

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStmichaelsG

31st Mar 2019, VOLUME 58
4th Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Reflection

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells us about the story of the Prodigal Son. The story of the Prodigal Son unfolds in 3 scenes that take place:

1. The negotiations of the younger son with his father and his departure to a distant country where he squandered all his inheritance;
2. The homecoming of the younger son and the welcome by his father; and
3. The exchange between the father and his older son.

The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance. In ancient times, as today, property is only divided at the death of the parent. Therefore, the son's request amounts to saying, "Father, I wish you were dead!" The younger son's request is disrespectful.

Deuteronomy 21:17 specifies that the first son is to be given a double portion of the inheritance. If there are two sons, the property is to be divided into 3 portions; 2/3 goes to the elder son and 1/3 goes to the younger son.



[continued on Page 2]

'The Prodigal Son'

Luke 15:1

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 33(34):2-7

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

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

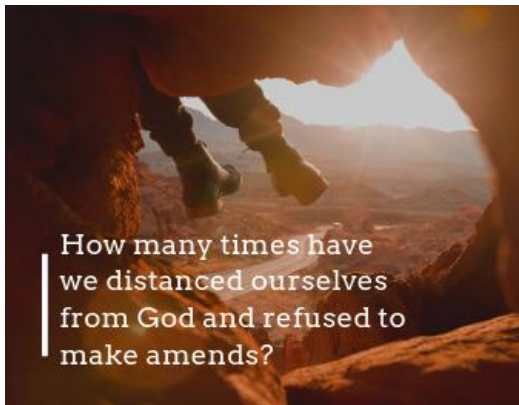
To Form Disciples in Christ

To Nurture community spirit through the Word of God



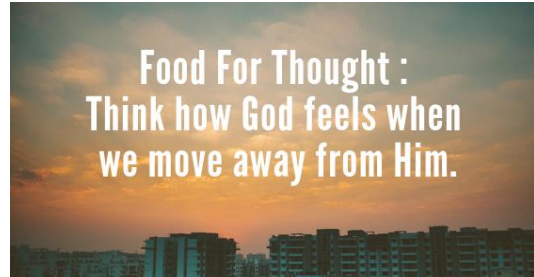
Liturgical Reflection (con't)

When the younger son leaves for a distant country, he distances himself from his father and older brother both geographically and psychologically. After lavishly spending all his inheritance, he becomes a servant of a farmer in the foreign country. The farmer is a Gentile because he has a pig farm. Feeding pigs would be bad enough for a Jew, but to consider sharing the food of the pigs is totally degrading. "He came to himself" can indicate that he came to his senses and got clarity on his situation. That does not necessarily mean that he had remorse. He realised that he was better off at home. We can see ourselves in this son. He is a sinner because he broke relations with his very own father.



Nonetheless, his father welcomes him home with open arms, just like Our Father in heaven does. People would consider it undignified for an old man to run, but the father is eager to greet his son. He ordered the servants to put a robe on his son, a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. The robe, ring and sandals convey dignity. They signify that the father is returning this young man to the family. Meat is not part of the daily diet, but is reserved for special occasions. When meat is required, a family usually slaughters a sheep or goat which is cheaper and can be consumed easily within the household.

They reserve the fatted calf for great celebrations, because its larger size is meant for neighbours and perhaps the whole village to consume. In slaughtering the fatted calf, the father sends the community a message that he has restored this son's status. Jesus compares this to the parables of "The Lost Sheep" and "The Lost Coin".



The elder son's first clue to the party is the sound of music and dancing. While the party is going on in the house, the father leaves it and goes to find his elder son for reconciliation just as he came out to greet the younger son. He pleads with him to join in the party, but is unsuccessful. The elder son's refusal to join the celebration stems from his deep resentment. He feels being taken for granted and his reliable service is not celebrated. He accuses his father of showing preferential treatment.

Are we so righteous like the older brother aka Scribes and Pharisees, who was fulfilling his responsibilities and following rules just because he had to without love?

Do we celebrate in church the homecoming of Prodigal Sons each week or do we bear resentment towards them?

Move closer to God and He will move closer to you. Our Father unfailingly pleads with us "To go back to Him with all our hearts" He is waiting for you and me. So, let's run to Him!

*With Gratitude
Jackie and Geraldine*

Not Praying Together

A family that prays together, stays together. Not enough dedicated time is set aside for family prayer which sanctifies and unifies the family. Family Prayer Time also teaches the child to keep God as the priority and to turn to God at all times.

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up the young in the way they should go. When they are old, they will not swerve from it.”

Not Reading Scripture

Scripture is the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6) and not many families are reading it together, or enough. We are not arming ourselves and our children with a scriptural arsenal, that can be drawn upon in times of need and at different stages of our lives.

Preaching and Prescribing

Children learn what they live. Many parents make the mistake of telling their children what to do, without living out what they say themselves. For example, a parent, may tell a child to be generous, but when approached by an opportunity for charity, quickly usher themselves and their children aside.

Letting Your Child Watch Things Indiscriminately

As children grow, they develop a sensory vocabulary that informs their world. Our visual senses are acutely attuned to enable us to see immediately the world around us. What a child watches impacts his or her visual memory. A parent must be discerning about what his or her children watches. Some films which seem innocent contain a visual text, symbols, and iconography which are rather subversive. Some are even contrary to the Catholic Faith. Be vigilant!



Not Spending Time Together

There are some parents who leave parenting to everyone else but themselves. Children need intimacy, hugs, kisses, and together time with their parents. If parents are not going to have deep conversations with their children, who are they going to turn to? Family Time, cannot be Television Time.

Bad Parenting 101



*Are you a Godly Parent, or
Are You a No-good Parent?*

Now, who am I to talk about parenting? I am neither married, nor do I have any children of my own. However, what I do have is an accumulation of 12 years of experience working with children and teenagers from the age of toddlers to youth. Here are some reflections that have been garnered over the years. These have come as a result of the observations of best and worst practices carried out by the parents of the children and youth under my charge, and also of the general parent I have encountered in the streets. **We lift our families up to the most capable hands of the Holy Family.**

By Brian Bartholomew Tan

In The Footstep Of Jesus

About 9 years ago, I found myself alone one day with my mother in her room. Already in the final stages of cancer, I saw this once robust and feisty powerhouse wither away before my eyes. As her round-the-clock caregiver – and juggling a full-time job – the stress was overwhelming. Emotionally, I was grappling with the grim reality that she would soon be leaving us as she grew weaker and weaker. Before family and friends, I put on a brave face. But deep within me, I was heartbroken, lost and in despair at not being able to do more for her. Mummy had always been my rock and pillar of strength – and here she was, inching closer to death.

Just silently being present for her through those painful days brought me closer to her than I could ever have imagined. It deepened our bond, giving us both a quiet strength. I didn't realize then what is now obvious to me – that I was in fact journeying with my mother through her own '*passion*'.

A few years after her passing, I found myself drawn to the Stations of the Cross. I remember going through some old prayer books that my mother had left behind and coming across an old classic on the Stations written by St Alphonsus Liguori. As I read and prayed through the Stations that day, it hit me that just as I had felt so close to my mother during her last days, I felt even closer to Jesus as I walked with Him in His final moments on earth.

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Via Dolorosa, is a narration of the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ. At each station, we are encouraged to use our senses and imagination to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. Far from just reading the text of the Stations and looking at the accompanying pictures, the Stations become a reflective prayer and take on a deeper meaning when we open our hearts and allow ourselves to be touched by Jesus' love for us.

Many still consider the Stations to be a traditional devotion prayed primarily during the season of Lent. We all know it by clockwork, don't we? When to genuflect, stand and kneel? But as I have discovered, this journey with Christ mirrors my own journey through the many trials I have come to face in my life. Whether it's the betrayal of friends, the pain of rejection, loneliness, fear, the loss of a loved one or a job, I could see myself in each station – and our Lord had already endured all of this and more. The steps that Jesus took were a portrait of grace, humility and surrender under the most unimaginable circumstances. In my case, I almost always took a tumble and conceded defeat instead.

This Lent, as I pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, I find myself pondering this question again – how did Jesus respond to His suffering? How have I responded when faced with difficult situations? The answer is both humbling and life changing.

Praying the Stations deeply has helped me experience the lasting value and power of His sacrifice of Love.

In the stations of our own lives, Jesus meets us where we are. I've come to realize that amid the trials and chaos that is part of my daily life, He steers me from pain and anguish toward perseverance, strength, humility and love. Indeed, we can find hope and transformation in our trials because we know that the end story has already been written. The Way of the Cross didn't end with death but victory because our Lord leads us beyond Good Friday towards the awesome, glorious joy of the Resurrection at Easter!

"And he said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

By Cheryl Sim

CANDLES

DESIGN YOUR OWN CANDLE!



GET YOUR CANDLE BLESSED ON THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD!

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BLESSED CANDLE?

#1
LEAVE THE CANDLE AT A PROMINENT PLACE IN YOUR HOME OR ON A PRAYER TABLE.

#2
CANDLES PROVIDE SPIRITUAL AMBIENCE. LIGHT IT UP & DEVOTE YOUR TIME FOR PRAYER WITH THE LORD.

JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD INVITES YOU TO PRAYER!



WHAT ELSE ABOUT THE BLESSED CANDLE?

BLESSED CANDLES ARE A POWERFUL SACRAMENTAL TO USE AGAINST THE EVIL SPIRITS

IT CALMS THE HEART & OPENS US UP TO THE LIGHT OF GOD.

TRADITIONALLY, WHAT DO CATHOLICS DO WITH A BLESSED CANDLE?

THEY WOULD LIGHT UP THE CANDLE DURING A POWERFUL STORM, INVOKING THE POWER OF GOD TO PROTECT THEIR HOME.



BLESSED CANDLE?



Activities during Triduum

Mindful of Blessings

- 18 Apr, Thurs; Time: 6.45pm

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

Register NOW:

<https://tinyurl.com/mindfulofblessings>

The Lord's Hour

- 18 to 20 Apr; Starts at: 12

Midnight

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:

<https://tinyurl.com/thelordshour>

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



“To receive Jesus and to take him to others

is the true joy of the Christian!”

Pope Benedict XVI

Love, Foolishly:

A Lenten Drama Retreat

Journey with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem and embraces his Passion. Through imaginative contemplation and pray-acting, enter into and share in his Passion. Will you be a fool for Christ?

Dates: 12 – 14 April.

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

Venue: Montfort Centre

Details/Registration:

anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com or 96311943.

Clarity's SPACEBAH workshops: Improving Sleep Quality for Youths

Dates: 13, 27 Apr, 4 May (Sat)

Time: 10am – 12pm

Venue: Agape Village

Do you find it hard to fall asleep or find yourself waking up several times throughout the night? Do you experience irritability, low mood levels and difficulty focusing during the day? Our SPACEBAH workshops aim to help youths with mental health needs improve their sleep quality and make lasting changes to their sleeping habits.

Fees \$0.

To Register,

Email: ask@clarity-singapore.org or

Tel: 6757 7990.

CSM FAMILY VACATION TIME THEME: "INSTANT DONE"

Registration at
Ground level



Mark your calendar!

Date: 20 to 23 June,

Thurs – Sunday

Place: de Bintan Villa

Contact Us

Main: 6291 9272

Parish Secretariat (ext. 1)

Columbarium (ext. 3)

Email: esm.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 For the Month of February Income	\$6,687 \$45,488.80
Expense	\$51,375.80

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
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
6 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr. Augustine	Fr Terence
7 Apr	10 am	Fr Terence	Fr Terence
7 Apr	5.30 pm	Fr John	Fr Terence

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

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: esm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg.

Parish Events

Pilgrimage:

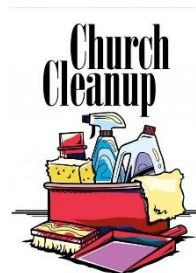
St Paul's Journey – Greece

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.



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)

Morning: 7am after 6.30am Eucharistic Celebration

Evening: 7pm after 6pm Eucharistic Celebration & Lenten Reflection at 6.45pm

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.*

Maundy 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) – We invite you to decorate your own candle and bring it for the celebration. We will be providing candles for those who do not have their own candle.

Easter Sunday: 21 April

8am (Mandarin, with Baptism)

10am & 5.30pm (English)

Vespers

4.30pm