

Our Pilgrimage



StMichael.catholic.sg



@ChurchofStMichaelSG

22nd September 2019, VOLUME 83
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Reflection

The teachings of Jesus **may not always be easy to comprehend and even when we understand them in our hearts, they may be difficult to act upon.** The rich official in Luke 18:18 went away sad for he could not give up the very thing he knew was preventing him from inheriting eternal life. John 6:60 “Then many of his disciples who were listening said “This saying is hard; who can accept it?”. Jesus replied “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.” Indeed, the thoughts and ways of the Heavenly Father cannot be understood by human reasoning alone. What are you doing to understand God’s word today?

The parable of the dishonest steward in today’s Gospel text is one of those passages that is difficult to understand at first glance. The steward was dismissed from his position for squandering his master’s property – a natural consequence. However instead of working or begging for the money, he decided to call upon his master’s debtors to reduce their debts so as to secure their help for his future. It may seem as if the steward had taken revenge upon the master by lowering his dues. It may also seem as if the steward reduced the debts so as to pocket the money as his own. If his motive were indeed these, why would the master commend him for acting prudently? Were you focusing on the morality of the parable or the true spiritual message?

What is Jesus saying?



How?



Steward



Master

[Continued on page 2]

“No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 112(113):1-2,4-8

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Luke 16:13



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)

The steward had actually removed his own share of the commission from the debts, leaving what rightly belongs to the master. By doing so, he creates the reciprocal relationship with the debtors believing the debtors would surely return the favour. Isn't this how it works in the ways of the world? Therefore, "the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light". Thus, the master commends him for his worldly prudence of taking advantage of money to save himself. How are you taking advantages of money for your own salvation?



Is money really the root of all evil? Tainted as it is, money when used with the right motives can secure your future in the Kingdom of God. However, money has the power to pull us into the sin of greed. In the first reading from prophet Amos, we see how the merchants are rebuked for cheating the needy and selling off the refuse of the wheat. In the time of Amos, the sweepings of the wheat were meant to be left for the poor and units of weight (shekel, ephah) were not yet standardized in markets – merchants were left to their own to “diminish the ephah and add to the shekel” as they pleased. Their greed was so deep they wished for the sabbath (a day of worship for the Lord) to be over so they could continue fixing the scales to cheat the poor! The readings of today exemplify the power of money and how it directly competes with God in human loyalty. “No servant can serve two masters.” Does money control your daily decisions?

There is no partiality with God and all are made equal. What we have does not belong only to us. “If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours?” Be prudent like the steward but be authentic and holy in your motive of using money to “store your treasures in heaven where neither moth or decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal” and further the Kingdom of God on earth. What are you spending your money on and what are your plans on using it wisely?

May we continue to be charitable in our almsgiving to the poor, giving glory to God our Father and provider. May the good Lord Jesus cleanse our hearts of ulterior motives and continue to enlighten us with his parables.



*With the love of the Lord,
Marianne*

Layout: Melliana



The 9 Choirs of Angels

The LORD GOD in His majesty, wisdom, and providence created both visible and invisible beings. Angels are spiritual beings created by GOD, and are normally invisible to the human eye. They are created to fulfil a specific purpose in the universe. In Scripture, we read of exceptional cases when human beings encountered these beings usually in some guise, for example when Abraham offers hospitality to 3 strangers (Genesis 18), when Gideon is called to be a mighty warrior (Judges 6), and when Tobit meets the Archangel Raphael in the guise of a travelling companion (Tobit 5).

While not dogmatic in nature, according to tradition, the Angels are classified into 9 Choirs. This classification has its origins from St. Paul's writings: "far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come." (Ephesians 1: 21) and "For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him." (Colossians 1: 16) The Old Testament adds "Cherubim" and "Seraphim" in multiple places, and the Archangels are named in both the Old and New Testament. St. Thomas Aquinas also discussed the 9 choirs in his *Summa Theologica*.

*Do note that only St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael are named. We should not be naming the other archangels or our Guardian Angels. Naming the angels is an exclusive right to GOD. GOD is the Creator and Maker of all. All sovereignty belongs to Him.

According to Dr. Peter Kreeft, the nine choirs are ordered as such:

The first three levels see and adore God directly:

The seraphim, the highest choir, comprehend God with maximum clarity, and therefore their love flames the hottest. ("Seraphim" means "the burning ones.") Lucifer ("Light-bearer") was once one of them. That's why he's still very powerful and dangerous.

The cherubim contemplate God too, but less in himself than in his providence...("Cherubim" means "fullness of wisdom.")

The thrones contemplate God's power and judgments. (Thrones symbolize judicial, juridical power.)



The 9 Choirs of Angels (con't)

The next three choirs fulfil God's providential plans for the universe, like middle management personnel:

The dominations or "dominions" (... "authority"), command the lesser angels below them.

The virtues receive their orders from the dominations and "run" the universe, so to speak, especially the heavenly bodies. ("Virtue" used to mean power, might, or energy.)

The powers serve the virtues by fighting against evil influences that oppose the virtues' providential plan.

The last three choirs directly order human affairs:

The principalities care for earthly principalities, that is, cities and nations and kingdoms.

The archangels (such as Gabriel) carry God's important messages to man.

Ordinary angels are the "guardian angels," one for each individual."

St. Francis of Assisi is known as the Seraphic Father as he received his *stigmata*, the wounds of Christ, from the Seraphim.

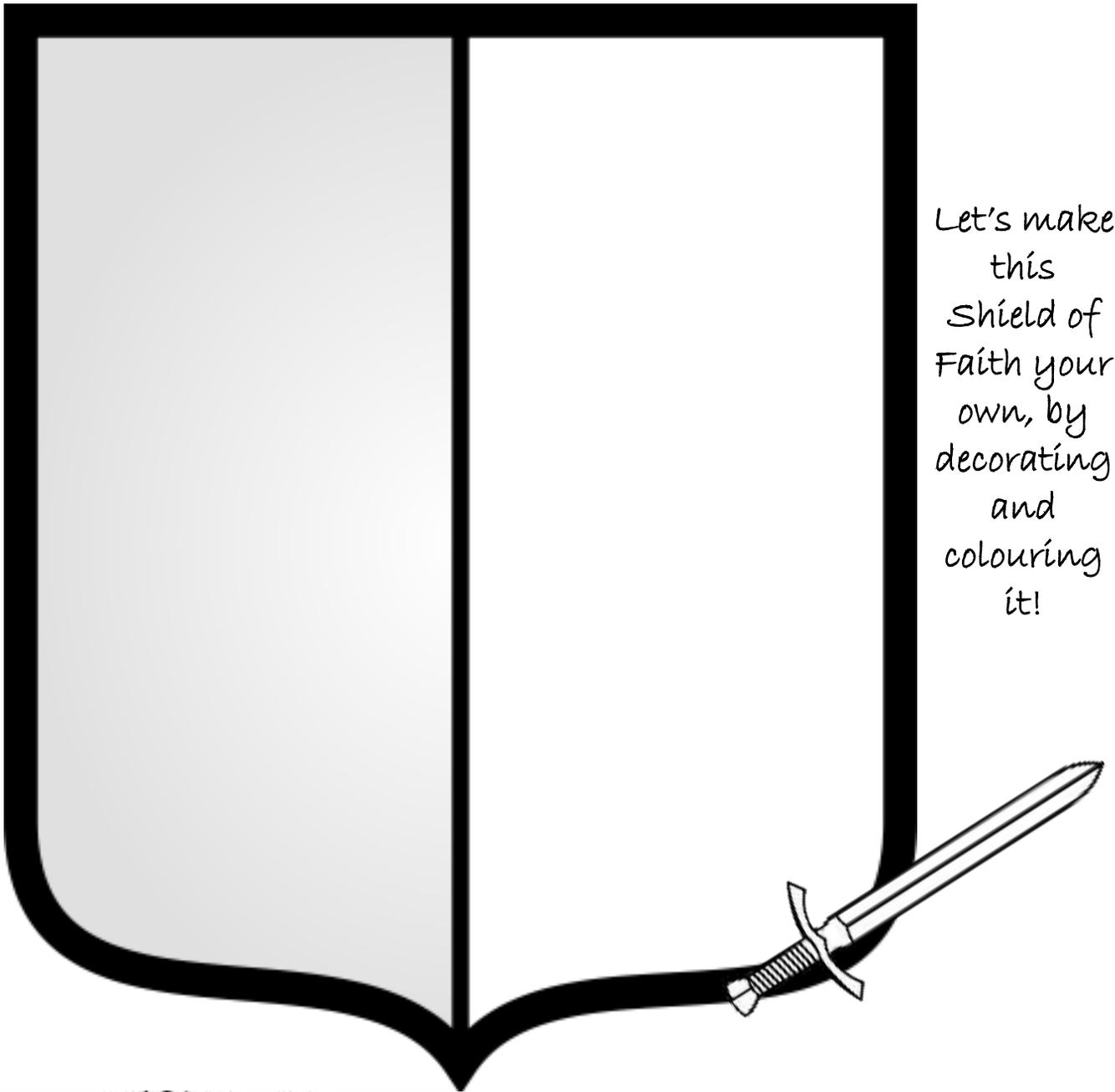


The Church of St. Michael has with us a powerful intercessor and defender in our patron Archangel Michael. We also pray that our Guardian Angels lead us unto the paths towards God. We look forward to the glorious reunion with GOD, the saints and the angelic host, while we recognise in humility our humanity as Sirach 3: 20-22 says, "For great is the might of the LORD; He is glorified by the humble. Seek not what is too difficult for you, nor investigate what is beyond your power. Reflect upon what has been assigned to you, and do not be curious about His many works, for you do not need to see with your eyes what is hidden."



By Brian Bartholomew Tan

Designing Your Shield of Faith



Let's make
this
Shield of
Faith your
own, by
decorating
and
colouring
it!



“Put on the armour of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6: 13–17

Migrant Sunday – 22 Sep

“It’s not just about Migrants but about all of us!”
Let us join together in prayer this Migrant Sunday that we embrace fully the challenges of our Christian vocation as we Welcome, Protect, Promote, and Integrate our brothers and sisters in our community. Get a prayer card from the parish today! For more information, visit acmi.org.sg or email acmi@catholic.org.sg

CBN My Journey Series 2019: An Evening with Francis Lee Kok Choy

Date: Wednesday, 2 Oct 2019

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Light Dinner at 7pm, Talk begins at 7:30pm)

Venue: THE CATHOLIC CENTRE Level 3 (55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187854)

ADMISSION: Free. Love Offering welcome.

During his tenure as SSA President, Singapore swimmers won 110 SEA Games medals, 11 Asian Games medals and Joseph Schooling won Singapore’s first Olympic Gold. Come and be inspired as Kok Choy shares about his faith journey with the Lord and how the Lord has seen through the highs and lows of his life.

CPS 2019 Lunchtime Talk Divorce & Re-marriage

Speaker: Rev. Fr Terence Pereira

Dates: Mondays 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 4 Nov and 11 Nov 2019

Time: 12.30pm - 1.15pm

Venue: TPI Building 62 Cecil Street 6th Floor

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CPS-Divorce-Marriage>

Vacancy for Part-time Admin Staff

The Professional Standards Office is looking for part-time administrative staff to work from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. Those interested, please apply to psa.secretariat@catholic.org.sg



Eucharistic Celebration

“Is anyone among you sick?
Then he must call for the
elders of the church and
they are to pray over him,
anointing him with oil in the
name of the Lord”
James 5:14

Date: 6 October 2019

Time: 3pm - 5pm
(be seated by 2.50pm)

Registration is NOW ON:

Details needed:

- Submit your names or of loved ones to the Parish Admin Office
- Include health conditions
- Indicate Catholic or Non-Catholic
(**PLEASE NOTE
NON-CATHOLICS
WILL ONLY
RECEIVE BLESSINGS**)

Email:

csm.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

**PLEASE REGISTER BY
29TH SEPTEMBER**

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 (ext.7)

Parish Collection

Weekend Collections \$7,158

Celebrant Schedule

Date	Eucharistic Celebration	Celebrant	Preacher
21 Sep	5.30 pm	Fr Terence	Fr Terence
22 Sep	10 am	Fr Terence	Fr Terence
22 Sep	5.30pm	Fr John	Fr Terence
28 Sep	5.30 pm	Priests of CSM	Priests of CSM
29 Sep	10 am	Fr Gerald Louis CSsR	Fr Gerald Louis CSsR
29 Sep	5.30pm	Priests of CSM	Priests of CSM

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
6.45pm,
1st Fri of the month only.

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

In the Community

***"Could you not
watch one hour
with me?"***

Matthew 26:40

**Holy Hour on
Friday, 4 October
6.45pm**

Eucharistic Celebration at 6pm

October – Month of the Rosary

Rosary recitation at the grotto is at 6.45pm every night. There will be a candlelight procession on the 1st, 7th and 31st October. On 7th Oct, being the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, we will have a pot-luck after the procession.

Infant Baptism – 5 Oct at 4pm

We welcome Syrus Ng Yi Cheng and Esther Yong Jie En to the CSM community. May we continue as God's children growing in holiness in His family.

Next Infant Baptism - 1st Saturday of 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

Wedding Bells

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.

Church of St. Michael Feast Day Celebrations

Prophetic People

Three Days Triduum

Dates: 25 to 27 Sep 2019

Time: 7.30pm to 10pm

Speaker: Fr. Simon Pereira, CSsR

Day 1 – Know the Word

Day 2 – Live the Word

Day 3 – Speak the Word

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at St. Luke's Room from 7.20pm to 7.55pm.

- ❖ There will be no 6.30am and 6pm Eucharist Celebrations during the Triduum
- ❖ There will be fellowship every night
- ❖ Light refreshments will be provided.

Feast Day Eucharistic Celebration

Date: 29 Sep 2019, Sun Time: 10am

Main Celebrant: Fr. Gerard Louis, CSsR

- ❖ As there will be NO PARKING on the church premises, please park in the HDB carparks. Parking is also available at the rear of the Buddhist temple.

St. Michael's Feast Day Fair

Date: 29 Sep 2019, Sun

Time: 9am to 2pm

Come showcase and share your **talents and gifts** given by God our Father as ONE community in Christ. Cook up your **specialty dish!** Encourage your kids to perform **magic, sing, dance, or tell a story!** Come share with your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ at our St Michael's Fair from 9am to 2pm. Let us know in the registration form!

St. Michael's Feast Day Dinner

Date: 29 Sep 2019, Sun

Time: 7pm to 10pm



You are invited to register for the celebration.

[Click to Register](#) or scan the QR code:

Feast Day Celebrations Artwork

Calling for children to submit a piece of artwork related to our patron saint, St. Michael, or our Church, either a drawing or a craftwork to be displayed during the Feast Day. Deadline for submission is 22 Sep, Sun to the Parish Admin Office.

