

# THE CARPENTER 木匠



MCI (P) 112/06/2014

19th Edition, 19 April 2015

Foreword by: Fr Edmund Chong, Parish Priest.

***"As for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord."***

— Joshua 24:15

St. Joseph stood up as one of the most perfectly God-fearing man. For this reason, he knew this part of Holy Scripture without doubt. He was at the same time God loving – he could not have failed to carry it out or overlook altogether. Far from it that he would have likewise not said the same thing and do the same thing. Ever mindful of his given role as he was ever vigilant, and responsible indeed, in loving his spouse and the Child, this he would have brought them together to put the Lord God first in everything.

The chosen theme for our coming Feast Day, 'St. Joseph Whose Consecration Was To God Alone', gives me inspiration to see it all in the setting of the Holy Family. It helps to ride on to 2015 as The Year of Consecration.

Thus said, St. Joseph would have gladly

re-echoed those words of Joshua to be like his own, as for me and my household, we would serve the Lord, indeed.

Consecration like this calls much to desire as it calls also for a more simplistic learning.

In the book of Leviticus was exemplified the meaning of consecration as a call to be set apart by God for His sacred purpose...

*"You shall be holy to Me; for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine."* -- Lev 20:26.

It is a given those attended to by God would have to be different from all the rest. The Israelites called to be a chosen race, were to belong exclusively to God alone. Yet, in the light of this consecration, there could be found traces of idolatries, turning



themselves over to these strange god practices. These brought divine judgment as the Israelites had stooped so lowly and had polluted themselves. Their hearts divided and strayed easily.

Keeping up to the Patriarchal traditions of old, and in keeping communion with the observances of the Laws and the Prophets, Mary and Joseph were conscientious of the sacredness and sanctity their religion Judaism had brought on. This made St. Paul singled out the truth and the beauty of those marked out for a life of consecration –

*"They are Israelites: they are made God's sons; theirs is the splendour of the Divine Presence, theirs the covenants, the law, the temple worship, and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, in natural descent, sprang the Messiah."* – Romans 9:4-5

The end of it all: St. Joseph, just like the Holy Family would have re-affirmed what he believed in "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!" Call it salutation and faith, it was to be their corner-stone of consecration, ever so pronounced to the last.

## Welcome to the Family

25 elects were received into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. 3 Candidates (of a Christian denomination) were also received into the Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 4 April. 10 children were also baptized (group photo on page 6).

On Easter Sunday at the 7.15am Mandarin Mass, 5 elects were received into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. 3 children were baptized (photo on right).







## High Mass in Latin @ SJC

A Solemn High Mass in Latin was held here at SJC on 8th December last year at 8pm, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in thanksgiving to Our Lady for the 40th Anniversary Sacerdotal Ordination of Fr Augustin Tay; and the 46th Anniversary Sacerdotal Ordination of Fr Anthony Ho. In attendance was the Archbishop, William Goh.

The congregation was invited to a reception at the Parish Community Hall after the Mass.



Fr Tay served as Parish Priest of St Joseph Church (Bukit Timah) from 1986 to 2002.

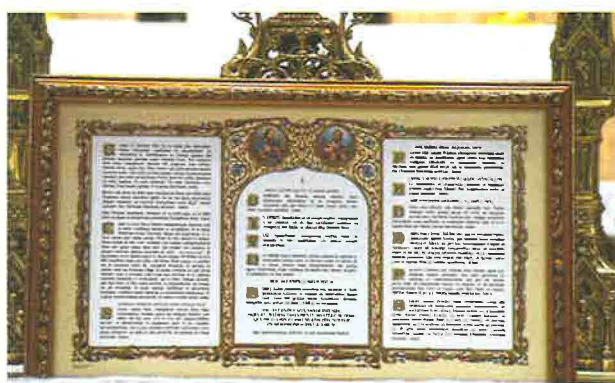
Left: Fr Augustin Tay and Fr Anthony Ho after the Mass.



Top: Archbishop Goh presents Fr Augustine Tay with a certificate stating that he is the priest in charge of the celebration of the Latin Mass.

Photo Credit: [www.catholicnews.org.sg](http://www.catholicnews.org.sg)

## Interesting Aspects and Structure of the Latin Mass



The first part of the Mass is a kind of introductory service, made up of chants, prayers and lessons (i.e. readings from Holy Scripture) -- namely, the Introit, the Kyrie, the Collect, the Epistle or Lesson, and the Gospel. On certain days the Gloria and the Nicene Creed are added.

This first part of the Mass is called the Mass of the Catechumens, while the remaining part is called the Mass of the Faithful. These names have their origin in the discipline of the early Church. In the first ages of Christianity, persons desiring to become Christians were obliged to undergo a course of instructions preparatory to baptism. They were called "catechumens," a Greek word meaning "one whose is being instructed." Catechumens, not yet fully initiated in the teachings and practices of Christianity, were customarily dismissed before the Offertory.

Likewise public sinners who had not yet been absolved were ordered to leave the church before the Offertory. The Sacrifice of the Mass was considered too holy for the presence of notorious sinners; likewise, it was thought to be too mysterious for catechumens. Only those who were baptized, -- "the Faithful" -- could take part in the actual Eucharistic Sacrifice. **The Church, during the course of centuries, modified her discipline in this regard, and all are now permitted to remain.**

The Mass is one continuous action, reproducing in a mysterious way the Life, Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. The structure of the Mass is as follows:



The entry procession (above photo) and part of the congregation during the Mass (below).



**The Preparation** -- beginning with the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar, the Introit, Kyrie and Gloria (pictured below).



**The Instruction** -- including the Collect, the Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, (or Tract, and on certain feasts the Sequence), the Gospel (usually followed by a sermon), and the Credo.



Top: The Choir during the Mass.  
Below: Archbishop Goh delivering his sermon.



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**The Offertory** -- which includes the Offertory antiphon, the offering of bread, the pouring of water and wine into the chalice, the offering of the chalice, the washing of the hands, the prayer to the Blessed Trinity, the "Orate fratres" and the Secret.

**The Consecration** -- including the Preface and the Canon of the Mass, embracing the prayer "Te igitur," the Memento of the living, the Communicantes and the other two prayers before the Consecration and Elevation, the three prayers after the Consecration, the Commemoration for the Dead, the "Nobis quoque peccatoribus" and the Minor Elevation.



**The Communion** -- including the Pater Noster, the Libera, the Agnus Dei, the three prayers before the Communion, the "Domine non sum dignus," and the Communion of the Priest and the Faithful.



**The Thanksgiving**--which includes the Communion antiphon, the Post-communion prayer, the "Ite missa est," and the Last Gospel.

### Why does the traditional Latin Mass have so many restrictions and regulations in it?

The Mass is the sacrifice of Calvary made present on our altars in an un-bloody manner (Council of Trent). Therefore, as the pre-eminent Liturgy of the Church, it is of utmost importance that its celebration be regulated by liturgical law. All the prayers, ceremonies, laws and customs that have developed organically over time exist to guarantee its stable and unchanging quality. These liturgical regulations (i.e. rubrics) provide the clergy a clear guide to the reverent celebration of the Liturgy. Furthermore, St. Thomas Aquinas stated that: "It is absurd and a detestable shame, that we should suffer those traditions to be changed, which we have received from the fathers of old."

*Information on the aspects of the Latin Mass is extracted from, [www.sanctamissa.org](http://www.sanctamissa.org)*

## Could this be a Case of Deception at its Extreme?

*(Readers' discretion is advised on the conclusion of the encounter.)*

I always thought that if one is close to Jesus Christ or to the Heavenly Father, the Tempter has to be even more active to draw the person away from the Saviour or from his God.

As when during a fast, the Tempter keeps tempting to break the fast. So the will power of the person must be very strong to really want to fast.

Even in Rome, a holy place is also not spared from the Tempter. There are professional pickpockets, crooks, gypsies, mafia and conmen. They even used children or trained children to be pickpockets, because the police do not and cannot arrest children.

A group of Singaporeans were having a meal in the restaurant. Taking the security and safety for granted like in Singapore, the Singaporean man placed his hand phone on the table to go through the menu to place his order. A child about 7 or 8 years old came by, put a map on the table, over the hand phone and asked the man for directions. Immediately, the lady sitting across the table reminded the man of his hand phone. The man quickly lifted up the map and saw the child's other hand was about to take the hand phone away.

On my way to the Vatican to get some souvenirs after getting out of the subway, I crossed the road. After the first or second block on my left I saw a church. I thought of going in to pray and light a candle. When I entered the church and knelt down to pray, I saw a priest placing a big Bible on the lectionary. I saw two lighted candles on the altar. I wondered whether Mass was over or was about to begin as it was about 12noon, perhaps a lunch hour Mass. After my prayers, I went to the right to look for a place to light a candle. I discovered it was the Vestment Room (for the priest to put on his vestments) and not a place to light candles. Since it was going to be a Mass, I returned to my seat. There were about four other people, a lady on my left and one other lady behind me. There was an old gentleman on my right and one other far behind.

The priest was alone, and he looked to be in his eighties or may be 90 years old. But he looked healthy except that his reading was a bit slow perhaps because of his poor eyesight. After he had read the first reading, a man in his fifties came in and said, "Excuse me," then went around asking for money from the congregation. The lady sitting behind me, and another on my left both spoke in Italian, were in disbelief and pointing that Mass was going on and that he should not intrude. But the man just went around asking for money while the priest continued to celebrate Mass. He was very focused.

The man then left. Then after a while during the Eucharistic Prayer, he appeared again, asking for money. This time, the ladies chided him in Italian. I did not understand..

After making his rounds and getting no money, he walked right up to the altar, went to the back and switched off all the lights. The priest continued with the Mass with the help of light coming from the stained glass.

At first, I thought the man was mentally not right, or perhaps he was a troublemaker. After he had switched off the lights, he turned to the congregation and spoke again in Italian. The lady on my left started to leave the church while the lady behind me spoke to me in Italian and told me to ignore him. The man then stared at me. I was wondering whether he was going to bash me up as I was sitting in the front pew and right in front of him. Then he spoke to me and the only English word he said to me was "Closed, ugh closed." I looked at the priest but he was still celebrating Mass. What did he mean when he said "closed"?

Perhaps from my facial expression, he went up to the priest and spoke to him in Italian. The priest spoke some words to him and the man walked away, this time locking up all the doors.

After Mass ended, the priest summoned me and the other lady to the back of the altar. I followed the lady and knelt in front of the altar thinking it was the Final Blessing. When that was given, the priest in his mischievousness gestured to us and led us to the back of the altar. There he got his key and unlocked a door to let us out.

I was so bewildered by the whole experience that I could not believe the whole scenario had taken place. I am thankful the man left the altar and the priest unharmed.

### A Friend's Interpretation of my experience

The so-called priest was a conman, that I had been fooled by the caretaker who had set up the whole scenario. Those who realized the deception, walked out except the other lady who probably could be the conman's wife.

*(This account was written by a parishioner who had visited Rome in November 2014.)*

### Donors' Wall Plaque



The Donors' Wall Plaque serves to thank and to recognize donors who had contributed and who will continue to support the St Joseph Church Building Fund.

Donors who gave in excess of \$2,500 will have their names or the names of their beloved ones inscribed on the plaque.

The threshold amount of \$2,500 was set with the hope that as many parishioners as possible can have their names inscribed. This is to reflect the collective efforts of each and everyone in the parish toward the development of their Parish Church.

In short, a contribution of \$100 for 25 months would suffice. We pray that all the plaques will be fully inscribed as we embark in the next development project.





### Commissioning of Hospitality Ministry Members

The commissioning of Hospitality Ministry members (Wardens) took place during the Evening Mass on Sunday 28 December last year. Members and their families gathered at the canteen after the mass for a buffet dinner and fellowship.



### Divine Mercy Group 13th Anniversary Celebration

The Divine Mercy Group celebrated their 13th anniversary on Friday 2 January. The celebration commenced with the recitation of the Chaplet followed by mass at 8pm (pictured above). A potluck dinner was held at the canteen after the mass (pictured below).



### Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday 11 January marks the beginning of catechism classes for both the primary and secondary children. Catechists were commissioned at the 11am mass.







## Mass for Homebound Parishioners

Home-bound parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday Masses owing to health condition were invited to attend the Sunday Evening Mass on 15 February.



Top: Fr Edmund Chong administering the Anointing of the Sick.



Top: The administering of Holy Communion.

## Chinese Bible Group Fellowship

Members from the Chinese Bible Group held a lunch cum fellowship on 15 March. The birthdays of long serving members, Peter Chin and Thomas Teo were celebrated at the gathering.



Top: Peter Chin (seated on extreme left) and Thomas Teo (seated fourth from left), celebrated their 80 and 73 birthdays respectively.



Top: RCIA member Daniel Teo (partially hidden, fourth from left), bearing the banner of our parish's RCIA Group.



Top left and right: Catechumens from our parish writing down their names in the Book of the Elect.

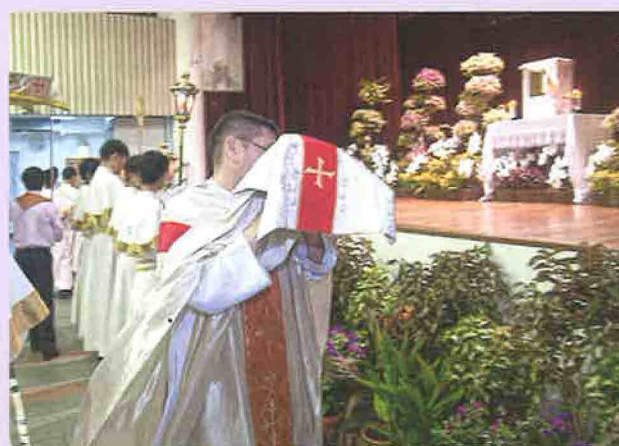
## SJC Holy Week Highlights



Top: **Palm Sunday** - Carmelite Friar Thomas Lim blessing the palms held up by the congregation at the 7.30am Mandarin Mass.



Right: **Holy Thursday** - A closeup shot of the "Washing of the Feet."



Top: **Holy Thursday** - Fr Christopher Lee bearing the Blessed Sacrament during the transfer from the tabernacle to the Altar of Repose at the Parish Community Hall.



Top: **Good Friday** - Fr Edmund Chong venerates the crucifix during the 3pm Service.

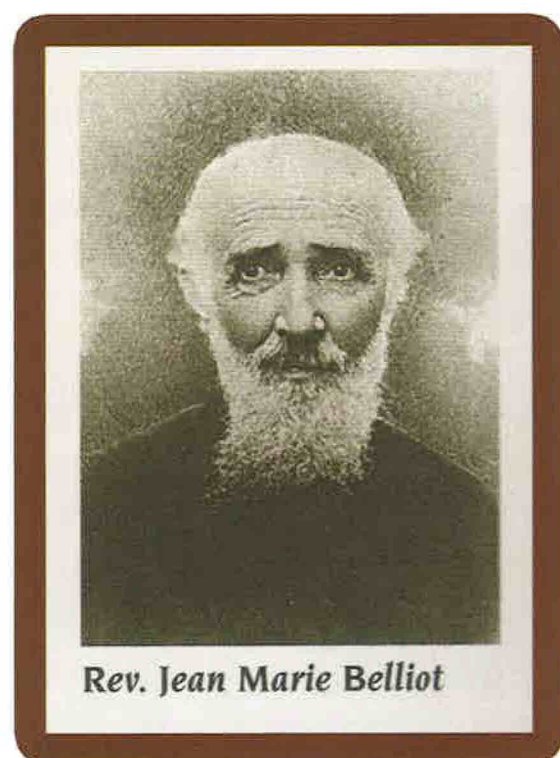




## Down Memory Lane:

### Rev Fr Jean-Marie Belliot, the “Sharpshooter” Priest

Rev Fr M Belliot, *MEP*, served as Parish Priest of St Joseph Church from 1883 to 1899 and from 1901 to 1934.



Gangland activities were rampant during that point of time, especially in rural Singapore. Immigrants from China as well as settlers were the target of the “hoeys” or gangsters. These people were “the source of income” for the gangsters who demanded “membership fee” and “protection money.” Non compliance will lead to extreme consequences such as injuries, the destruction of properties or even death.

The parish and parishioners bore the brunt of gangland activities. The converted Chinese Catholics were viewed as possible collaborators with the Police and these converts were no longer “the source of income” for the gangsters.

The “hoeys” even put a bounty over the head of Fr Belliot. They even came to demand “protection money.”

On one such occasion, Fr Belliot beckoned the gang leader to point out any particular coconut atop a tree and Fr Belliot merely fired a single shot at that particular coconut and it fell to the ground. Fr Belliot sent a clear message to the stunned gang leader that he, his parish and parishioners are not to be messed around with.

*Article based on information extracted from the SJC 150th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine.*

## EASTER VIGIL 2015



*Baptism*



*“The Lord’s Prayer”*



*The Sign of Peace*



*Lectors (top left) and the 9am Choir (top right) @ the Easter Vigil*



*Entrance procession (top left) and the Altar Servers @ the Easter Vigil (top right)*



*Welcome to the Family!*





耶稣："天上地下的-切权柄都交给了我，所以你们要去使万民成为门徒。"（玛窦28：18）



"不是你们拣选了我，  
而是我拣选了你们。"  
（若十五：16）。



培同员陪 候洗者迈向行仰旅程，邀请他们皈依耶稣，加入了信者的行列。传布福音的脚步，是多么美丽啊！



## 家

文：苏进珠



提到家，令我想起本堂主保圣人圣若瑟，还有天上的好母亲圣母玛利亚及天主子耶稣，他们一家成为了世人学习的模范。

在一个圣诞夜，随着摇篮教友的丈夫去望“子夜弥撒”，听着美妙的圣诞歌声，看到马槽里的圣婴，“家”的感觉是那么温馨啊！

我突然有所感触，想起了我们的家，丈夫的意愿是希望我和孩子们能一起领洗成为“天主的子女”，一家人能有共同的信仰，但他却从不给我宗教信仰的压力，反倒是我有愧于他，其实我对天主教的礼仪一知半解，也错过了披着婚纱与他一起步入教堂之机缘。

相信是主召叫得日子来临了，终于我下定决心，带领着一家人报读慕道班，在主的恩宠下，我们全家都在耶稣“复活节”受洗了。领洗后，我们一家人主日就名正言顺地一起望弥撒了。当时，我真的喜极而流下喜悦感恩的眼泪，与此同时我们家人也参于堂区的组织及活动，终于令我有同归一栈，共属一牧“家”的感觉。我感恩于主，召选了我“家”一家大小追随祢的道路，真理和生命，让我们全家浸濡于祢的圣爱中，倍觉幸福，平安和喜乐。。。阿们！





# 回家

苏玲珍

“姑姑，我很想回家..”他苍白瘦削的身体直直躺在冰冷的病床上。勉强抬了抬沉重的眼皮，他那时一心只想回家；那个由他亲手负责建筑设计，打造出来的精品雅筑。而今，经过三个月多的化疗折磨，他终于在领洗后不久的一个夜晚，闭上眼帘，回家了——回到主耶稣基督为他安排好的美好天家。

去年11月底，在寒风细雨中，我们全家回台送别我四哥挚爱的幼子。冷彻入骨的北风仿佛在对年轻脆弱的生命谱上更具嘲讽震撼的变奏曲。几个月来日夜不断的祈祷，借着圣言金句的传递朗读，我清楚明白一切该当顺从天主的旨意，却又深切盼望侄儿能及时领洗获得救恩。藉着不断的祈祷也试图坚强自己几度即将崩溃失去的信心..。感谢主，在我面临黑暗无助时，派遣了天使们来引领我和我的家人走出困顿——感谢我们的圣若瑟天主堂华文慕道班、读经班的兄弟姐妹们多次在郑老师、郑太太的带领下为我侄儿代祷。慈爱的天父终于俯听了我们的祈求，不仅让我侄儿在临终前一个月接受领洗，也感召了我的四哥四嫂一家人开始阅读圣经、同心祈祷，更准备接受领洗加入耶稣基督的大家庭。

“我是葡萄树，你们是枝条；那住在我内，我也住在他内的，他就结许多的果实，因为离了我，你们什么也不能作。”（若望15:5）原来，慈爱的天父早已藉着祂钟爱的天主子，我们的主耶稣基督启示给我们这个奥秘。我们每一位领过洗，受过神印的天主教徒都已死于罪恶而与基督一起复活。在主内成为兄弟姐妹，今世如此，将来回归天家也是和耶稣基督同为天父的子女。能成为天主家庭的一份子，是何等的荣耀与庆幸啊！

心想着不久的将来，如果我亲爱的家人朋友都能蒙福受拣选成为天主的子女，那我又何必再为人世间的生离死别而忧愁呢？复活的主已战胜死亡！祂明确说过：“看！我同你们天天在一起，直到今世的终结。”（玛28:20）

台北桃园机场夜里星光明亮，不自觉地抬头想再看一眼台北的夜空；却发现那晚的星星似乎特别顽皮，眨眨眼个不停。莫非侄儿也在那群星之间朝我眨眼说再会？不期然地，女儿在一旁拉了拉我的手说：“妈，走快点，我们不能错过这趟班机，明天慕道班的课很重要哪！”

感谢天主，感谢此生有祢伴我同行，我们平安到家了！

## 东海岸家庭野餐郊游活动

邹如芸

在我们繁忙的生活当中，没什么机会可以好好放松一下心情。与家人共聚的时光更是少之又少。所以这次我们的华文歌咏团在12月28日，星期天，举办了一个《东海岸家庭野餐郊游活动》。这个活动让我们的团员和家人在忙碌的生活当中，抽出了这点时间来放松一下自己，并享受天伦之乐。



郊游最重要的就是个好天气了！我们的天主非常地疼爱我们，赐给我们超好的天气，凉爽又阴天，特别适合郊游野餐！



在这次的郊游当中，我们还为我们一月和十二月过生日的团员们庆祝生日。我们准备了一个特大的巧克力蛋糕，足够在场的数十位朋友们享用。在愉快地唱着生日快乐歌当儿，我们不只为庆生的团员们献上祝福，也深深地体会到主的临在和心灵的喜悦。在谈笑声中，大家互相分享生活中的点点滴滴，口里的巧克力蛋糕，不知不觉中也更为甜蜜。



我们同时也举办了一场沙滩足球赛。这个小游戏由叔叔，伯伯，年轻和年幼的小孩们参与，一起组成三组。在球赛中，大家不分老少，都尽力地为自己的组得分。虽然这是一场激烈的比赛，但是大家都公平竞争，遵守规则。不管是看球的还是踢球的，大家都玩的很开心，在海浪声中增添了不少欢笑。球赛后大家还在水中嬉戏，在沙滩上堆沙，玩的不亦乐乎。



我们还要特别感谢团员中妈妈们带来的美味食物，特制的咖喱鸡，西式卤肉，香喷喷的米粉，香肠，马来炒面等等。。食物种类实在是太多太多了！妈妈们真的好厉害呀！多亏他们，在活动进行当儿，大家都可以随时享用到美味可口的美食。



最后，我要感谢主让我们安全抵达东海岸，还让我们顺利度过这愉快的郊游活动。这次的活动不仅好玩，同时也把我们团员之间的友情拉得更近一些。希望下次还有机会举办类似的活动！

