Mary our Mother could be seen as Jesus culturally entering into the men's world, where the men are independent of the woman's control and direction in their lives. Sometimes this happens today when teenagers begin to rebel against their parents. This is an age-old pain that most parents go through and dread because the outcomes are uncertain. Instead of reprimanding Jesus, Mary kept all these in her heart. The tensions sometimes last for a long time because the parents sometimes cannot see that this is a rite of journey that teenagers go through. Still teenagers are to bear in mind that Jesus made his point but continued to live under the authority of Joseph and Mary. The fourth commandment was kept by Jesus as we all are called to do.

A Christian home must bear the likeness of the first Holy Family, a place where there is plenty of room for God. A home is a home only when God exists and when He is the center of the family life. A Christian home is the place where we learn to love by being first loved by our parents. It is where we learn to show love to others. God is love. When we are loved, and when we love, we experience God in our lives.

As we go through our life stages, do we take our struggles to God our Father?

In what ways can we better handle tensions in the family?

There is a need to recognise the gifts and talents of others. How do families accommodate this recognition?

A Greeting as a Spiritual Embrace

The Editorial Team would like to apologise for the errata of omitting the following paragraph in the Advent Reflection of Vol 44 by Jovian and Marianne:

"A greeting in the name of God is powerful and passes on the peace and joy of the risen Lord to the recipients. How do you respond to a spiritual embrace? Ask the Lord to open your heart to the Holy Spirit, to receive his embrace through your brothers and sisters in Christ. Then, you will understand the meaning of true peace and joy in the kingdom of God."

With love & gratitude, Margie and Jacqueline



New Year's Eve Thanksgiving

Church of St Michael
31 Dec 2018

Before we rush into the new year, let us give thanks to the Lord for his generosity, and for the gift of one another. Let's give thanks together & party to greet the new year!

7.30pm: Makan

8.30pm: Praise and Worship

10.45pm: Eucharist Celebration

Happy New Year & Party Begins!

A Tree of Spiritual Fruit



Tucked in a quiet corner of St. Michael's, stands a majestic, live Christmas Tree next to a station for parishioners and visitors to pen down their prayer intentions and thanksgiving. At that station, a standee board has also been lovingly prepared with information about Christmas traditions that are celebrated by the Catholic Church.

According to St. Basil, "A tree is known by its fruits, and a man, his deeds." We pray as a community, that our trees may bear good, Christ-fruit, fruit that will last. We also give thanks for the year that has passed and we commit to the LORD what is to come in the days ahead. If you have not yet hung up your prayer intention, you are invited to do so. Let us as one community pray for each other.

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Have we Forgotten Jesus at Christmas?

There is something about Christmas. No where in the course of History has a particular holiday been celebrated on such a massive world-wide scale and with such gusto.

Japan for one, is obsessed with Christmas, and goes through intensive preparation to illuminate her boulevards with lighting, snowmen, and Santa Clauses, which results in illuminated installations that are nothing short of spectacular. The Tokyo Sky Tree and its entire vicinity are made awash in landscapes of sparkling lights of meticulous planning. Awe-inspiring in a technicolour manner, but no sign of Jesus and the Holy Family, except in the quiet nooks and crannies of Catholic Churches hidden in silent alleys and streets. Christmas, as made testament to by the dour and spartan faces that fill the trains heading back to work the next day, is like any other bank holiday. An excuse to indulge in hedonistic feasting and drinking.

Singapore's Orchard belt also spares no expense in decking its malls and trees with baubles and lighting effects. This year, the decoration is Disney-themed and the lights are shaped in cute Mickey Mouse heads. Every shop tries to cash in on the festive bandwagon with the staff donning Santa hats, and by selling seasonal products sold by the hamper. It is possible to encounter beauty (the worldly kind) and come forth empty. Commercialism is rampant, with supermarkets playing Christmas carols up to the 25th and playing Chinese New Year songs on the 26th. The saving grace to all this, is that Tangs never fails to centre its Christmas décor around a Scriptural verse.

Christmas can be a very stressful time for many people - as they stress over what to prepare for Christmas dinner, or rush from place to place in an attempt to make some headway with the crowds who are like them, are all doing last-minute Christmas shopping.



Tensions are high and frazzled, as people meet relatives and catch-up with long-lost classmates. Instead of welcome and love, many encounter snarky remarks and insult during this time. The defences are up on red-alert and the knives have been sharpened to inflict the most damage.

It is also, while it should not be the case, for some, a time of melancholy, desolation, and loneliness. There are multitudes who despair at the thought of returning to their offices the next day, while others deal with crushing loneliness, and try all sorts of means, but turn to God, to fill any emptiness within.

In Melbourne, for example, a cosmopolitan city, it is common to find the homeless lying besides piles of used needles, and packets of contraband at the road junctions. Some Church organisations have tried to reach out with the setting up of mobile soup kitchens to help combat hunger and the cold with the distribution of bread and soup, but the numbers are many and help is few and between.

So the question is, where is Jesus in all of these?

While Christ came quietly that night in Bethlehem, it is our duty as Christians to proclaim aloud the hope and the true light that He gives and brings. Or have we forgotten about Him?

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Asking the Holy Family to Adopt us

It must have been an arduous, even dangerous journey, as Mary, in her last weeks of her pregnancy, set off on a donkey with Joseph to complete the census in Bethlehem. While it is easy to aestheticise and romanticise the entire experience, we must remember that back in the day, there was no convenience of the Downtown Line, and that all the inns were booked because people from all over the world were right smack at where it was happening. Without the medical care as we know it today, and epidurals, and given the fact that Mary was of a very young age, the labour must have been an intense experience. Following the birth of Jesus, there was a political manhunt for the Child King and the need to live as a refugee in a foreign land. Yet, out of humility, and docility, Mary and Joseph submitted and went.

The salvific and prophetic Hand of God is seen in all these. It is significant that Jesus was to be born quietly, and unnoticed, in a place considered the lowest of the low. It is important, that He who is the Living Bread, is born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread. It is pertinent, that Jesus return to Egypt for a time, to redeem Egypt after the liberation of the Israelites.

As we consider our own lives, it is necessary to understand that the Holy Family and the lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, were borne out of difficulty and great hardship, and that whatever circumstance that we may be undergoing - the struggle to find room, space, belonging, acceptance; the battle to make ends meet and find provision; the loneliness of exile and alienation; a state of impoverishment and poverty; the struggle to find gainful employment in a foreign land, had already been experienced, in full by the Holy Family. Of greater need is to see that amidst all these difficulties, the Holy Family trusted completely in God. The graces that we receive are dependent on how much we trust in GOD.

As we busy ourselves this Christmas, and as we look forward to God's amazing surprises in the year ahead, let us ask the Holy Family to adopt us as their own. Through them, we see a testimony, that GOD never fails, that GOD always provides, and that GOD never abandons or forsakes His people.

Dedication of One's Family to the Holy Family:

Most loving Jesus, by Your sublime and beautiful virtues of humility, obedience, poverty, modesty, charity, patience, and gentleness, You blessed with peace and happiness the family which You chose on earth. In Your mercy look upon my family. We belong to You, for we have received Your many blessings over many years and we entrust ourselves to Your loving care.

Look upon my family in Your loving kindness, preserve us from danger, give us help in time of need, and grant us the grace to persevere to the end in imitation of Your Holy Family, so that having revered You and loved You faithfully on earth, we may praise You eternally in heaven.

Mary, dearest Mother, to your intercession we have recourse, knowing that your Divine Son will hear your prayers. Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, help us by your powerful prayers and offer our prayers to Jesus through Mary's hands. Amen.

(www.entn.com)



By Brian Bartholomew Tan

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)!

• 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

Admin Assistant (full-time)

We are hiring an Admin Assistant (full-time). Forms are available at the Parish Admin Office.

Hear ye CSM seniors!!

Just for you a Seniors Club blossoms!!
Commencing Tuesday 12 Feb 2019
and every Tuesday thereafter. Come and enjoy the activities. Together Seniors pray hard and play hard!

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Octave Celebrations Continue after the Eucharistic Celebrations!

5th Octave – 29 Dec, Sat

7pm: Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer

6th Octave – 30 Dec, Sun

11.30am: Christmas isn't Christmas

7th Octave – 31 Dec, Mon

7.30pm: Feliz Navidad

New Year's Eve – 31 Dec, Mon

No Eucharistic Celebration at 6pm.

New Year's Day – 1 Jan, Tues

8th Octave – Mary Did You Know

7.30am: There will be a Rosary

Procession before the **Eucharistic Celebration**, followed by breakfast and Octave activities.

Holy Hour – 4 Jan, Fri @ 7.30pm

Eucharistic Celebration @ 8.30pm

Grow spiritually with each moment you spend with Jesus.

Eucharist Explained – 13 Jan, Sun

Come and understand the signs and gestures of the Eucharist.

Lunch/refreshments provided.

Time: 12.15pm to 5pm

Venue: Worship Hall

Evening Brew – 18 Jan, Fri

Relax with drinks & get answers to any aspect of our faith and practices. Do send in your questions to csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Venue: Outside St Michael's Room

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.

Infant Baptism

1st Saturday of Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Sept & Oct

Parish Collection

Weekend Collection \$5,728.20

For November 2018
Income: \$50,767.00
Expenses: \$71,460.00

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
29 Dec	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
30 Dec	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
30 Dec	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence
05 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John
06 Jan	10 am	Fr. John	Fr. John
06 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. John

Eucharistic Celebration

Openness Hours

Weekend Eucharist
Sat Sunset: 5.30 pm
Sun: 8 am (M), 10 am, 5.30 pm
Confession: 30 mins before EC

Parish Office
Mon- Fri: 8.30 am - 5 pm
Sat: 8.30 am - 11 am
Sun: Closed

Weekday Eucharist
Mon - Fri: 6.30 am & 6 pm
Sat: 6.30 am

Adoration Room
Daily: 7 am - 10 pm

Eucharist on Public Holidays
7.30 am only

Columbarium
Daily: 7 am - 7 pm
Prayers: 3rd Sun of the month
9 am (M) & 11.30 am (E)

Holy Hour
7.30 pm, 1st Fri of the month
Followed by Eucharist at 8.30 pm
(except during the period of Lent)

Canteen
Sun: 7 am - 12 pm

(M): Mandarin; (E) English

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1), Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email: csm.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

Book of Psalms Course

Fr. Ferdinand Purnomo OCD will be conducting morning & evening classes.

Morning Sessions: 22 Jan to 28 May

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan

Education Centre (CAEC) Building

Evening Sessions: 21 Jan to 27 May

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: CANA, Catholic Centre

Course details & registration

@ <https://bit.ly/2GfwK6L>

Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family

Date: 5 Mar to 28 May

Time: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Venue: CAEC

Contribution: Non-refundable fee of SGD50. Contact Joann (97804456), Jileen (93836868), Elena (81131023) or email: cdsg@acf.org.sg. Register at <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/sd/>

Welcoming Returning Catholics

We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in a 10-week Landings programme.

- Church of the Holy Spirit (starts 4 March, register by 18 Feb)
- Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (starts 25 April, register by 18 April)

Interested participants will need to register. An evening of Returning Stories will be held on Friday 22 Mar. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or check details at www.landings.org.sg