

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelsG

24th Feb 2019, VOLUME 53
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

Liturgical Reflection

In the Old Testament, retaliating to someone who had inflicted pain unto a person was common. “Anyone who injures their neighbour is to be injured in the same manner: “fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth” (Lev.24:19-20). However Jesus in the New Testament is asking us to extend love to our enemy and persecutor. Anybody can show kindness and charity, when he hopes to gain something in return. We, who are Christian, who follow Christ, are called not to be content with such superficial charity.

At a first glance of the gospel, the words, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you,” are insane and seemingly impossible, totally unrealistic and unattainable. Jesus is not telling us to be in love with our enemies.

The Greek verb which the gospel uses is “*agapao*” from which the noun “*agape*” comes. It is not the physical expression of love like those of lovers nor is it the love of close friends. It is rather a positive approach towards other people to whom you wish their well-being. It is a one-sided love where no return is expected. A love which is often rejected, a love most often ignored.

This is the same love that God has for us. Love without exception or expectations. This love is relentless, like the father in the story of the prodigal son waiting for his child to come home. The father continued to love his son even in his moments of debauchery and degradation. It is the forgiving love that Jesus has for the people who nailed him to the cross.

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‘But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.’

Luke 6:27-28

First Reading:

1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-13

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 102 (103): 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38



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)

He prayed for them, for them to be forgiven and that they might come to realise what they were doing. In this sense, loving our enemies seems not only reasonable but the only way to move forward.

- ***How many times have you retaliated, when persecuted?***
- ***Have you experienced forgiveness from someone unexpected before?***
- ***How did you feel?***

Too often, we tend to focus on ourselves and our own pains and needs, overlooking the needs of others. To love as God loves, requires us to focus more on others. In order for us to do so, we must build a strong inner sense of security and self-acceptance. Then we will no longer be worried about what people say about us or do to us. We will then be more willing to see why people act in such a way and what is hurting inside them that drives them to such behaviour. Only with God's grace can the above be made possible.

- ***Are you willing to look beyond your own worries and give concern to those around?***

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" In a world where power reigns, only losers, and the weak would follow Jesus's advice because they are afraid to retaliate. It seems that only stupid people will do this. On contrary, turning the other cheek, is not at all an act of weakness. It requires great courage and great inner strength and an awareness that the one who strikes is the one who is really weak. It is easy to lash out at another person by word or action. It is an instinctive reaction to hit back.

Jesus is not asking us to do something "unnatural". All of us want to be loved and to love, not to be hated or to hate. The only way to break this cycle is to follow Jesus' advice. It is not a lose-lose or lose-win situation; it will be a win-win situation where everyone benefits.

In the words of the late Mother Teresa: "Love to be real, it must cost - it must hurt - it must empty us of self."

To put Jesus's teaching into effect is not a matter of strengthening our will to do something very difficult but to change our conventional thinking, to see things His way. Once we do that, it becomes much easier.

- ***Are you merely a primate that is controlled by impulses and instincts?***
- ***Are you willing to take the first step to make changes to the way you think?***

Finally, Jesus calls us to follow the Father "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36). Through us, the mercy and love of God can then be experienced by others. The one filled with the spirit of Christ has nothing to lose, nothing to be ashamed of. Life entails what we are able to give and not what we can acquire. So then let us "Enter through the narrow gate" (Matthew 7:13.)

Hope and Joy,
Patrick and Letitia



BUT I SAY, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES! PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU! IN THAT WAY, YOU WILL BE ACTING AS TRUE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5:44-45

Righting Our Relationship with God

We are all sinners, and we continue to sin even after Reconciliation.

Many of us, including myself, always get a wake-up call when the season of Lent is approaching. We tell ourselves we will abstain from sin, we will fast, we will become better children of God. But why do we wait to want to do this only during Lent?

During the rest of the year, we tend to lose ourselves in 'life'. In a kind of mediocre life which God did not intend for us to live. We stress ourselves out over so many things: grades, human approvals, performance appraisals and bonuses... In the midst of it all, we forget to be good Catholics. We also forget that we are made for more.

When Lent approaches, we are finally reminded about how far we are away from God's path that we begin panic and promise to realign to God's ways. We promise to abstain, we promise to fast, we promise to be better Christians. But these, for some, are too difficult to sustain as the season of Lent is a long one. Without Grace, we surely cannot attain any of these.

For many, they feel that they can they can get away for the most part and just return to the right relationship with God during Lent, as if they can get away with last minute preparations just as they did when they were students preparing for major examinations. Sometimes they can still get good grades despite mugging only at the last minute, and they treat Lent as *that* Catholic examination for the year.

At almost every stage of our lives, we get graded. We get graded in schools, we get graded for our performances at work. Perhaps the reason why we pay so much attention to these matters is because we get to see our grades too clearly, and we forget that they are immaterial in the larger picture.

Our relationship with God doesn't come in the form of grades, so how do we know we are doing well?

I feel that we all know deep down if we are the best version of ourselves that God wants us to be. As long as we stop living in denial, and admit to our shortcomings, we are on the way to righting our relationship with our Lord.

Unlike school examinations, we cannot afford to only begin to return to a close relationship with God once a year during Lent. The longer we take, the harder the journey will be. As with all relationships, we need time and effort to grow in faith and to become closer to our Creator. If we had spent time and effort studying to get better grades, if we had spent time and effort producing the best quality work to get better appraisal grades, if had we spent time and effort for our loved ones, than more than any of these, we need to place even more time and effort to grow our bond with Christ.

How do we do this as Lent approaches? Here are three steps that can help you start:

1. Let us reflect and be truthful to ourselves and ask ourselves: what our sins are, where we have let God down. Acknowledging and Recognising that we have sinned is a first step.
2. Let us pray daily to ask for wisdom and for the discipline and guidance to follow through to overcome our sins and become better Christians.
3. The abstinence you partake in should be something that will remind you of why you are doing this on a daily basis. God provides His people strength and will see us through.

Let's pray as a community for one another, that we will all be working towards returning to a right relationship with God during this upcoming season of Lent.

By Alvin Lewis Tham

Christifidelis Laici (part 1)

The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1988, speaks of the vocation and mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the world.

The introduction offers us a reflection on the Parable of the labourers in the vineyard in Matthew 20. The Lay members of Christ's Faithful People may be likened to the labourers in the vineyard.

The call, "You go into my vineyard too," (Matthew 20: 3-4) is addressed to everyone. Everyone has been gifted a unique mission by God to labour in the vineyard and each one has been called personally by God.

Are you labouring in the Lord's vineyard?

Scripture Verses for Lent

It is difficult to plough on in the Lord's vineyard by our own merit. Even more so in the season of Lent, which is a time of wondrous Grace if we knew how to tap on to God's abundant love.

Here are a couple of Scripture texts that may enable us to draw closer to God.

Baruch 3: 1-2 "O Lord God Almighty, O God of Israel, the soul in anguish and the wearied spirit cry out to you. Hear us O Lord and have mercy for we have sinned before you."

Psalm 130: 1-2 "Out of the depths, my soul cries out to You O Lord. Oh Lord hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications."

Hospitable or Hospital?

In Biblical times and in desert areas, travellers would often travel across long distances by foot or by saddled animal. Their feet would become dusty and encrusted in dirt.

People would place jars of water at the thresholds of their homes and the weary traveller would wash his or her feet with the water. The epitome of a hospitable host would be for the host to wash the feet of the guest himself.

As we enter into the season of Lent, perhaps it may be prudent at this juncture to do a raincheck on how hospitable and welcoming we have been to our own ministry members, to our parishioners, and to visitors to our parish.

Have we been hospitable, or have people become sick with our hospitality?

A Saint for Lent

This year, the season of Lent begins on the 6th of March, which is also the Feast of St. Colette.

St. Colette or Nicolette as she is popularly called, was a reformer and founded 17 Franciscan convents. She brought many back to the original rule of St. Francis, despite the abuse and persecution she faced.

While she was blessed in her mission by the schismatic Pope Benedict XIII, who professed her as a Poor Clare and made her superior of all Franciscan convents she might found or reform, she worked with St. Vincent Ferrer to heal the papal schism and return the papacy to its rightful path. (<https://portlanddiocese.org/content/st-Colette>) Pray for us St. Colette.

Short articles by Brian Bartholomew Tan

Circular about Abstinence from Meat

The Bishop's Conference of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei decided in 2007, that abstaining from meat will no longer be the only expression of this ancient tradition of abstinence.

This is a change from the previous decision which required the abstaining from meat on all Fridays.

The removal of the abstinence from meat does not mean the obligation to abstain on Fridays is removed. Therefore, we may keep the old practice of abstaining from meat or change it with the following:

1. abstain some other food which we are fond of
2. abstain from alcoholic drinks, smoking
3. abstain from some form of entertainment
4. make a special effort to be involved in family prayer
5. taking part in the celebration of the Eucharist
6. spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7. praying the stations of the cross
8. fasting from all food for longer period of time than usual
9. making a special effort to help the poor, the sick, the old, the lonely

The form of abstinence can change from week to week. It is a personal choice.

Must I abstain on Fridays?

To commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ annually undervalues the importance of the salvific action of Jesus Christ. One should unite oneself to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ more regularly. Failure to observe this norm does not lead one to sin and therefore **there is no need to go for confession should you forget to abstain.** Penance is a part of every Christian's life and the intention to do penance on Friday is of obligation.

Who is obliged to abstain?

All those who have reached the age of 14* are required to abstain. Unlike fasting which does not apply to those who reach the age of 60, the obligation of abstinence applies even to those beyond 60. The norm of abstinence also binds those living here or in Malaysia or Brunei.

*Canon 1251

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	\$6,377
Income/ Expenditure	Income: \$76,930.40 Expense: \$44,883.40

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
23 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Terence	Fr. Terence
24 Feb	10 am	Fr. Augustine	Fr. Augustine
24 Feb	5.30 pm	Fr. Augustine	Fr. Augustine
2 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr. Augustine	Fr. Augustine
3 Mar	10 am	Fr. Augustine	Fr. Augustine
3 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr. John	Fr. Augustine

Eucharistic Celebration

Opening Hours

Weekend Eucharist
Sat Sunset: 5.30 pm (E)
Sun: 8 am (M), 10 am (E),
5.30 pm (E)
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 Admin Office
Mon - Fri: 8.30 am to 5 pm
Sat: 8.30 am to 11 am;
2 pm to 4.30 pm
Sun: Closed

Adoration Room
Daily: 7 am to 10 pm

Columbarium
Daily: 7 am to 7 pm
Prayers:
every **3rd Sun** of the month only.
9 am (M) & 11.30 am (E)

Canteen
Sun: 7 am to 12 pm
(M): Mandarin; (E) English;
(EC) Eucharistic Celebration

Notices

Weddings

Those who desire to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony 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 February to register with the Parish Admin Office.

Please email to

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Maintenance Team – Volunteers Needed

We are looking for more maintenance volunteers to be part of the Maintenance Team. Please do come forward to assist in the maintenance of the church. Please register at csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Collection of Holy Palms

Palms blessed by our priests are holy objects considered to be in the service of God. Please return your holy palms to the box outside the Parish Office for burning **on Fat Tuesday (5 Mar)** and the ashes will be used for the Ash Wednesday Eucharistic Celebration.



Holy Hour

Date & Time: 1 Mar, Friday @ 7.30pm
Eucharistic Celebration @ 8.30pm.
There will be no 6pm EC.



St. Michael's Exercise Starts 2 Mar, Sat

All who are interested in exercising on Sat mornings at 7.30am, please register at: csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Parish Retreat @ Majodi Johor Bahru

Dates: 1st to 3rd Mar 2019

Cost: \$50 per person

(Payment by cash or cheque payable to Church of St Michael)

Register today!

(Booth on the Ground floor)

Retreat is for CSM Parishioners only.

Fat Tuesday

Date: 5 Mar, Tuesday

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Get ready for the season of Lent! Start thinking about how you want to renew and grow your relationship with Jesus Christ. Come to begin the Lenten journey on Fat Tuesday

Bring:

1. Your intentions and plans

To ask God our Father to bless them so that you may journey faithfully and grow during this period of grace

2. A meat dish

to contribute to the Fat Tuesday celebration

Register your dish: 23 to 24 Feb onwards
Indicate what dish you will be bringing at the Fat Tuesday's booth.



Ash Wednesday – 6 Mar

Eucharist: 6.30am; 8.00pm

Lenten Reflection – Starts 7 Mar, Mon to Sat

Time: 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross – Begins on 8 Mar (all Fridays)

with Eucharistic Celebration at 6pm
and Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

Catholic Business Network Leadership Growth Series

Is it possible to be good and effective Christian leaders in the workplace? Come join us in this leadership growth series where leadership mindsets, skills and approaches are set against Biblical situations and characters. The trainer is Andrew Soong, a dynamic, vibrant, entertaining presenter & facilitator. Admission is Free (Love Offering)

Session 1, 28 Feb: Knowing Your Effectiveness as a Leader;

Session 2, 21 Mar: Leadership is Influence; Session 3, 25 Apr: Leaders Add Value by Serving Others Session 4, 23 May: Leadership must be Rooted on Solid Ground

Day & Time: Thurs, 7.30 to 9pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre Level 3, 55 Waterloo Street, S. 187854

Register:

<http://tinyurl.com/yxb2j4aj>

Enquiries: admin@cbn.sg

Tel (Teresa): 96740523

Half-Day Retreat for Married Couples

Becoming What We Receive

Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer with the Verbum Dei Missionaries.

Date: Sun, 31 Mar

Time: 3.15pm to 6.00pm.

Venue: 4 Sommerville Road

To register, SMS or WhatsApp

Mark at @ 94870999.



Catholic Prayer Society Priestly Prayer of Jesus

Dates: 4, 11 & 18 Mar (Mon)

Time: 12.30 to 1.15pm

(Light lunch provided)

Venue: TPI Building,
62 Cecil Street 6th Floor

Speaker: Rev Fr Valerian Cheong

Register: [http://tinyurl.com/](http://tinyurl.com/CPSPriestlyPrayerOfJesus)

[CSPriestlyPrayerOfJesus](http://tinyurl.com/CPSPriestlyPrayerOfJesus)

Come Alive: A Weekend Retreat – 2nd Run

Pray with the songs from the movie,
“The Greatest Showman”.

Discover who you are and discern
God’s dream for you.

Where are you fully alive, and
what keeps you from being fully alive?

Date: 8 – 10 Mar

Venue: Montfort Centre

Contribution: \$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin).

Details/Registration:

anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com

or 96311943.