

# food for thought

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance. Conflict and disagreements are also a natural part of family life. We have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect. As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner.

Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console,*

*to be understood as to understand,*

*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Loyola Press

## Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

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10 SEPT 2017

23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

For where  
*two or three*  
are gathered in  
*my name,*  
there am I  
*among them.*  
Matthew 18:20





### Sunday Readings

First reading  
 Responsorial Psalm  
 Second reading  
 Gospel

Ezekiel 33:7-9  
 Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9  
 Romans 13:8-10  
 Matthew 18:15-20

### Mass Schedule @ Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Weekdays (English) 12:30pm& 6:30pm  
 1st Friday 7.30pm  
 Sat (Sunset - English) 6:00pm& 7:30pm  
 Sunday (English) 7:30am, 11:30am & 1.00pm  
 Sunday (Tamil) 9:30am & 6:30pm  
 Public Holiday (English) 9:00am  
 Public Holiday (Tamil) 10:00am

### Parish Activities

**English**

- Our Lady of Lourdes Novena (Saturday) 5:30pm
- Rosary Recitation (Weekdays) 11.55am
- Monday & Wednesday 5.55pm
- Holy Hour with Benediction(1st Friday) 6.30pm followed by Mass 7.30pm
- Sacred Heart Devotion 6.30pm followed by Mass (All other Fridays)
- Divine Mercy (Tuesday) 5:45pm
- Legion of Mary (Tuesdays) 7.30pm
- Infant Jesus (Thursday) 5:45pm
- Charismatic (Every Friday) 7.45pm
- Legion of Mary (Sundays) 9.45am

**Tamil**

- Infant Jesus (Tuesday) 4:30pm
- Divine Mercy (Friday) 5:45pm
- OLPS Novena (Every Saturday) 8:00pm
- Rosary & OLOL Devotion (1st Sunday) 8:30am

**Indonesian** - Karismatik Katolik Indonesia Holy Spirit (Thursday) 1.00pm

**Filipino**

- Filipino Christian Professionals 8.00pm (1st Friday Mass)
- Light of Jesus Bible Sharing (Monday) 7.30pm

### Important Parish Information

**Wedding Arrangements** Church Wedding bookings must be made in advance. Please contact the Secretariat.

**Infant Baptism** Every 4th Sunday in English and every 3rd Sunday in Tamil @ 4.00pm. Register at the Parish Office.  
*Please provide photocopy of church marriage certificate of parents, birth certificate of infant and confirmation certificate of Godparents.*

**Mass Intentions** Please drop your Mass intention into the Box located outside the Parish Office **by 3pm on Wednesday** for the following week's intentions.

**Lourdes Prayer Hall** For bookings contact the Parish Office at 6294 0624

**Anointing** Make an appointment with a priest before planned admission to hospital.

**Holy Communion for the Homebound** Register with the Parish Office.

*Kindly be aware of people who profess to pray over others in the Parish Grounds, and/or in your homes for the purpose of soliciting funds without the approval of the Archdiocese and Priests of the Parish.*

*The building project of Our Lady of Lourdes parish is at present under review, and its fund raising project is being put on hold until further notice by the Archdiocese.*

*For further enquires, kindly email the Parish Secretariat at [ololpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:ololpastoral@gmail.com) or [ololsec@gmail.com](mailto:ololsec@gmail.com)*



### Catholic Welfare Services Donation Draw 2017

The priests of the parish are delighted to announce that Church of Our Lady of Lourdes has won the second prize in the Catholic Welfare Services Donation Draw! The \$10,000 prize money will be put towards the renovation of the church.



### SSVP Collections

The cash collected on the first Sunday of this month for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul was \$4681.10. Thank you for your generous donation. The amount given to fins (friends in need) was \$5960.00.

### Second collection for GIFT envelopes

Next weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions to the Catholic Foundation's GIFT programme. To recap, GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) is to fund the numerous organisations involved in families, youths, evangelisation, etc., and building projects in the archdiocese. Please bring your contributions or pledge envelopes to drop into the collection bags that will be passed round the pews. Alternatively, visit [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg) to donate online or find out more.

### El Shaddai - 26th year journey of Faith, Love and Unity. Praise and Worship, Eucharistic Celebration and Healing Message.

Date: 1st October 2017 Time: 9am to 6pm. Mass starts at 1pm.  
 Location: Zepp Hall @ Big Box. 1 Venture Avenue Singapore 608521. Near Jurong East MRT. Free Admission.

### MY SOUL PROCLAIMS - an evening to proclaim God's Goodness in music and song and stories by Frs Edward Lim OCD, Derrick Yap OFM, Valerian Cheong, Eugene Lee CSsr and Bro Nicholas Lye. Plus lots of joy and laughter of course!

Date: Monday 4 Sept, Time: 7.45 pm, Venue: Church of Holy Family - For tickets please email [canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com](mailto:canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com) or call 63384080/97560239

### Our Lady of Fatima Centennial Celebrations

*11th (Mon.) and 12th (Tues.) September 2017*  
 7.30 pm Mass at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, followed by Benediction and guided prayer together on the hour, by Msgr Philip Heng,S.J. (Rector); All Night Vigil (ending with Mass at 6.00 am)  
*13th (Wed) September 2017*  
 7.30 pm Mass, and Candlelight Procession, by His Grace Archbishop William Goh at SJJ School.



### How are you saved? Understanding the doctrine of Justification

How are we saved by God? What is the state of relationship between Catholics and Protestants 500 years after the Reformation? A presentation on the main issues in the Declaration on Justification by Catholic and some Protestant Churches.  
 Speaker: Mr Mike Arents  
 Profile: Mike is from the Netherlands. He finished his Theological studies in the Major Seminary of 's-Hertogenbosch, after which he served as a missionary with the Institute for world evangelization (ICPE) for almost 2 years. He now lives in Singapore with his wife and their 3 children and is a Parish Pastoral Executive for IHM Church.  
 Venue: St Joseph's Church, Victoria Street (Parish House, Conference Room) - No car park available.  
 Time: 7.30pm to 9pm  
 Date: 20 Sep 2017