

# Our Pilgrimage



27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019, VOLUME 49  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelsG

## Liturgical Reflection

In ancient times, anointing was a cultural practice used by shepherds to protect their sheep. The pouring of oil on a sheep's head would make it slippery for insects to cling onto the sheep's fur thereby preventing an infestation. It became a symbol of God's blessing and protection and is associated with a consecration for a divine purpose such as the priestly, prophetic and kingly vocations. By proclaiming that he was the anointed one, Jesus declares that he was chosen by God to bring salvation.



What of salvation do you need? Why was Jesus sent to redeem us? The truth is that we are sinners. Many a time we do not realise that we are dependent on God and with our pride, think we are self-sufficient but are in fact poor with the graces of God. Hence, Jesus was anointed to bring good news to the poor, news that we have a loving Father who is *Yahweh-yireh* (Genesis 22:14, means "the Lord will provide").

The poor in Spirit are the recipients of the good news. They are the imprisoned, blind and oppressed in their lives, the neglected, ostracized of society. Sin holds us captive as slaves. It makes us blind to God's presence for when all we see is our own pain, we lose sight of God. (Ref: *The Shack*, William P Young)

[continued on Page 2]

*'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'*  
Luke 1:1

**First Reading:** Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 18(19):8-10,15

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21



### 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)

Sin makes us burdened and weighed down. Therefore, God sends us his Son, Jesus, to free us from our sins and save us from all distress. Jesus says *“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matt 12:28) Do you believe in your salvation?

The Holy Spirit in Luke’s gospel leads, fills and empowers people for prophetic work. Our passage opens with Jesus returning with the Holy Spirit to Galilee from the wilderness. He had just overcome temptation and has been strengthened by the experience. From this experience, he became ready to begin his public ministry and will travel from town to town to teach, heal and live out the living word so that people can see the salvation that God offers. Do you listen to the Holy Spirit and allow him to lead you in your daily life? The Spirit of the Lord rests on us to lead us to proclaim the good news to the poor.

Luke was writing an orderly account to “most excellent Theophilus”. “Most excellent” was the title of Theophilus (Θεοφιλος, "lover of God", derived from theos "god" and philos "brotherly love"). Theophilus was a gentile, likely a Roman government official who had previously received some instruction about Jesus. Luke’s gospel therefore is directed at believers like Theophilus who need assurance that what they have been taught is truth. Despite the word of God surviving through thousands of years of history, it is to date a difficult teaching to accept. Are you a Theophilus seeking for the truth? Do you believe that Jesus is the living word?

Psa 19:8. *“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.”* Heb 4:12 *“Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.”*

Saint Augustine wrote of a human yearning to move to complete fulfilment. *“You have made us for yourself, O Lord,”* he wrote in his Confessions, *“and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”* It reminds us that perfection can be attained through the grace of Jesus. In St Paul’s letters to the Corinthians, we can find the way to perfection by becoming part of the body of Christ, each part graced with individual gifts – even our weaknesses. We must realise that we are not alone on our journey to perfection. God has given us his Son, who lives in each and every one of us. By meditating on the word of God, Emmanuel, God with us, we are able to fulfil our yearning. Do we allow God to fulfil his promise in us?

The living word of God is for everyone. It is love poured down from God our Father to us who are his beloved children. This living word is also none other than Jesus, incarnate Son of God. God speaks to us through His word. Today, Jesus is telling us that as the Anointed One, he is the fulfilment of God’s promises and with authority has come to save us, to lead Israel back to the law. He fulfils the promise that the Lord has not forgotten His people, even if they have lost their way while yearning for complete fulfilment.

Spend some time with the Lord in scripture today. Let us pray that when we encounter Jesus in our hearts *saying “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”* (Jn 6:63), we may have the same response as Simon Peter did *“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* (Jn 6:68)

***Does the Holy Spirit direct your life?***

***Do you read the bible constantly?***

***What is it that you are seeking in your life?***

By Marianne Choo

# Living Our Baptismal Call

**“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.” - 1 Cor 12: 4-11**

The people of Corinth caused a lot of trouble for St. Paul. While baptised in the Holy Spirit, they had begun to place a hierarchy on the gifts they had received - those whom they had perceived to have received “fewer” from God, they ostracised. They were also rich, proud, and arrogant, and cast the poor aside like stones to be kicked away from the roadside. However, this article is not about a moral exegesis on the lives of the people of Corinth, but a salient reminder to ask ourselves whether we are like or have become the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 is also a gentle reminder to us that we are made for more and greater in our lives; That we have been anointed and sealed in the Holy Spirit; That each of us has been gifted with a unique Baptismal Call that the Lord GOD has placed in our hearts.

The problem is this: Over the years, we have forgotten our Baptismal Call, or have tried to suppress it, or have buried it somewhere within us. We have not lived this call and that

is the reason why many of us still amble through life, searching for meaning in life. Many of us are searching for God, when ironically, God is already there, in us and with us. Over the years, our Baptismal Call has also been diluted with what the world tells us. It has been tainted with lies and deceit. It has been corrupted by doubt and woundedness. At the end of the day, we begin to tell ourselves that we are not worthy. It does not help that we barely spend time with the LORD, nor read His Word to discern what His Will is for us. Are we so almighty that we can over-ride God’s Plan and Will for us? We only know our past, and we do not know what the future holds. Consider also how GOD called the imperfect people: Moses was a stutterer and a murderer, Jeremiah was a youth of a tender age.

## What is our Baptismal Call?

**First, it is to “Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10: 27) and second, to “seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness.” (Matthew: 6:33)**

Next, it is to know deeply that we are beloved by GOD. As Psalm 100: 3 says, “Know that the Lord, is GOD. It is He who made us, we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.” and again in Jeremiah 31:3, “The Lord approached from afar. I have loved you with an everlasting love, and therefore have continued my faithfulness to you.”

What then do we do? The answer is found in Micah 6:8, “You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your GOD.”

Peace and GOD’s tender mercy be with you.

*by Brian Bartholomew Tan*

# Setting a Generation of Lost Youth, Free

We are all sinners, and we have been wounded in some way or another.

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”**

– Luke 4: 18-19

For those who know me well enough, they would know that I am currently working in a Catholic Charity, a non-profit organisation which works with boys-at-risk in a residential setting. The youth come from varied backgrounds – some presenting with the aftermath of trauma, others on Child Protection Order, some having had minor brushes with the law, and mostly those who come in on compassionate grounds – who do not have relatives or parents to give them full developmental care. For example, in an Art Therapy session, one of the boys sculpted a sculpture of a headless pregnant woman because he had never seen his mother’s face before.

While these youth may appear as tough and gruff, they come from a place of woundedness or neglect, and very often are seeking some form of intimacy, love, and validation. They also present with bamboozled-ly stunning sports, culinary, music, and art portfolios. Some even present unsurpassable talent such as juggling, singing, and impeccable comedic timing.

However, **the youth are crying out for help.** They are also looking for good mentors, educators, and sojourners who would journey with them and who would believe in them. They also need prayer warriors who would stand in the gap and intercede for them. They need someone whom they can count on in their lives.

A client was baptised an Anglican, but turned to the underground gods favoured by his gang. This was in part due to how he felt that his parents did not love him, and so sought solace in the dizzying world of vice. He felt welcomed and accepted in what the youth term as their “shirt” (gang). He was a minor leader of the pack, and felt useful.

Another child who came in, was baptised a Catholic, but his father was violent and abusive to his wife and his children. Having faced such trauma, he had a wounded perspective of the Catholic faith, and an even more distorted perspective of who God the Father is.

Yet another child had both parents who had been incarcerated. He had spent his childhood moving from one foster home to another foster home, before finally settling in this current organisation.

For another youth, when a social worker did a house visit, she found that he was not getting the proper nutrition he needed, and was only eating instant noodles every day.

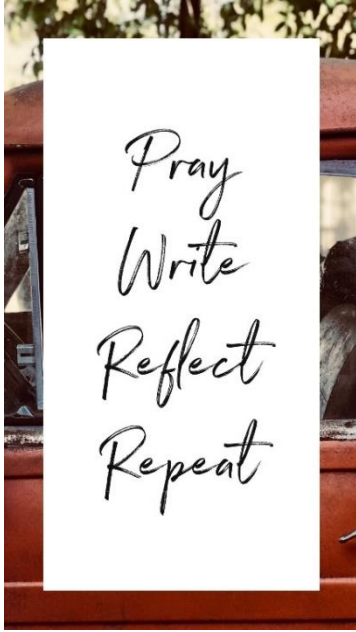
These are the everyday scenarios which I encounter in my place of work. For these youth, whose default mode is fight and flight, it is tough to even talk about the concept of love. There is good reason that they are barely motivated to do well in school, for at their tender age, they have greater concerns to worry about.

The LORD GOD, with His impeccable sense of humour has placed me here for a time and season, because He has a plan for me. I don’t know what that plan is, but as **1 Peter 4: 8 says, “Let your love for one another be intense, because love [charity] covers a multitude of sins.”** My brothers and sisters, every prayer counts. Please join me in praying for these whom are God’s beloved.

*by Brian Bartholomew Tan*

# Introduction to Faith Journaling

Faith journaling is a gift for the long haul, to make your faith active. ***“Journaling is a pathway for joy & a powerful tool in the hands of love.”*** It could be a habit-based approach to your spiritual growth, to help you focus on what is God saying to you.



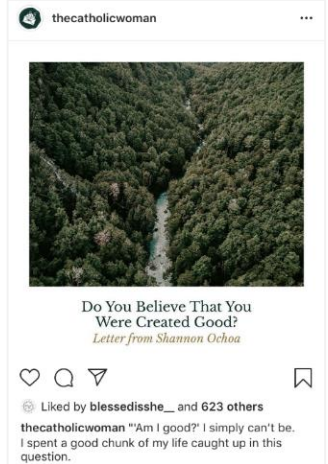
## How should one begin?

There is no right or wrong way to start your journal. For a start, you may reflect on the following points and write them down on the first page of your journal:

- Why do I want to keep a faith journal?
- Have I ever had the slightest experience with Jesus?
- Who is Jesus to me?

## Any other smaller steps towards keeping a Faith Journal?

If you feel like you are not so comfortable with writing (yet), but you enjoy scrolling and reading posts on Instagram for the word of God, you can create a collection and save your favorite posts in the collection.



Here are some accounts that you can follow on Instagram:

- AbidingTogetherPodcast
- Catholic.sg
- CatholicConnect
- Catholic\_teen\_posts
- CatholicSoul\_2014
- Good\_news\_of\_christ
- TheCatholicWoman



# Introduction to Faith Journaling

[continued from Page 5]

## Daily Faith Journaling Inspiration On a Normal Day

- Keep track of the things/people/events that you are grateful for.
- Keep track of encouraging and meaningful scriptures, and reflect on it. Write down your reflections.
  - How is it relevant to my life at this point in time?
  - What is it that inspired me?
  - What have I learnt from it?
  - Who can I share it with?

## During Tough Moments

- Pray for God's grace to grant you a peaceful heart and clear mind. Write down Truth to remember rough moments.
  - What is it that I have sinned?
  - What is it that I need healing from?
  - Is there anyone that I can pray for?
  - What is God calling me to?

*by Odilia Lim*



## Holy Hour

1 Feb, Fri at 7.30pm  
Eucharistic Celebration  
at 8.30pm

## Infant Baptism

**Infant Baptism will take place on:**  
1st Sat of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep & Oct

## Registration of Pregnant Mothers

To help families prepare early for their baby's baptism, we invite pregnant mothers in their third trimester in January to register with the Parish Admin Office. We shall be in touch on the preparatory sessions. Please email to [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

## Parish News

### Presentation of the Lord – 2 Feb, Sat

There will be blessing of candles at the 6.30am Eucharistic Celebration. You are highly encouraged to bring your own candles for the blessing.

### Chinese New Year (CNY)

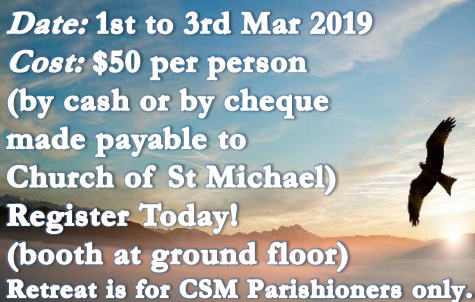
#### Eucharistic Celebration Schedule

- **4 Feb (Eve of CNY)**  
There will be no 6pm Eucharistic Celebration
- **5 Feb**  
8am (Mandarin); 10am (English)
- **6 Feb**  
7.30am (English)

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Catholics interested to refresh their catechism lessons as children or during their past RCIA journeys may join as refreshers in the RCIA sessions held every Thursday, 8pm at St Michael's Room.

## Parish Retreat @ Majodi Johor Bahru



**Date:** 1st to 3rd Mar 2019  
**Cost:** \$50 per person  
(by cash or by cheque  
made payable to  
Church of St Michael)  
**Register Today!**  
(booth at ground floor)  
Retreat is for CSM Parishioners only.

### Sign-up for CSM Seniors Club

Interested to find out more about our 1<sup>st</sup> CSM Seniors Club? We would love to register your names for the very first meet-up that is happening on **Tuesday, 12 Feb, 9.30am to 12.30pm**. Do register at the booth (ground flr).

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## Jesus came to heal the whole body and soul

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### Eucharistic Celebration for Anointing of the Sick

**Date:** 17 Feb, Sun

**Time:** 3 to 5pm

**Registration:**

For anointing, please submit your name or names of your loved ones to the Parish Admin Office.

Do include health conditions, if Catholic or non-Catholic (blessings only).

Please register by 10 Feb, Sun.

### Calling all Youths: It Takes 2 to Tango

Calling ALL youths who are interested to learn and dance the Tango. Join us for 3 Sundays and the dance floor is yours!

**Dates:** 17 Feb, 24 Feb & 3 Mar

**Time:** 12noon - 2pm

**Venue:** Level 3 Classrooms

**Register** on 2-3 & 9-10 Feb

(booth at ground floor)

Sat: 5pm - 7pm; Sun: 9:30am-12noon

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## EVENING BREW 15 Feb, Fri

Come for an interesting evening with drinks, snacks, fun and laughter, and get answers to parishioners' burning questions.

Do send in your questions to [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)

**Time:** 7.30pm to 10pm

**Venue:** Outside St Michael's Room

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### *Archdiocesan News*

### My Journey, An Evening with Kelvin Sng (Local Filmmaker)

**Time:** 7pm-9pm light dinner provided  
talk begins at 7.30pm

**Date:** 31 Jan, Thurs

**Venue:** The Cana, 55 Waterloo Street,  
3rd Level, Singapore 187954

**Cost:** Free of charge

(love offering is welcome)

**To register:** please email [admin@cbn.sg](mailto:admin@cbn.sg)  
or call 6801 7491/9858 4782

(By registration only)

**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	\$6864.60
<i>For December 2018</i>	
Income:	\$141,865.10
Expenses:	\$88,081.80

*Celebrant Schedule*

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
26 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
27 Jan	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
27 Jan	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence
02 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
03 Feb	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
03 Feb	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

**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: every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of the month only.  
 9 am (M) & 11.30 am (E)

**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)*

**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](mailto:esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg)  
 Parish Priest: Fr. Terence Pereira (ext. 6)  
 Asst. Parish Priest: Fr. John Van Dich MEP (ext. 5)  
 We are at: **17 St Michael's Road, Singapore 327976**

**“Review of Life” Workshop**

*by Caritas Singapore Formation Committee*

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 for 2 evenings to learn the ‘Review of Life’ (ROL) method, to understand how to better integrate faith and life.

**Date:** 26 and 27 Feb (Tues & Wed)

**Time:** 7.30pm to 9.30pm

**Venue:** Agape Village  
 (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh).

**Come Be My Light**

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is collaborating with the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore to offer a Formation Programme in Marriage and Family. Open to all in the Marriage and Family apostolate and those who are interested.

**Date:** Beginning 1 March

**Time:** 7.45pm to 10pm

**Venue:** Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore, 618 Upper Bukit Timah Road

**Contribution:** \$30 per person per module (for Family Ministry members), \$60 per person per module (for others)  
 Register at:

<https://catholicfamily.org.sg/come-be-my-light-acf-ctis-formation/>