

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

3rd Feb 2019, VOLUME 50
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Reflection

In today's gospel passage, we learn that Jesus was not accepted in His hometown, Nazareth. He returned to Nazareth after being away for several months of preaching and healing in Capernaum. The people in His hometown knew him as Jesus, the carpenter's son.

On that Sabbath Day, He was invited to read from the sacred scrolls.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.” (Is 61:1-5).



This commences the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, a time when the fulfilment of hopes and dreams - a time when all debts are cancelled and prisoners are no longer prisoners, a time to set the down-trodden free. Jesus was proclaiming himself as the One who would bring this Good News to all mankind

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**‘No prophet is ever
accepted in his own
country’** *luke 4:21-30*

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 70(71):1-6,15,17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30



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)

Jesus has done wonderful things in Capernaum, and the hometown folk expected him to do at least as much for them. The definition of “Physician, heal yourself” (Luke 4:23-24) is to mean, “if you were able to heal the undeserving people of Capernaum, you should be able to do even better for your own hometown folk”. Capernaum has many gentiles among its population and is thus (in Jewish minds) less deserving. Now that Jesus is among his own people ‘God’s people’, Nazareth expects great things of him. However, Jesus cannot accept the narrowing of his mission that the people of Nazareth would impose on him. He cannot reserve his generosity only for his hometown folk. He cannot devote himself to the local arena. Instead, he told them “no prophet is acceptable in his hometown”. Do we ostracise people in our church when they say unpopular things to us? How often do we reject a priest because his sermon was boring or too long? Are we a welcoming people?

When the people heard his message they were indignant and furious with what He said for they never expected this from him as this was something new to them.



In today’s world, when someone who is not of high calibre, led a simple life but has gone through a conversion and speaks to the community, family and friends on the awesomeness and greatness of the Lord through the Holy Spirit, people find it difficult to accept and may ostracise the person by judging and speaking indifferently about that person. They may think that the person is a fanatic. They may fail to realise and grasp the ‘fruit of knowledge and wisdom’ coming out from the mouth of that person as the words of the Holy Spirit.

Are we guilty of this?

Are we like the citizens of Nazareth, ready to condemn the good works of someone because he does not hold a doctorate degree?

Can anything good come from the son of a carpenter?

TODAY Jesus is bringing good news to us his children through our priest, through our family members, through our friends.

Do we reject the good intentions of our priests, our family members or our friends because we know them too well?

Let us give them (young or old, rich or poor, educated or uneducated) our undivided attention because God is using them to enlighten our lives.

With Joy & Peace,

RCIA Facilitators,
Gerry & Margie

家福充满主荣耀，天主恩惠朝上天。

The Spring Couplet above reads, “A house blessed is filled with the glory of God, the kindness of the Lord extends to the heavens.”

The Lunar New Year is upon us, heralded by the *dong qiang* of cymbals and drums and gaudy colours. The supermarkets do this well, with the playing of CNY music a day after Christmas. Celebrated by the Chinese, Hongkongers, Taiwanese, Koreans, and the Japanese, the Lunar New Year celebrates the commencement of Spring after a long Winter, hence it is also known as the Spring Festival. In China, the festivities extend over a period of 15 days, and begin with the Reunion Dinner on the eve.

In celebrating the Lunar New Year, there are many cultural traditions that have been faithfully observed from generation to generation. Some families bake pineapple tarts and other festive goodies. Some do a thorough spring cleaning of their homes. While some value can be garnered from the emphasis on family together-ness and reunion, of blessing others, and of filial piety, there may be some aspects of the culture which may need to be refined and purified.

For example, there is a confusion and conflation between superstition and cultural tradition. Some superstitions such as, not sweeping the floor during the CNY period, because it brings bad luck, or not using sharp objects such as scissors and knives, because they cut through relationships, are deemed as valuable traditions and form a large part of the CNY celebrations. Are we as Christians still undiscerningly ordering our lives based on these so-called traditions?

Perhaps, a little more subversive and something that is more culturally ingrained, is the attribution of each year to the animal of the Chinese Zodiac. People are said to be born under an animal sign, and surprisingly, many Catholics believe that their year will be according to what the astrologers say. This is superstition

and nonsensical belief. They usually turn out to be self-fulfilling prophecies. Instead of attributing all things to God and identifying ourselves as sons and daughters of God, we associate ourselves with animals, as if these human-made mythologies would determine what our future holds. Why are we not defining ourselves by the Truth that God says we are? Why do we let our lives be governed by what some dodgy human being sitting in some dank and dark room says?

While it may have not been thus when it first began, the seasonal roots of the Lunar New Year, have since been diluted with a more materialistic outlook. There is too much of an emphasis on money. Fortune is personified in a false god. As Catholics, I wonder if we too have become sucked in by these things which have been quietly drawing us away from GOD, rather than attributing all that we have can only come from the LORD GOD.

Now, it is not to say that we should disavow anything to do with our cultural roots. In fact, “Man comes to a true and full humanity only through culture.” Every culture is a way of giving expression to the transcendental aspect of life; this includes reflection on the mystery of the world and, in particular, on the mystery of humanity. The essential meaning of culture consists “in the fact that it is a characteristic of human life as such. Man lives a truly human life thanks to culture. Human life is culture in the sense also that man is marked out and differentiated by it from all that exists elsewhere in the visible world: man cannot exist outside of culture. Man always lives in accordance with a culture that belongs to him and which, in turn, creates among men a bond that is also proper to them, determining the inter-human and social character of human existence.” (C.C.C. 30, 31)

We must also know, that **Christ came to perfect culture**. Shall we start to celebrate GOD in our culture? *By Brian Bartholomew Tan*

Biblical Hospitality at CMU



As the Lunar New Year approaches, many of us start to get our homes “ready” for family and friends to come visit. We make sure that we make our homes look good, smell good, is spotless and has the most delicious Chinese New Year (CNY) goodies! We try hard to make a hospitable place when we host.



The best host just needs to make sure the company feel good about themselves!



A Hospitable Heart Makes a Hospitable Home

What our guests will remember are the conversations we have had with them and how much we care for them.

Be available



We may like to be efficient and productive, but when we are not careful, we can make these values idols and opt for them over relationships with people. We need to choose to be available if we want to be sensitive to how God might lead us to be hospitable.



Initiate and invite

Being a non-anxious presence may provide the calm someone may be longing for. Let us not to fret over food or things but let us offer the peace that Jesus gives.

Be the one to go over

It is hospitality that make a community. And hospitality can be mobile. Take food and cheer with us wherever we go. We never know how God is working through us.



Meet someone

where they are at

No matter how busy we may be, we must make time to meet our family and close ones on a regular basis. Besides being generous with traveling the distance to meet, we must also be able to recognize that there may be others who may not have the emotional and mental bandwidth to engage in conversation. But we can bring Jesus to others by being keen to what they might need.



Share life

Hospitality is not only about opening up our homes or sharing our best CNY goodies. Stories are also verbal acts of hospitality. We can share about our struggles and joys, about what God has done for us in our life and what He’s saying (to you) lately. Be open to the Holy Spirit guiding us even as we chat, let our hearts speak and connect to other hearts.

See the needs of those around



Hospitality is love. Anyone can love those who love them back, but Christ’s love compels us to love our enemies, to love those who annoy us, to love those who are unseen, unheard, unnoticed. Ask the Lord for eyes to see them. Make room, show up, open doors and hearts, feed the hungry, meet the lonely, and rejoice together.



Let the gifts we give out at this Lunar New Year signify the sharing of temporal goods, the giving of our lives and talents in the service of others.

By Julianne Danielle Lim

RCIA Today



A week of excitement for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), 24 Jan, they were first given an introduction to various ministries in Church of St Michael during the session. *What the ministry is, What the ministry does, Why the ministry serves, How does ministry fit into community, when and how does the ministry meet.* The presentation is to help our enquirers to explore and be exposed before they embark on their attachment with the ministries.

As a child of god, the ministries serve with their hearts for the lord.

'Jesus Christ is the same as yesterday and today and forever.'

Hebrews 13:8

Rite of Acceptance on 26 Jan, we welcome the enquirers as they are now Catechumens who has made the decision to be baptized and enter into church. All ministries were also present to welcome them into the community.

Presentation of the Bible to our catechumens would be held on 17 Feb at 5.30pm during the Eucharist. Please do come support them.

By Kelly Gabrielle Lob

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.

Registration closes 10 Feb 2019



Sign-up for CSM Seniors Club

Interested to find out more about our 1st 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).

Jesus came to heal the whole body and soul

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.

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)

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

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

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Venue: Outside St Michael's Room

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.**

Please register at the Parish Admin Office.



The Presentation of the Bibles

The Presentation of the Bibles to the Catechumens and Candidates to help them discover God and His message of love will be held on **Sunday, 17 Feb 2019 at 5.30pm** during the Eucharist.

Please pray for our inquirers, catechumens and candidates, and all who are involved in the RCIA process.

Collection of Holy Palms

Palms blessed by our priests are holy objects considered to be in the service of God and should not be thrown in the trash.

Please return your holy palms to the box outside the Parish Office for burning and the ashes will be used for the Ash Wednesday Eucharistic Celebration.

Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians.



St. Francis Xavier

“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.

Date: 26 and 27 Feb (Tues & Wed)

Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

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

Unpacking the Deepest Desire of our Hearts

Come learn and understand the Church's teaching on Human Sexuality (by St John Paul II) in his document Theology of the Body. Listen as Fr David Garcia, OP, Mr Andrew Kong and Dr Douglas Ong share more about this hot topic. For married couples and singles (above 20).

Date: 2 March 2019 (Saturday)

Time: 9am to 3pm

Venue: St Joseph's Institution Lecture Theatre 2, 38 Malcolm Road, S.308274

Contribution: Love Offering

Register at:

<https://catholicfamily.org.sg/unpacking-the-deepest-desire-of-our-hearts/>

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email: csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Address: 17 St Michael's Road,
Singapore 327976

Priests of the Parish

Parish Priest:

Fr. Terence Pereira (ext. 6)

Asst. Parish Priest:

Fr. John Van Dich MEP (ext. 5)

Asst. Parish Priest:

Fr. Augustine Joseph

Parish Collection

Weekend Collection

\$6986.00

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
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
08 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
09 Feb	10 am	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
09 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Terence

Eucharistic Celebration

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)

Opening Hours

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

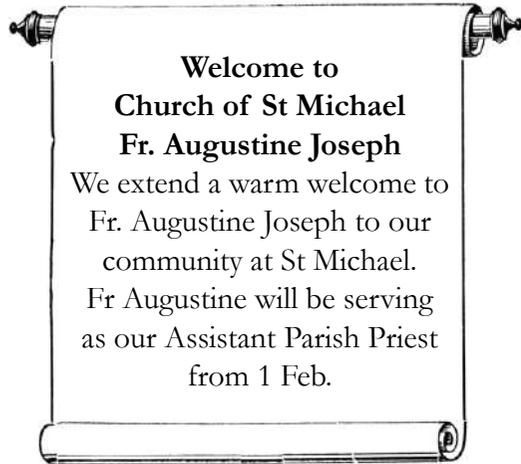
Adoration Room
Daily: 7 am - 10 pm

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

Notices



Weddings

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 will take place on:
1st Sat of 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