

# Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStmichaelsG

24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2019, VOLUME 57  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

## Liturgical Reflection

The grim mention of Pilate's mingling the blood of Galileans with their sacrifices indicates a mass killing of Galilean pilgrims in Jerusalem. Pilate's soldiers slaughtered Galileans in the temple where they make their sacrifices. The passage does not reveal why Pilate slaughtered these people. Historical writings states Pilate's liking for brutality. *Jewish historian Josephus, reports that Pilate had disrupted a religious gathering of the Samaritans on Mt. Gerizim with a slaughter of the participants (Antiquities 18.4.1)* and that on another occasion Pilate had killed many Jews who had opposed him, when he misappropriated funds from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct in Jerusalem (**Jewish War 2,9.4; Antiquities 18.3.3**). In a letter to Caligula, Agrippa I called Pilate "*inflexible, merciless, and obstinate*" and accused him of inflicting punishment without trial and many acts of cruelty.

As we enter into the third week of Lent, today's Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Repentance in Greek is metanoia, a transformation of heart; a spiritual conversion. Not merely atonement. It means to change your mind-set, open to a new way of seeing things, adoption of a different perspective.

To "see the pain and suffering of the world not as disturbing interruptions, but as an invitations for a change of heart."

- Henri Nouwen

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'Leave the fig tree one  
more year'

Luke 13:4

**First Reading:** Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 102(103):1-4,6-8,11

**Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

**Gospel:** Luke 13:1-9

### 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 rejects that the Galileans suffered because of their sins. He calls his listeners to repent. What calamity happened is history, and nothing can be done about it. Jesus' listeners, however, can still make amendments to their ways, their life. Jesus does not condemn them, but points them to the right path. Jesus' listeners have sinned (so do we), and he calls them to repent so that they might avoid a bigger calamity pertaining to their soul.

The pool of Siloam is in Jerusalem (**John 8:20; 9:7**) and, presumably, the tower of Siloam was near the pool. Jesus rejects that the eighteen were wrongdoers, but uses the opportunity to call his listeners to repentance, once again. His purpose is not condemnation but redemption. It is not too late for his listeners (it is not too late for us) to repent. Salvation is possible.

Both calamities, people died, with little warning for no clear apparent reason. Life is unpredictable and can be brutal, and short. How precarious our existence really is! It is this fragility of life that gives it urgency. We should consider the sudden death of others as warnings to ourselves. *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* – **Matthew 3:2**.

Jesus does not promise freedom from sufferings of life, but urges his hearers against false self-assurances.

Life's fragility demands urgency, urgency that provides opportunity for us to seize God's graciousness.

*Do you see the urgency to take action?*

*Do you see the urgency to take steps to change, to direct your hearts towards God?*

Jesus' short parable about a fig tree speaks of impending judgment. The parable reinforces ideas from the first half of this passage. A vineyard is a common metaphor for the people of Israel, and the fruit to be expected from Israel is holiness. Jesus' listeners would understand this connection as Jesus tells this parable.

A cultivated yet unproductive tree may continue to live even without bearing fruit, only because it has been granted additional time to cruise through. Similarly, this parable warns against false reassurance. Just because you have not been cut down, do not assume that you are bearing fruit, you are in the safe zone. Patience and mercy only temporarily keep judgment at bay.

*Are you like that fig tree, when will you bear fruit?*

*When will you be ready, ready to response to God's will?*

Tragedies and sufferings will normally draw people to God. *Why wait for tragedies to strike to redirect your life toward God?* We might not have the opportunity to do so; our lives might be snuffed out in an instance.

We, too, are being given a chance – For a day? A month? A year? We do not know when. What is clear is that we have no time to waste; we have to start today, act now. We cannot change the past. We cannot predict the future. We can grasp the present.

*Have you decided on what you will give up or do this Lent? If no, why wait? What is stopping you from taking action now?*

*Peace and Joy*

*Philip and Letitia*

# A History of Lent

The term “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, *lencten*, meaning Spring, and *lenctentid*, meaning March, the majority of which this liturgical season falls.

In the early Church, there has been evidence for a time of preparation before Easter. St. Irenaeus for instance in 2 A. D. wrote to Pope St. Victor I about the controversy surrounding the dating of Easter and the observance of the preparation Fast, “The dispute is not only about the day, but also the actual character of the Fast. Some think that they ought to fast for one day, some for two, others for still more; some make their ‘day’ last for 40 hours on end.” (Eusebius, history of the Church, V, 24)

## Why Are There Forty Days in Lent?

The reason for the period of 40 days is attributed to the following biblical references:

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness before He began His ministry.
2. Moses also fasted for 40 days in the desert.

But the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, established slightly different parameters for the season of Lent.

Returning to a long-held custom within the church, the Second Vatican Council re-established the three days before Easter as a separate holy time apart from Lent proper. Known as the Easter or Sacred Triduum, this three-day period begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, which is when the Easter season begins.

*Traditionally, Christians were to abstain from meat and all things that come from “flesh” such as milk, fat and eggs. Fasting meant one meal a day, normally taken in the mid-afternoon. This practice gave rise to Shrove Tuesday or the Mardi Gras, celebrated before Ash Wednesday. People would feast on pancakes to use up their eggs and milk before Lent. These norms have evolved over the years.*

By the sixth century, Christians were generally practising 6 weeks of fasting. However the Mathematics was not quite right. 6 weeks, not counting Sunday, which is a day of celebration with no fasting on that day, amounted to 36 days. Hence, Pope Gregory moved the start of Lent to Ash Wednesday.

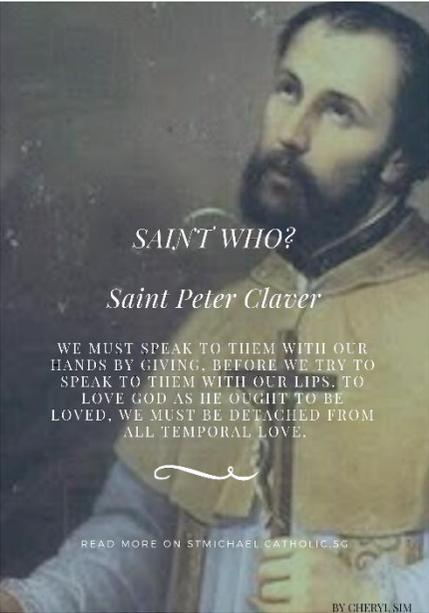
Lent became more regularised after the legalisation of Christianity in A.D. 313. at the Council of Nicea, which was assembled by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 325, bishops at Nicea developed a complex formula that placed the date for Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. The canons emerging from that council also referenced a 40-day Lenten season of fasting. The traditional 40-day Lenten fast begins on Ash Wednesday, excludes Sundays and carries through to the night before Easter.

# SOARING WITH HUMILITY

A feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements.

This is the definition of pride according to dictionary.com.

Read more on [STMICHAEL.CATHOLIC.SG](http://STMICHAEL.CATHOLIC.SG)

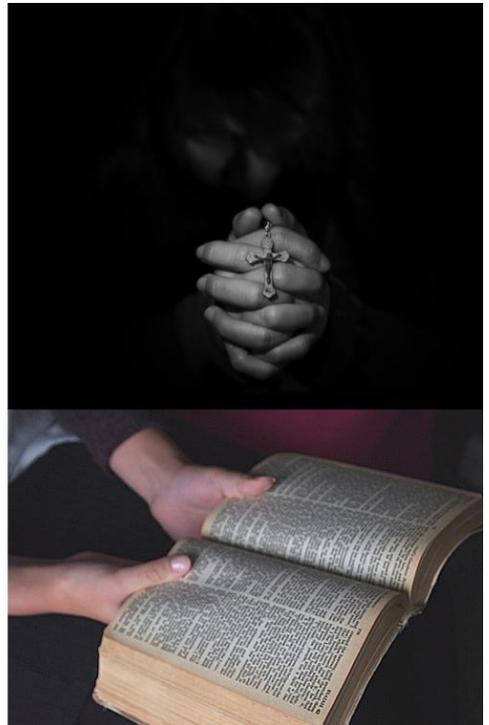


## A Journey Of Faith In IMR

We cannot give what we don't have or yet to experience or put in another way, we tend to dish out from our past experiences, and so with the best of intentions, we often end up looking out for the splinter in our brother's eye instead of removing the plank in ours

(Matt 7:3-5)

Read more of Paul Ow faith story on [STMICHAEL.CATHOLIC.SG](http://STMICHAEL.CATHOLIC.SG)



# Saintly Sayings Crossword

## Across

1 "Whatever good work you begin to do, beg of God with most earnest prayer to \_\_\_\_\_ it." St. Benedict

4 "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is \_\_\_\_\_ that makes men as angels." St. Augustine

7 "Do not think that love in order to be genuine has to be \_\_\_\_\_. What we need is to love without getting tired. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." St. Teresa of Calcutta

8 "At the \_\_\_\_\_ of life, we shall be judged on our love." St John of the Cross

9 "If you do not know your own \_\_\_\_\_ and condition, you cannot value anything at its proper worth." St. Bonaventure

## Down

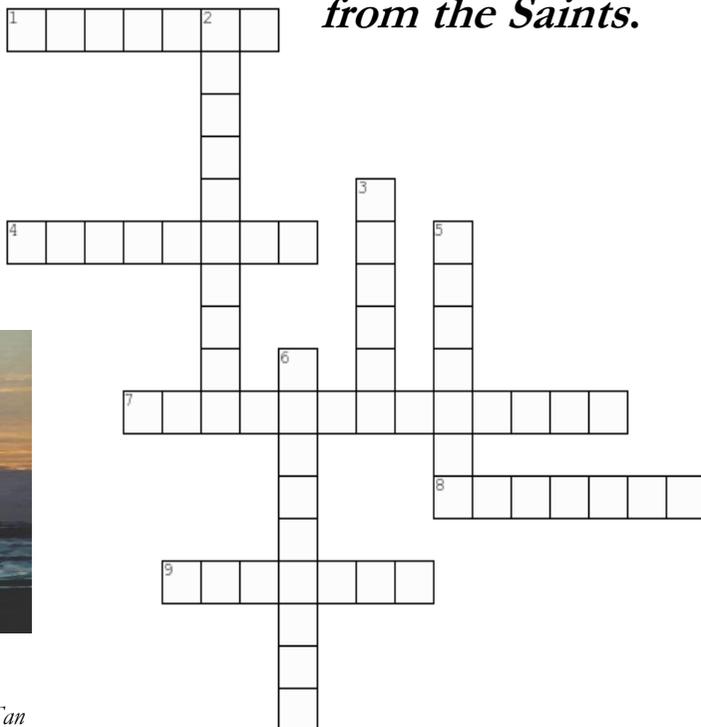
2 "You pay God a \_\_\_\_\_ by asking great things of him." St. Teresa of Avila

3 "He who goes about to reform the world, must begin with himself, or he loses his \_\_\_\_\_." St Ignatius of Loyola

5 "Isn't God more ready to \_\_\_\_\_ than we are to sin? And isn't he our doctor, and we the sick ones?" St. Catherine of Siena

6 "It is Jesus whom you seek, when you dream of \_\_\_\_\_. He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies." St. John Paul II

*The Crossword features a series of quotations from the Saints.*



## Lenten Reflection – Mon to Sat, 7pm

We also come together as a community to share a meal. Please bring a small dish/meal for two.

## Stations of the Cross – (all Fridays)

with Eucharistic Celebration at 6pm, Lenten Reflection at 6.45pm and Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

*There will be no Holy Hour on Fridays during Lent.*

## City District

### Penitential Service @ 8pm

- ❖ 1 Apr (Mon):  
**Church of Sts Peter & Paul**
- ❖ 2 Apr (Tue):  
**Church of St Bernadette**
- ❖ 3 Apr (Wed):  
**Church of Our Lady of Lourdes**
- ❖ 4 Apr (Thu): **Novena Church, Church of St Alphonsus**
- ❖ 8 Apr (Mon):  
**Church of St Teresa**
- ❖ **9 Apr (Tue):**  
**Church of St Michael**
- ❖ 10 Apr (Wed):  
**Church of the Sacred Heart**

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### **Palm Sunday: 14 Apr**

8am (Mandarin),

\*10am & 5.30pm (English)

*\*There will be a procession around the church for the 10am Eucharistic Celebration starting from the grotto of the Sacred Heart.*

### **Holy Thursday: 18 Apr**

8.45pm (English)

**Please note that there will be no Eucharistic Celebration at 6.30am and 6pm.**

**The Adoration Room will be closed from 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday to 7.30am on Easter Sunday.**

### **Good Friday\*\*: 19 Apr**

**Office of the Dead**

7.45am

**Good Friday Services**

9am (Mandarin)

12noon and 3pm (English)

**Stations of the Cross**

2pm (English)

*\*\*The car park will be closed from 12 noon to 3pm*

### **Holy Saturday: 20 April**

8pm (English)

### **Easter Sunday: 21 April**

8am (Mandarin, with Baptism)

10am & 5.30pm (English)

**Vespers**

4.30pm

## Activities during Triduum

### Mindful of the Blessings

- 18 Apr, Thurs

Recalling the Lord's Love – an invitation to prepare for Maundy Thursday Eucharist.

### The Lord's Hour

- 18 to 20 Apr

How great is one man's love for all of humanity? Come and walk the path of passion with our Lord, discover His deep passionate love for us and renew your own love for the Lord.

Register NOW for the Triduum at [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg) and we will be in touch with further details.

### Experiential Stations of the Cross for Children

- 19 Apr, Fri from 1.45 to 3pm

Register with your level catechists.

Closing date: 7 April

## Pilgrimage:

### St Paul's Journey – Greece

Fr Terence will be leading a pilgrimage from 8 to 16 May 2020. **There will be a briefing on 14 April.**

Time and Venue to be advised. *This pilgrimage is open only to CSM Parishioners.*

## Parish Cleaning Day –

### 6 April, Sat

We are inviting you to step forward to come clean our Father's house in preparation for Easter. Let us have breakfast at 7am together and we flow into songs to warm up before we clean.

Please do register with the parish office.



## CSM Family Vacation Time

### THEME: "Instant Done"



Mark your calendar!

Date: 20 to 23 June, Thurs – Sunday

Place: de Bintan Villa

Registration begins  
this weekend!  
More details to come!

## Archdiocesan News

### Archdiocesan Prayer Mission Monthly Mass, Benediction, Reflection Dates for 2019

Dates: 11 Apr, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July,  
29 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct, 21 Nov

Place: Cathedral of the  
Good Shepherd

Time: 7.30pm to 9.00pm

For our archdiocese, we need to **PRAY** and beg God our Father for His **PROTECTION**.

We need to **PRAY** for the Holy Spirit to continue to **ENLIGHTEN** and **EMPOWER** us to **EVANGELISE** effectively. The Mother

Church, invites everyone to come to our Cathedral once a month to storm heaven, through the celebration of the **Eucharist**, **spiritual reflection and Benediction**.

## Contact Us

**Main:** 6291 9272

**Parish Secretariat** (ext. 1)

**Columbarium** (ext. 3)

**Email:** [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto: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 (ext. 10)

## Parish Collection

Weekend Collection

\$6,221

## Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
23 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr Terence	Fr Terence
24 Mar	10 am	Fr Terence	Fr Terence
24 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr Augustine	Fr Terence
30 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr Augustine	Fr Augustine
31 Mar	10 am	Fr Augustine	Fr Augustine
31 Mar	5.30 pm	Fr Augustine	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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

*Please be informed that*  
**Father John is on leave**  
**from Mar 20 to Apr 2**

## Ready to say "I DO"?

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

1st Saturday of Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec

## Preparation for Infant Baptism

To help families prepare early for their baby's baptism, we invite pregnant mothers in their second trimester to register with the Parish Admin Office.

Email: [csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg).

## Parish Events

## You Gotto Move it, Move it!

Calling all youths! Grab a friend and come learn a variety of dance moves that will wow your peers.

**Dates:** 7 Apr, 14 Apr

**Time:** 12noon - 2pm

**Venue:** Level 3 Classroomsc