

Another Year, Another Chance

“Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” (Luke 13:6-9).

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree is not the Gospel Reading for this Sunday. Yet, this parable provides a timely reflection as we end 2017 and wait to usher 2018! God the Father in Heaven is the owner of the vineyard. He is disappointed that for three years, there was still no fruit on the fig tree. The disappointment was great because God himself had planted the fig tree and he had surely planted with the hope of bountiful growth. The gardener is of course Jesus. The reference to “three years” is significant because that was the period of Jesus’ public ministry before his passion and crucifixion. Jesus would likewise be disappointed that the Jewish people of his time did not heed his call to repent and return to God. While the people clamoured for miracles and healings, they did not really want to change their lives. They did not want to do as Jesus had commanded - to love, forgive and serve.

But Jesus did not give up on us. He was not prepared for any of us to be cut down and thrown away. He still had hope in us. He persuades the Father to give one more year.

Jesus further promises the Father that he will continue to work on the fig tree. Jesus is prepared to invest his time and energy in us to ensure that each one of us will bear fruit, and live lives pleasing to the Father.

I am grateful that Jesus persuaded the Father to give me another day of life. More time where I can, with Jesus’ presence in my life, become the person God wants me to be. So I examine critically the areas in my life that I have yet to bear fruit. Two points struck me. First, the areas that I need to change were the “same sins” that I confess each time I go to Confession. I need to get rid of these “same sins”. Secondly, the areas that I needed to do better had all related to relationships - at home and at work.

Since we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family this Sunday, I have decided to focus on improving my relationship with each of my family members. I look to the Holy Family as the perfect example of mutual love and respect.

“Love your family. Spend time, be kind and serve one another. Make no room for regrets. Tomorrow is not promised and today is short.”
(Anon.)

Reflection by Ros

Novena notes

Feast Of The Holy Family
Year B

31 December 2017

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 31 December The Holy Family	Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebr 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.
Mon, 1 January The Holy Mother Of God	Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 O God, be gracious and bless us.
Tue, 2 January SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-25 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Wed, 3 January Most Holy Name of Jesus	1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Thu, 4 January	1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Fri, 5 January	1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51 Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Sat, 6 January	1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
Mandarin: 2.30pm
Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm



Catholic Junior College Open House 2018

Inviting all interested students from church, especially those who have sat for their 'O' Level Exams.
Friday, 12th January 2018
Time: 10am to 4pm
Come, join us to find out more!

Please take note of the times for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Masses

There will be the usual Masses :

Saturday - 30th December
6.30pm

Sunday - 31st December
8am, 10am, 12 noon and 5.30pm

To welcome the New Year :
Sunday - 31st December
(New Year's Eve)
Praise & Worship - 10pm
Mass - 10.30pm

Monday - 1st January 2018
(New Year's Day)
8am & 6.30pm

There will be no lunch time mass on 1st January 2018.

Car-Park Charges

All Drivers, please take note of our car-park rates.

Cars

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$2.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$1.50

Subsequent 15 minutes or part thereof - \$0.50

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$2.50

Motor Cycles

15 minutes Grace Period

Monday to Friday (6.00am to 6.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 6.00pm - \$1.50

Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday (6.00am to 5.00pm)

- 1st hour or part thereof - \$0.80

Per entry after 5.00pm - \$1.50



Per side \$20,000
Full pew \$40,000

Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.



The Redemptorist Community wishes all of you "A Blessed 2018 New Year". May God and our Mother of Perpetual Help keep you in their loving care.

Novena notes

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

