

Reflection: The parable from today's Gospel is a continuation of the Beatitudes that Jesus preached. The themes of forgiveness and mercy, from last week, extend to a message of suspending judgement upon others. But judge ourselves first. As with the First Reading (supposedly authored by Solomon), a person's character is seen through his actions, and through his conversations. His thoughts lay open to the gaze of others. If we were to join the dots – recalling the lessons of being followers of Christ, of detachment from this world, of mercy, and suspending judgement – perhaps these prepare us for Lent.



Entrance: 571 Come Christians Join to Sing

Entrance Ant.: *The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *Open our heart O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.*

Offertory: 683 How Firm A Foundation

Communion Ant.: *I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.*

Communion: **The Lord's My Shepherd (Bro. James Air)**
Recessional: **569 From All That Dwell Below the Skies**

Marian Anthem: **Ave Regina Caelorum**

Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale:

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February 2019
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STS. PETER & PAUL CHOIR

What is meant by “*Septuagesima*”? (Fr John Zuhlsdorf, *Catholic Herald*)

We plan for all sorts of important events well in advance. In general, the more significant an event we approach, the more time and effort we put into the preparation. You wouldn't call “wise” the retiree who has never given thought to retirement or the student who never studies except bare hours before an exam. Our great feasts in the Church, too, require preparation. For example, before Easter, the greatest feast of all, we have the season of preparation, Lent. Since Lent is itself important for us, we should also prepare for Lent before Lent.

We have had for many centuries in the traditional Roman calendar a time of “pre-Lent”, consisting of a few Sundays before Lent when something of Lent's austerity is already sampled by Holy Church. Three Sundays before Ash Wednesday are nicknamed in Latin “*Septuagesima*”, Latin for the “seventieth” day before Easter, Sexagesima (“sixtieth”), and Quinquagesima (“fiftieth”). The whole season of Lent is called Quadragesima, or, literally, “Fortieth”. Meanwhile, the whole of the season of Lent is technically called Quadragesima (40th) even though there are more 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

During traditional pre-Lent, Sunday Mass (not the weekdays) is celebrated already in violet vestments. The Church ceases in Holy Mass and the Office to sing “Alleluia” until Easter. The Sundays have Roman Stations, as do all the days of Lent itself. In ancient times, catechumens were taken on these Sundays to the Station Masses where they heard tough readings and ever tougher prayers and to underwent scrutinies to help them understand what they were getting into. The prayers and readings for the Masses of these pre-Lenten Sundays were compiled by St Gregory the Great, pope in a time of great turmoil and suffering. Looking at Gregory's time, with the massive migration of peoples, the war, the turmoil, you are reminded of our own times.

There is a tradition of “burying” the Alleluia, with a *depositio* ceremony, like a little funeral. A hymn of farewell was sung and, after a procession with cross and candles, a coffin containing a banner with “Alleluia” was sprinkled, incensed, and buried. In the post-Conciliar, Novus Ordo calendar of Paul VI there is no more pre-Lent. It was not, as the Council's document on the liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium required. However, with Benedict XVI's 2007 gift of the document Summorum Pontificum, the pre-Lent Sundays are regaining something of their ancient status.

In practical terms, pre-Lent gives us a change to “ease in” to our Lenten discipline. The important season starts us to thinking about what we going to do during Lent well before Lent and not the day after Ash Wednesday. That way, when Ash Wednesday rolls around, we are ready, with a plan in hand: we can hit the ground running.

Announcements

**1. Saturday, February 16, 2019, 1pm – 3pm @ CANA
 SPP CHOIR Annual General Meeting & Dinner**

We would like to invite you to share with us how your chorister & ministry journey has been for 2018. Please leave your feedback at <http://bit.ly/sppc2018review>

After AGM & Mass, we shall adjourn for dinner together as a ministry.

2. SPP CHOIR Calendar for 2019

Please take note of dates in the calendar for 2019 and let Chris / Kenneth know if you would like to offer your assistance to any of the events.

3. Prayers @ Home

We would like to invite anyone who would welcome prayer sessions at your home, feel free to let Bertrand know. We are organizing once a month rosary prayers at homes of members in the 4 sectors of Singapore.



Saturday, 2nd February: 4th Ordinary Sunday

Reflection: A prophet is seldom welcome in his own land: that is the message from the Gospel. The irony of the First Reading from Jeremiah is that the mentioned King – King Josiah, while a good king who was after the favour of God, himself was also betrayed and killed as a martyr. Jeremiah himself had his life in danger when King Jehoikim sought to kill him. His assistant Baruch (Advent readings) helped in the temple duties while he was away. And the ultimate prophet: Jesus Son of God – himself had his life in danger countless times before laying it down on the cross.

Entrance: 571 Come Christians Join to Sing

Entrance Ant.: *Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *My lips will tell of your help.*

Gospel Acc.: *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me.*

Offertory: 647 Lord of All hopefulness

Communion Ant.: *Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.*

Communion: *The Lord's My Shepherd (Bro. Jame's Air)*
Recessional: 460 Jesus Shall Reign

Marian Anthem: Alma Redemptoris Mater



Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale:

Saturday, 16th February: 6th Ordinary Sunday

Reflection: Jeremiah's message of self-denial & detachment from this world is similar to the Beatitudes in the Gospel. We often look at the construct & definitions of this world, to contextualise success, the good life, and what is desirable based on the norms and social standards. Also, with social media, it further perpetuates what trophies look like. Even if we cannot define what would give us contentment / detachment, we easily can tell what looks like failure, suffering, and undesirable. What about the message of being a cross-bearer – what connotations does that have for us?

Entrance: 567 God We Praise You

Entrance Ant.: *Be my protector O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.*

Offertory: 683 How Firm a Foundation

Communion Ant.: *They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord have them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.*

Communion: *All My Hope On God is Founded (Michael)*
Recessional: 460 Jesus Shall Reign

Marian Anthem: Alma Redemptoris Mater



Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre / Post Mass:
Sweet Hour of Prayer

Take My Life and Let It Be
(Hayes)

Saturday, 9th February: 5th Ordinary Sunday

Reflection: Isaiah's response is a pre-figuration of the response of Peter. "Here I am send me" says Isaiah. "You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God," says Peter; "to whom shall we go?". Many of the stories of the prophets and disciples tell us that they left their old ways of life, to follow their teacher. Various figures had followers – Joshua, David, John the Baptist, Jesus. Why would men follow these charismatic leaders? What was it that inspired people to disregard their familiar lifestyles to embark on a new unknown? Perhaps they have had a glimpse of a kind of "hope" that appealed to them. What about us – modern "followers" of Christ?

Entrance: 571 Come Christians Join to Sing

Entrance Ant.: *O Come let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *Before the angels, I will bless you, O Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.*

Offertory: 683 How Firm A Foundation

Communion Ant.: *Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.*

Communion: *All My Hope On God is Founded (Michael) (*new)*
Recessional: 460 Jesus Shall Reign

Marian Anthem: Alma Redemptoris Mater



Conductor:

Cantor:
Organist:

On Leave:

Pre-Mass Chorale:

Saturday, 23rd February: 7th Ordinary Sunday

Reflection: It took a lot of integrity and mercy – one that must have been inspired by God – when David did not seize the opportunity to kill Saul, who himself had been after David's life for almost 8 years. If we put ourselves in David's shoes, we can identify with the injustice, the hurt, frustration, disappointment. These sentiments, surely they are not new nor alien. We have ourselves had episodes of being in the same predicament as David – perhaps even at the cost of our lives. Let us be open to the words of Jesus, and consider mercy as we would like it for ourselves as well.

Entrance: 567 God We Praise You

Entrance Ant.: *O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *The Lord is compassion and love.*

Gospel Acc.: *Open our heart O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.*

Offertory: 647 Lord of All Hopefulness

Communion Ant.: *I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.*

Communion: *All My Hope On God is Founded (Michael)*
Recessional: 569 From All That Dwell Below The Skies

Marian Anthem: Ave Regina Caelorum



Conductor:

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Organist:

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