

# 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010—Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a,13-15

1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12

Lk 13:1-9

## "If it does not bear fruit, you can cut it down"

What can a calamity, such as a political blood-bath or a natural disaster, teach us about God's kingdom and the consequences of bad choices and sinful actions? When calamity and disaster hit the Jewish people, such as their 400 year enslavement in the land of Egypt, they often saw it as the consequence of their unrepentant sin and persistent unfaithfulness to God. God, however in his mercy, promised to deliver the Israelites when he sent his servant Moses to lead his people to freedom. Jesus was asked by some listeners to address the issue of sin and its consequences in the light of two current disasters that befell the residents of Jerusalem. The first incident occurred in the temple at Jerusalem. Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Jerusalem at the time, ordered his troops to slaughter a group of Galileans who had come up to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice in the temple. We do not know what these Galileans did to incite Pilate's wrath, nor why Pilate chose to attack them in the holiest of places for the Jews, in their temple at Jerusalem. For the Jews, this was political barbarity and sacrilege at its worst! The second incident which Jesus addressed was a natural disaster, a tower in Jerusalem which unexpectedly collapsed, killing 18 people. The Jews often associated such calamities and disasters as a consequence of sin. Scripture does warn that sin can result in calamity! *Though the righteous fall seven times, and rise again; the wicked are overthrown by calamity* (Proverbs 24:16). The real danger and calamity which Jesus points out is that an unexpected disaster or a sudden death does not give us time to repent of our sins and to prepare ourselves to meet the Judge of heaven and earth. The Book of Job reminds us that misfortune and calamity can befall both the righteous and the unrighteous alike. Jesus gives a clear warning - take responsibility for your actions and moral choices and put sin to death today before it can destroy your heart, mind, soul, and body as well. Unrepentant sin is like a cancer which corrupts us from within. If it is not eliminated through repentance - asking God for forgiveness and for his healing grace, it leads to a spiritual death which is far worse than physical destruction.

Jesus' parable of the barren fig trees illustrated his warning about the consequences of allowing sin and corruption to take root in our hearts and minds. Fig trees were a common and important source of food for the people of Palestine. A fig tree normally matured within three years, producing plentiful fruit. If it failed, it was cut down to make room for more healthy trees. A decaying fig tree and its bad fruit came to symbolize for the Jews the consequence of spiritual corruption caused by evil deeds and unrepentant sin. The unfruitful fig tree symbolized the outcome of Israel's unresponsiveness to the word of God. The prophets depicted the desolation and calamity of Israel, due to her unfaithfulness to God, as a languishing fig tree (see Joel 1:7,12; Habakuk 3:17; and Jeremiah 8:13). Jeremiah likened good and evil rulers and members of Israel with figs that were good for eating and figs that were rotten and useless (Jeremiah 24:2-8). Jesus' parable depicts the patience of God, but it also contains a warning that we should not presume upon patience and mercy. God's judgment will come - sooner or later - in due course. Why does God judge his people? He judges to purify and cleanse us of all sin that we might grow in his holiness and righteousness. And he disciplines us for our own good, to inspire a godly fear and reverence for him and his word. God is patient, but for those who persistently and stubbornly rebel against him and refuse to repent, there is the consequence that they will lose their soul to hell. Are God's judgments unjust or unloving? *When God's judgments are revealed in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness* (Isaiah 26:9). To pronounce God's judgment on sin is much less harsh than what will happen if those who sin are not warned to repent. God, in his mercy, gives us time to get right with him, but that time is now. We must not assume that there is no hurry. A sudden and unexpected death leaves one no time to prepare to settle one's accounts when he or she must stand before the Lord on the day of judgment. Jesus warns us that we must be ready at all times. Tolerating sinful habits and excusing unrepentant sin will result in bad fruit and eventual destruction. The Lord in his mercy gives us both grace and time to turn away from sin, but that time is right now. If we delay, even for a day, we may discover that grace has passed us by and our time is up. Do you hunger for the Lord's righteousness and holiness?" "Lord Jesus, increase my hunger for you that I may grow in righteousness and holiness. May I not squander the grace of the present moment to say "yes" to you and to your will and plan for my life."

# Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity

7<sup>th</sup> Mar 2010



20 Tampines Street 11  
Singapore 529455  
Website: [www.holytrinity.org.sg](http://www.holytrinity.org.sg)

Parish Priest: Fr. Edward Lim  
Asst. Priests: Fr. Albert Ng  
Fr. Paul Ngo Thanh Phong  
Parish Staff: Ms Catherine Thang  
Ms Nancy Goh  
Kindergarten: [admin@holytrinitykindergarten.edu.sg](mailto:admin@holytrinitykindergarten.edu.sg)  
Principal: Mrs Shirley Tan

Tel: 6784 1211  
Tel: 6784 3190  
Tel: 6784 6418  
Tel: 6784 2332  
Fax: 67865042  
Tel: 67874651  
Fax: 67837559

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:30am, 5:00pm (Novena); 6:00pm (Sunset Mass)  
Sunday: 6:45am; 8am(Mandarin); 9:30am; 11:15am & 6pm  
Weekdays: 6:30am & 6pm  
Public Holidays: 9am only  
2nd Saturday: 7:30pm (Mass in Tagalog)

## Readings for the Week

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2Kgs 5:1-15a	Ps 41:2,3 & 42:3,4	Lk 4:24-30
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dan 3:25,34-43	Ps 24:4bc-5ab,6-7bc,8-9	Mt 18:21-35
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Deut 4:1,5-9	Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20	Mt 5:17-19
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Jer 7:23-28	Ps 94:1-2,6-7,8-9	Lk 11:14-23
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Hos 14:2-10	Ps 80:6c-8a,8bc-9,10-11ab	Mt 12:28b-34
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Hos 6:1-6	Ps 50:3-4,18-19,20-21ab	Lk 18:9-14

**INFANT BAPTISM** is celebrated at 4pm in the Chapel on 2nd Sunday of each month, except during the season of Lent. Parents and Godparents are required to come for a preparatory session. Please register at the parish office.

## CHURCH CLEANING (Willing Hands)

Volunteers are needed - Every Wednesdays & Saturdays at 9.00am.

**WEDDINGS:** Arrangements for a Church wedding should be made at least six (6) months in advance. This would give the couple adequate time to attend either a Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) or an Engaged Encounter Weekend (EE). Application forms and booking of wedding date at the parish office.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Jumble Sales group is seeking for volunteers to sort and pack donated items i.e. clothes, books, shoes, bags etc. every Monday between 12noon & 3pm. Those able to help, please leave your contact particulars with the church secretariat.

**FREE COUNSELLING SERVICES**

Ms Jackie (Appointment coordinator). Please call after office hours: 9797 8319

**FREE LEGAL COUNSELING CLINIC.** Please contact the parish office.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** For cancer patients / caregivers call:  
Patrick 9728 7425 or Theresa 9681 9205

**CANTEEN** – The usual gang is back. Come for your favourite breakfast items.

**Neighbourhood**

Tampines CNG -Lenten Reflection  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mar at 8.30 pm, Blk 306 # 02-08  
Tampines St 32. All are welcome.  
Enquiry: Jeffrey De Souza @ 96730576

*SIMEI CNG* - Lenten Reflection  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 8.15p.m at Blk 256 Simei  
St.1 #07-531 All are welcome. Please  
bring your bible. Enquiries: Daniel Tan  
97522402

**HOLY FAMILY SHRINE** will be at Sanjeevi Fernando Blk 714, Tampines St 71 #07-202 from 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Mar. Enquiries: *Phillip Fan: 9746-5678/ 9437-2526*

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Mar**

The Youth Intercessory Team will be praying for youth in our parish at 8pm in the Youth Room. Come & join us! Contact Timothy @ 92956442. All are welcome!

**RCIA CHINESE 7.45pm** In the parish hall

**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> Mar****CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY**

No prayer meeting. Healing Rally at Church of the Risen Christ @ 7.30pm by Bob Canton (preacher & minister). All are welcome.

**Prayer for Priests** – 5pm in the Chapel. All are welcome.

**Christian Meditation**

“Be still and know I am God” Learn to Meditate @ 8pm Room 16. All are welcome.

**RCIA ENGLISH** – 7.45pm in the parish hall

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> Mar**

Divine Mercy Devotion in the Chapel at 8pm. All are welcome.

**THURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> Mar – CHINESE STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN TEOCHEW** will be held in the chapel every Thursday at 8pm during the period of Lent.

**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> Mar -WAY OF THE CROSS**

Mass at 7pm will be held in the Main Church followed by The Way Of The Cross - during the period of Lent.

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> Mar IGNITE:** Alms Giving Volunteering in Church Time: Sat, 1pm to 4pm. Location: Youth Room. For more info call Jasmine: 81133802.

**CHANGE OF TIME FOR CATECHISM CLASSES**

Wef Sat 6 Mar 2010 all Catechism Classes on **SATURDAY** will be at these times: -

P1-P6 3.00-4.00pm (instead of 3.30-4.30pm)

P1-P5 4.15-5.15pm (instead of 4.45-5.45pm)

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**PAINTING OF THE CHURCH** – We have started painting the church. Please refrain from parking your cars near the building during the weekdays as the paint may stained your car. The cost of the painting is \$44,999.99 plus GST. The painting is expected to finish in May.

**PARISH FEAST DAY** – We will be celebrating our parish feast day on the 30 May 2010. We will be have a Triduum and Food & Fun Gair on the Feast Day. We encourage all ministries to take up stalls to help in the fair. Families who wish to run stalls are also welcome. Parishioners and well wishes can obtain the forms from our parish office.

**PARISH RENEWAL EXPERIENCE - PRE** We are starting our PRE on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. All of you are invited to come and experience the love of God and His community. You may obtain Registration Forms from the Parish office or at the booth next to the church main entrance.

**CHARITIES WEEK 2010**

The wardens will be distributing the ‘Charities Week’ envelopes this weekend. Please put your money or cheque into the envelopes and drop them into the boxes provided in the church. Please give generously

**JUMNLE SALE** – There are many things which parishioners have given to the church. Volunteers will be holding a jumble sale on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

**45<sup>th</sup> RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND 26-28 MARCH 2010**

A lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. If you are serious about making your marriage work, this programme could be worthwhile for you.

Weekend date: 26-28 March 2010. For confidential enquiry, call 67498861/64239756/64451375. Online registration: [www.helpourmarriage.sg](http://www.helpourmarriage.sg)

**Know your Religion**

**The Rites of Baptism** - In the case of child/children baptism, the ceremony begins when all the participants, including parents, godparents and children to be baptised are gathered **outside** the church.

The priest will receive the child/children and address the parents. He will ask if they will accept the responsibilities of training their children in the practice of the faith and in keeping God’s commandments.

To the godparents, the priest will ask if they are ready to help the parents in their duty as Christian mother/s and father/s.

When the answer is affirmative, the priest signs each child with a cross on the forehead, claiming each child for Christ.

Then the priest will then invite all participants to go into the church for the **Liturgy of the Word i.e.** to listen to the Word of God.