



Letting Go: Responding to Christ's Call

The message from this week's Gospel passage seems fairly clear, but a careful reading of the comments made by Jesus following the young man's departure and the dialogue between Jesus and His disciples (Mark 10:23-27) reveals a deeper meaning which may not be evident to our modern eyes. It is not exactly an earthshaking difference, but it does add depth to what we think Jesus is calling us to.

The Old Testament generally gives the impression that God showed His love for someone by giving him land, wealth, numerous children, and a long life; in short, a very material view of success and happiness. The last chapter of Job is a good example of this (42:10-17), but we see those elements indicated in many of the books in the Old Testament.

Jesus had none of these blessings with which God supposedly rewards those who love and serve Him. He leaves His home and family – He has no place to lay His head (Matthew 8:20, Luke 9:58), lives strictly on gifts, and has no

family other than His companions (the disciples, the women who accompanied them, and those who sought the will of God in Him).

In that light, when Jesus says that the rich have a difficult time getting into heaven, the apostles “marvel” at His words and they are “overwhelmed” when He insists. Jesus is turning their world upside down, and for them this would in fact be truly earthshaking: if God does not show His love for us that way, what else can He offer us? They observe the rich young man, blessed with his wealth, while Jesus claims that he is actually burdened by it because he could not free himself of it in order to find his true blessing in God's call to him to follow Jesus. They are astounded, dumbfounded.

The very first of the Beatitudes is “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5:3). This is what Jesus calls the young man to, calls the disciples to, and likewise calls us to take to heart and live. Are we so attached to our earthly life that we say things like “*surely God wouldn't mind if I kept...*”? And how

would all the other Beatitudes fit with what Christ is asking in this passage – or fit even with the way that Christ Himself lived?

Jesus spells out what He is asking us to let go of, what we need to leave absolutely in God's hands, so that we can cling more freely and thoroughly to God Himself, living completely in the hope that only the Spirit can offer us. Jesus says that we must give up home and family to follow Him, but curiously He also clearly promises that those who leave all behind for His sake will be rewarded for their sacrifice with a return of precisely all of that – even in this world and a hundredfold to boot.

And Jesus rounds out today's reading with a promise of eternal life for the true seekers – which is just what the rich young man was asking for. The question is, as always, how each of us decides to respond to Christ's call in our own lives – today.

CHAS KESTERMEIER, SJ

Jesuit Community, Creighton University

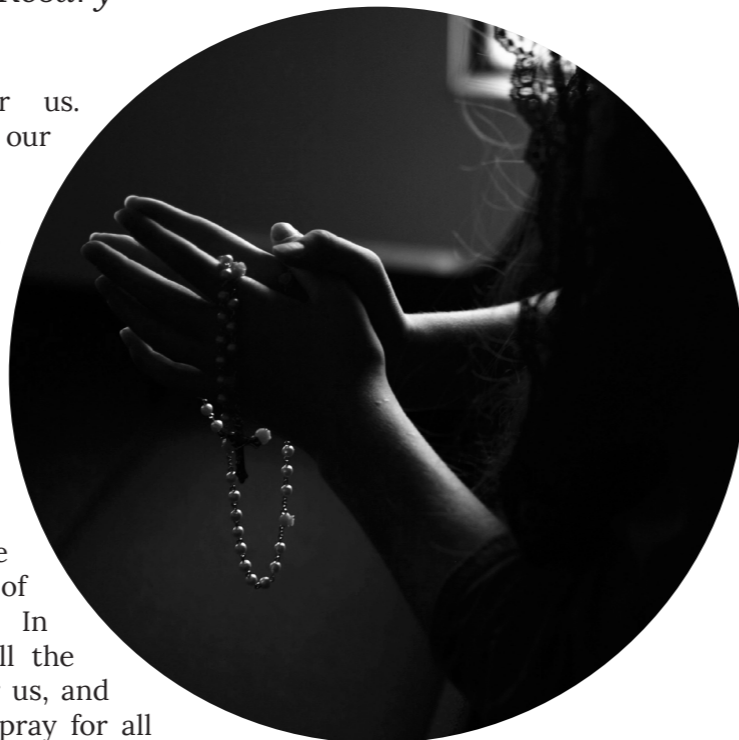
Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest ★ Fr Gregory Tan, SJ Assistant Parish Priest

Pauline Khoo Parish Administrator ★ Suzie Wee Parish Accountant ★ Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator ★ Natalie Ang Youth Coordinator ★ Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator
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October Holy
Rosary Month

A Source of Peace & Comfort

"Now, more than ever, we need the powerful intercession of Mother Mary, and the love and solace that Jesus provides when we pray the Rosary"



Being part of the Evening Rosary Group gives me peace and comfort knowing Mother Mary is praying for us and with us. The group has also developed into a nice community where we look forward to seeing each other.

ADELINE KOW

When Sister Olivia invited me to join the family rosary, I was not yet a fan.

The daily recitation and meditation on the Scriptural Mysteries of the Holy Rosary leads one to appreciate intimately the salvation plan of our loving Father. The birth, life & ministry, passion & death, resurrection & glorious ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ orchestrated our Father's divine plan to bring His children to live with Him in eternity.

We pray through the intercession of Mama Mary that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Today the daily praying of the rosary is like taking my daily spiritual vitamin!

AGNESTAN

October is the month dedicated to Mother Mary and the rosary. Our Evening Rosary Group has been praying the rosary every day for many years now. It brings comfort and solace especially in our time of need. Come say the rosary with us to honour Our Blessed Mother. We are grateful to her for her intercession to her son Jesus and for so many answered prayers! We implore your help and seek your intercession, Mother. Despire not our petitions but in your mercy

hear and answer us. Amen. We love you our dear Mother.

**CHRISTINE
KANAGARAJAH**

We are indeed privileged to be able to join the Rosary Group in praying the rosary every day at 5.15pm as we meditate on the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. In doing so, we recall the sacrifices made for us, and in return we also pray for all who are in need of prayers, one way or another. It takes focus off ourselves as we think of others and intercede for them just as our Mother Mary does for us. So, come join us to pray for yourself and others and for peace in the world.

ESTHER ENG

Praying the rosary daily with the Evening Rosary Group has become an important part of my life. I try to protect that precious half hour each day. It has shown me the power and the joy of praying the rosary in community. Meditating daily on the Mysteries of the Rosary has deepened my love and relationship with Jesus Our Lord and with Mother Mary.

It has changed my life. I was in a deep, dark hole of sadness not apparent to most people, when God brought me to this loving community. I found healing and rediscovered peace and joy. Externally, nothing much has

changed in the circumstances of my life. And yet everything has changed.

I am everlastingly grateful to Our Lord God for bringing me to this prayerful group – one that prays the rosary with love, faith and generosity.

GLADYS CHIN

The rosary allows me to travel to the reality that is the love of Jesus and Mother Mary. When I pray the rosary, I fix my eyes on Jesus, seen through her maternal heart and I experience a love, peace and reassurance that can only be divine. I have received so many graces from praying the rosary over the last 4 decades including finding a wonderful spouse (confirmed by the gift of a gold rosary), the blessing of 3 children, and parents and in-laws who give me life. The rosary is my faithful companion through all seasons of my life, for better for worse, for

richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.

JENNIFER KIING

Praying the rosary has given me a deeper understanding of the major events in the life of Jesus Christ. From our Blessed Mother, I have learnt obedience, to fully trust in God's will, and a self-awareness of humility. Mother Mary has been my constant stronghold of comfort, giving me divine peace even in the storms of life as she emanates the love and joy of her Son. If you want to share the experience to grow in love and trust in Mother Mary, start praying the rosary with us.

JOYTHIO

As a convert while in university, I came into the Church with a very vague understanding of the role that Mother Mary plays in God's plan. It took a long time for me to fully appreciate the rosary and to develop a real relationship with our Blessed Mother. Joining in a rosary group has helped. You could say it was Covid that opened up all the Zoom possibilities. For a little over half an hour everyday my group prays the rosary together online. We listen to a hymn and we speak to Mother Mary and her Son in heartfelt conversation. It is something I look forward to and miss on days when I am unable to join in.

KWEK SHIN HUA

Praying the rosary brings me peace. It is the prayer that touches most the heart of Mother Mary, Queen of Peace. The Mysteries of the Rosary encompass the life of Jesus and His Mother. When I pray the rosary, I contemplate with Mary the life of Jesus and experience Jesus' unconditional love for us. It is also amazing to realise how much grace I receive by praying the rosary daily. There is no problem, no matter how

difficult, that I cannot resolve by praying the rosary. It may not be what I had wanted, yet it always turns out to be a blessing. This invariably brings me closer to God and Mother Mary.

MARIANNE ONG

The best thing that happened to me in 2020 was to be invited to join the Evening Rosary Group at the Church of St Ignatius. For someone who says her rosary all these years alone, praying in a community was most welcome.

We gather every evening, returning to an oasis away from the hustle and bustle of our daily living to spend time with our Lord in prayers and thanksgiving. I am so thankful for our Rosary Group which has strengthened my faith and trust in our Lord Jesus and Mother Mary, and for the bonds of friendship which we have nurtured through our prayers for each other, for our families and friends. The intercession of our blessed Mother Mary is so real and we never stop thanking her. After praying

the rosary, there is peace and assurance that Jesus and Mother Mary are very close and all can be left in their good hands.

MARGARET LIEN

I am besotted with Mother Mary and have been blessed to go on many Marian pilgrimages around the world; so it goes without saying that praying the rosary is absolutely an integral part of my daily regime. Through it I express my devotion to Our Lady and worship our Almighty Creator God.

KIM SNG

The rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to Mother Mary. The more you pray the rosary, the more you want to pray the rosary.

I truly believe in its power. It doesn't wipe out the suffering in your life but it gives you a stronger weapon to battle it with. Through my ups and downs of life I always found solace in praying the rosary.

LOUISE LOMBARDO



Come join the Evening Rosary Group community to pray the rosary in the month of October! We meet via Zoom daily (except Sundays) from 5.10pm - 5.45pm.

Kindly contact Angela at 9126 2629 for more details.

PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER MASS BOOKINGS

Stage 3 Mass bookings for October will open on **12 October at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses** at each stage, subject to availability.

The cancellation cut-off time for Mass bookings is now **1 hour**. With effect from 1 October, parishioners will have **15 minutes after the cancellation cut-off time to book freed up slots** if any.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are suspended until further notice during this Covid-19 Stabilisation Phase.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2021

Our annual **Parish Assembly** will be held on **Saturday, 23 October 2021, 2pm - 4pm** via Zoom. All parishioners are cordially invited. Please sign up at <http://bit.ly/3kebiHG>

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Archangel Gabriel greets her *"Hail, Full of Grace."* St Ignatius of Antioch said *"He who is devout to the Blessed Mother will certainly never be lost."* Join us in reflecting and sharing our love and devotion to the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven. This **Wednesday, 13 October at 8pm**. Email cpg.cosi@gmail.com for Zoom details.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Make a pledge to pray the rosary every day in the month of October with the Evening Rosary Group community! We meet via Zoom **daily (except Sundays) from 5.10pm - 5.45pm** and we welcome you to join us. Praying the rosary together has brought much comfort and solace in these uncertain times. Kindly contact **Angela at 91262629** for more details.

SATURDAY ROCKERS

In the Bible study program, *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*, presenter Thomas Smith examines who the prophets were, their role during their time, and how their prophetic words speak to us even today. Join us on **Saturdays at 1.30pm**, starting **12/2/2022** via Zoom. Contact **Charly at 9100 7401** (WhatsApp) for details.

THE SEARCH

What is The Search? Whether a practised inquirer or a jaded skeptic, *The Search* will speak to all. Some parts will be reassuring, other aspects will challenge the

non-believer or out-of-touch Catholic to respond to life's deeper questions that demand an answer.

7 weekly sessions via Zoom video conferencing. Starting **1 November 2021, Mondays at 8pm**. Register via email: de.search.st.igs@gmail.com

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Columbarium visits are suspended until further notice during this Covid-19 Stabilisation Phase.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ASSISI FUN DAY 2021 - E-EDITION

Shop and eat for good at Assisi Fun Day 2021 as we bring the world to you! Enjoy delicious food and exciting products from Asia, America and Europe, "chop" your virtual passports and have fun with games at www.assisifunday.sg from **7-17 October**. Every dollar spent will go towards providing care and comfort for patients with terminal illnesses and their families.

CATHOLIC200SG FESTIVAL

We are glad to announce the launch of the **Catholic200SG Festival** Web Application.

Visit mycatholic.sg/festival to learn more about upcoming Catholic200SG events. Soon, you will be able to book your slots for these events as well!

Let us celebrate as one Church in this special year of faith and join us in over 100 events and activities to Renew, Ignite and Shine with faith!

CHARIS HUMANITARIAN MONTH

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making its annual appeal for their Humanitarian Aid Fund that supports the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts. By sharing our blessings, we can unite as the helping hand of the Church, allowing faith and love to be multiplied.

Donation envelopes are available at the Place of Gathering or Parish Office. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" with your name and contact information to:

CHARIS, #07-02 Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, S187954.

Please contact CHARIS at 63374119 or scan the QR code to visit their website for further information.

