

## 羊牧之聲

梁熾才

近日,香港的疫情告 急,確診個案日見增多,達 到一天計130多個個案,也 令很多人恐懼不安,惶惶不 可終日。這種對新冠病毒過 份反應所產生的恐懼,據一 位家庭醫生説,會做成嚴重 的健康問題,例如導致肥胖 症、焦慮和抑鬱。他還説, 這種過份的恐懼,對兒童和 青年的影響更大。讓我們認 識多一點天主的愛,好能排 除恐懼,平安度日。

福音中,主耶穌常流 露出祂對人群的憐憫和愛,

「他一見到群眾,就對他們動了慈心,因為他們困苦流 離,像沒有牧人的羊。」(瑪9:36)在我們飽受疫症威脅的 日子,讓我們投奔這位慈愛的善牧。

福音中的一些比喻,表達天主對我們罪人完全不合 比例的愛和寬恕。在亡羊的比喻,這位善牧留下九十九 隻,而去尋找那迷失了的一隻羊。在失錢的比喻,祂像 -個遺失了-個錢幣的窮婦人,在家中細心尋找,找到 後,就非常高興。在蕩子的比喻,祂像一位充滿慈愛的 父親,歡迎將分得的遺產揮霍淨盡的幼子回家,給他穿 上名貴的衣物並擺設盛宴。

天主對我們罪人這麼仁慈,魔鬼會有什麼反應呢? **地不來控訴我們嗎?可是我們知道,「誰若犯了罪,我** 們在父那裡有正義的耶穌基督作護慰者。」(若一2:1)祂 會為我們這些願意悔改的罪人辯護。

在麻雀的比喻中,天主珍惜飛鳥的價值,祂當然更 珍惜人的價值。天主所著重的並不是經濟的價值,而是 生命的價值,尤其是屬神生命的價值。「兩隻麻雀,不

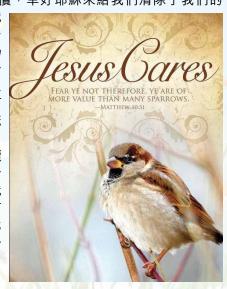


是賣一個銅錢嗎?但沒有 你們天父的許可,連一隻 也不會掉在地上。就是你 們的頭髮,天父也都一-數過。所以,你們不要害 怕,你們比許多麻雀,還 貴重呢!」(瑪10:29-31)

天主這樣慷慨大方和 寬宏大量,不應令我們視為 理所當然或甚至毫不在平, 不理會祂的愛和祂的愛的命 令。天主的仁慈幫助我們拋 棄恐懼,並使我們避免只注 意到自己的不足或失敗的地 方。耶穌宣講天主的仁慈

也叫我們大聲在屋頂上宣揚祂的仁慈。我們斷不能向天 主償還我們的罪債,幸好耶穌來給我們清除了我們的

罪債,因祂為我 們獻出了祂的一 切!如果我們仍 然疑惑我們自身 的價值,我們只 要瞻望那位被釘 在十字架上、死 而復活的耶穌。 我們是用高價贖 回來的。在祂身 上,我們看到我 們對天父來說有 何等的價值-許多麻雀貴重多



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## 二零二零年七月份牧民議會 議決事項

- 1. 密切留意疫情發展,以決定如何安排「尋羊運動」派遣禮和對外福傳。
- 安排慈幼會新鐸潘銘智神父7月12日蒞臨主祭彌撒及與教友分享。資訊刊於 第4和5頁。
- 3. 傳信、禮儀、互愛委員會和培育組,繼續計劃不同的帶動性活動。
- 4. 在電腦小組協助下,跟進更新堂區網頁。
- 5. 下半年的「樂融融飯局 | 由堂區三個委員會輪流負責。
- 6. 繼續留意社會環境變化,以籌備11月22日(基督普世君王節)舉行的「耶穌出巡愛西環」。

### 二零二零年八月份禮儀生活 按教區指引:暫停公開彌撒【直至另行通告】

- 1. 依循教區的防疫新牧民措施,堂區作出以下安排:
  - ■聖堂開放:每天:7:00am 8:00pm【教友靜默祈禱、朝拜聖體、履行善工】
  - 明供聖體: 周一至六:7:30am 9:00am / 周四:7:00pm 8:00pm

【特別意向:疫症早日平息】

- 告解安排: 取消在告解室作修和聖事【教友私下聯絡神父】
- 2. 主日明供聖體:(a) 7:00am 8:00am;(b) 8:30am 9:30am;(c) 10:00am 11:00am;

(d) 11:30am — 12:30pm (英文)

- 3. 教友可採用下列方式替代參與主日彌撒的本份:
  - a. 觀看任何網上直播或重温的主日彌撒(如教區網站 www.catholic.org.hk 及公教報網站 http://kkp.org.hk/node/21143),神領聖體;或
  - b. 反省主日彌撒經文、閱讀聖經或誦念玫瑰經。
- 4. 教友可善用網上服務,例如網上平日彌撒、信仰培育資訊及其他神業,如晨禱、玫瑰經、三鐘經等(參見以上網站)。

## 鳴謝捐贈《羊牧之聲》

願聖母進教之佑及聖安多尼酬謝你們,賜你們身心健康, 家庭和睦,主寵日隆。

葉衛熾瑞	\$1000	<b>爬蔣靜儀</b>	\$125	陳雪貞	\$100
潘宅	\$200	曾潔玲	\$100	太極福傳會	\$500
聖安多尼之友會	\$300	鄭雅蓮	\$100		
男聖體會	\$150	精叻馬	\$200		
雷敏兒	\$100			1. \/	)

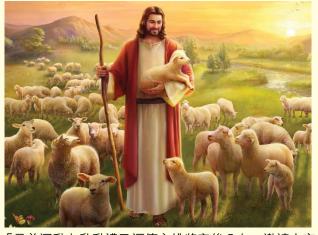
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### \*同心合意為候洗者祈禱\*



### 「尋羊運動」



「尋羊運動」啟動禮及福傳安排將容後公布。邀請大家 積極向未認識主的親友傳福音,分享救恩,拓展天國。

## 2020-2021主日學招生



★ **慢先收取本室教友和暴迫者的于女 ★** 開課:9月第二周 【註:報名從速,額滿即止】



繼7月18日明愛暖萬心慈善晚會,堂區籲請教友延續支持香港明愛的籌款運動。在反覆不穩的疫情之下,經濟環境、社會運作及市民生計均大受打擊,讓我們攜手同心,幫助有需要的貧困老弱者。善款或支票(抬頭寫「明愛之友」)可投入堂區專設的「支持香港明愛捐款箱」,或交給堂區辦事處。



慈幼會潘銘智執事於2020年7月4日(周六)於聖安多尼堂晉鐸,由香港宗座署理湯漢樞機主禮,榮休主教陳日君樞機、中華會省省會長吳志源神父、香港仔工業學校院長林仲偉神父襄禮及30多位神父共祭。禮儀中,由省會長吳神父推薦潘執事領受鐸職。

當天典禮座無虛席,除了聖堂外,亦開放歌樓、母佑堂 及馮強禮堂,參禮者逾670人,同頌主恩。 示出來。 慈幼青年代表在晉鐸慶典致辭時,分享青年對慈幼會會 士的期望,希望新鐸潘神父及其他會士,能秉承鮑思高的精

神,繼續與青年同行,回應青年面對這充滿挑戰的社會的所

謝會士兄弟一直的支持及關愛,也特別感謝家人在他十七歲

的時候,讓他離開家庭去尋找聖召。他時時也能感受到家人

的支持和祈禱,天主更透過他的妹妹把天主對其家人的愛顯

需。在這時代中,青年需要會士心靈上及信仰上 的支持,幫助他們在主內成長。

新鐸期望在香港這動盪艱難時期,能幫助更 多人「見到十字架上的耶穌」,知道耶穌一直與 眾人同行。他願意繼續去陪伴眾人,並呼籲信徒 時常為牧者祈禱,祈求天主賜予更多聖召。





他曾於香港聖神修院神哲學院攻讀哲學,後在香港大學完成社會工作學士學位,取得註冊社工的資格。此段時間,他曾服務慈幼英文學校輔祭會、柴灣海星堂青年慕道班、思定會、香港仔業學校及協助慈幼青年運動的工作。2019年在羅馬完成神學培育後,在當地領受執事聖職。回港後,潘神父再次回到香港仔工業學校服務,並於天水圍聖葉理諾堂作牧民實習。

潘神父致謝辭時分享道,十七年前,林仲偉神父是第一 位知悉他想成為神父的人,於是介紹他進入備修院。新鐸感





## 與潘銘智神父同頌主恩

潘銘智神父於7月4日領受司 鐸聖秩後,特別安排於7月12日 (常年期第15主日)在聖安多尼堂 首祭,主持上午10:00彌撒。感恩 祭後,在母佑堂舉行「與教友對 話」分享會,以答問形式談及新 鐸的聖召歷程。



讚美,衷心讚美我們的上主」。 蛋糕上呈現「全心奉獻,為主而 活」的許諾之言。接著由牧民議 會議員連同潘銘智神父、梁熾才 神父及黃家輝神父向大家祝酒, 為聚餐揭開序幕。

宴席上,我們安排三位參加 者代表互動分享「我認識的潘銘 智」,包括:(1)馬嘉健校長(師 長和代父角度);(2)李漢英(前傳 信委長角度,潘銘智參加青年團

體葡萄園);(3)盧桂娥(與潘銘智同期學習道理和領洗,亦同

時為輔祭)。大 家以勉語作總 結。

另外,在 陳達明兄弟協 調聯繫下,來 自本堂四個聖 詠團的15位成



員,帶領在場參加者一起高唱《願主祝福你》和 Dona Nobis

Pacem。潘神父 亦獻唱了一首聖 母歌,並帶大鬼 唱《青年慈父鮑 思高》。聖鮑思 高慈幼協進會特 別安排致送禮物 給潘神父。





分享會後,牧民議 會安排在富城薈為潘神父 舉行午餐慶祝會,筵開十 席。除了本堂神長和牧民 議會議員外,參加者亦包 括堂區職員、20多個善會

的現時及前期成員和家人,及聖安多尼學校的馬嘉健校長和

宗教科傅嘉莉主任。

午餐開始前, 先舉行慶祝新鐸成為 司祭的切蛋糕儀式, 期間詠唱短頌「我的 靈魂頌揚上主, 改讚美我們的天主上 主,衷心讚美,衷心







會後,潘銘智神父分享:「能夠在晉鐸後第二主日回來 領洗的堂區舉行彌撒,心中充滿感恩之情。感謝天主透過學

校和堂區的人與事,一步步地引導著我;感謝兄弟姊妹們多年來的關愛和祈禱,幫助我在聖召方面的成長。願以後堂區內所有的青年都向天主求問自己的聖召,得到神長和大家的支持,也許當中還會有人修道或加入司鐸的行列。在疫症再次擴散的時候,再次祈求天主保守大家!

#### **慶賀潘執事晉鐸**

幸喜銘行奉升心 蒙獲智司主牧全 召聖弟祭耶者獻 選秩兄職穌群愛

主日學蕭太

#### 生活反省

伯多禄看見耶穌步行海上向著門徒們走來,便説:「主, 如果是你,就叫我在水面上步行,到你那裡吧!。」耶穌准許 了他,但他一見風勢很強,就害怕起來,並開始下沉。耶穌

立刻伸手拉住他,對他說:「小信德的人哪!你為甚麼懷疑?」(參閱:瑪 14:28-31)





當生活中的事情進展緩慢,成效事與願違時,我們會憂心如焚,常想用盡 各種方法改進,包括四處托人幫忙疏通,以達到目的。更嚴重的是當用盡了千 方百計仍看不到前景時,我們開始對主的信仰起了根本上的懷疑,用了相反耶 穌教導的行為強行達到不義的目的。

為求達到目的而用不擇手段的方法行事實是不應該,這是對主的不信任, 並不惜得罪天主,和邪惡的力量妥協去解決問題,使自己陷於萬劫不復的困厄 中。

基督是人類歴史的主宰,天主的安排神妙莫測,不能以理性去解釋,在我 們不同的際遇中,祂讓我們運用自由去證明自己是天主的子女。所以不要在人 的智慧找不到出路時對天主懷疑,而用了不義的行徑強行達到目的。

#### 祈禱

上主,求祢在我們感到失意絕望時不斷扶持,使我們不致失足跌倒,求祢 恩賜我們常常信賴祢,縱使在感到絕望的逆境中時仍可堅持主的教導。以堅忍的信德追隨祢,常懷感恩的心走正義

(資料:堂區培育組)

### 何聖母祈求:為疫情禱告

~教宗方濟各

天主聖母,我們投奔到妳的保護。

的道路, 並不斷歌頌讚美祢。亞孟。

<mark>天主聖母,我們的母親,我們</mark>正受疫情侵蝕,全球飽受 痛苦和焦慮。我們投奔於妳,並尋求藏身於妳的保護之下。

<mark>童貞瑪利亞,請轉目憐視處於疫症下</mark>的我們。請安慰那 <mark>些悲痛哀悼的人,因為他們痛失所愛的親友</mark>;況且有時,埋 <mark>葬的安排,亦加深了哀悼者的悲痛。請陪伴那</mark>些因所愛的人 <mark>病了而憂心忡忡,卻又因防範疫症傳播而不能</mark>陪伴染病親友 的人。為那些憂慮前景不穩、經濟和就業困難的人,請給予 他們希望。

<mark>天主聖母,我們的母親,請為我們向天主—</mark>—仁慈的 聖父祈求,使能結束這場巨大的苦難,重現希望與平安的曙 光。請向妳的聖子懇求吧!正如妳在加納所做的,使病人和 亡者的家人得到安慰,開解他們的心靈,使能重獲信心和依

<mark>請保護前線醫護人員和義工;他們正冒著生命</mark>危險去救 助別人。請支援他們英勇的努力,給予他們力量、無私的精 神和健康的體魄。

請陪伴日夜照顧病人的人士。也請陪伴善盡牧職的司 鐸;他們忠於福音,盡力幫助和支援眾人。

至聖童貞,請光照科研人士的智慧,使他們找出有效的 解決辦法,去克勝這病毒。

<mark>請支援各國領導人,以智慧、關心和慷</mark>慨的精神,去援



助那些缺乏生存基本需要的人,並以遠大的眼光,及休戚 與共的態度,制定社會和經濟上的解決辦法。

聖母瑪利亞,請激發我們的良知,把發展和囤積武器 的投資,改為用於提昇有效的研究,去避免同樣的悲劇, 將來再度發生。

可愛之母,請幫助我們明白,我們都是一個大家庭的 成員,並承認我們是連成一體的,好使我們在友愛和團結 的精神下,能夠彼此幫助,減輕無數貧窮和匱乏人士的困 境。請加強我們的信心,堅忍服務,恆心祈禱。

瑪利亞,憂苦者的安慰,請擁抱妳受苦的眾子女, 並祈求天主伸出祂大能的手,從這恐怖的疫症中,解救我 們,好使生命能安穩地重回正軌。

童貞瑪利亞,妳是寬仁的、慈悲的、甘飴的,我們把 自己託付於妳;妳在我們生命的旅途中閃耀發光,一如救 恩和希望的標記。亞孟。

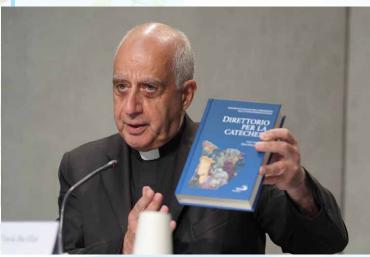
## 教廷發表新版《教理講授指南》 由相遇文化使福音更貼合現況

繼1971年版本和1997年版本的《教理講授指南》之後,聖座今年6月25日發表新版的《教理講授指南》。本文件由聖座促進新福傳委員會編撰,於今年3月23日聖多利波紀念日經由教宗方濟各核准發行。

福傳與教理之間的緊密關係是梵蒂岡新版教理指南的特色,它在相遇文化的光照下,強調初傳與信仰陶成的結合。文件闡明,教會在當今世代面對兩大挑戰:數字文化和文化的全球化。為此,教理指南急需具備前述特色。繼1971年版本和1997年版本的《教理講授指南》之後,這份新版指南由聖座促進新福傳委員會編撰,於今年3月23日聖多利波(St. Turibius)紀念日經由教宗方濟各核准發行。這位聖人曾為福傳與教理注入一股強勁的動力。

新版指南分為三大部分及12章。文件指出,每個受洗者都是傳教使徒,迫切需要找到新的語言來傳遞信仰。三個該當遵行的基本原則是:(1)見證:因為「教會的成長並非通過勸人改教,而是藉著吸引人心」。(2)慈悲:它是真正的教理講授,讓信仰的宣講變得可靠。(3)對話:別無所求的自由交談,它以愛為出發點,有助於締造和平。如此一來,教理講授能幫助基督徒給自己的生活賦予充實的意義。

文件第一部分的標題是〈教會福傳使命中的教理講授〉,內容特別強調要理教員的培育:為了使他們成為可靠的信仰見證人,他們必須「在講授教理之前,先活出教理」。老師、教育人員、見證人和要理教員必須提供謙遜的陪伴,尊重他人的自由。同時,也需要提高警覺,「以確保每個人,尤其是兒童和脆弱者受到全面保護,免於任何形式的侵犯」。再者,要理教員也受邀採取「共融的風格」,在方法和語言



上發揮創意。

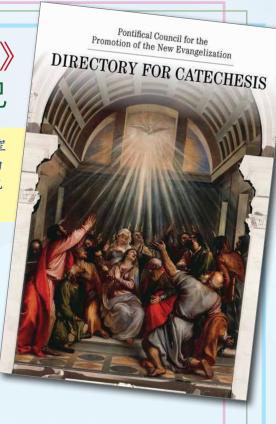
指南第二部分的標題為〈教理講授的進程〉, 內文明確闡述了家庭的重要性:家庭是福傳的積極主體,在這個自然場所中能簡樸又自發地活出信仰。事實上,家庭能在謙遜而憐憫的氛圍中提供一種「見證重於言教」的基督徒教育。此外,面對異常處境和當代社會中新的家庭現況,教會蒙召懷著信德,親近、聆聽和同情人群,恢復眾人的信心與盼望。

文件第三部分的標題為〈在地方教會的教理講授〉,其中特別闡述堂區的角色,稱之為「團體使徒工作的榜樣」。堂區能推動有創意的教理講授,「走出去」迎向人們的各種經驗。至於天主教學校,文件籲請它們藉著以福音價值為本的教育計劃,從「學校機構」變成「學校-信仰團體」。在這一方面,文件也提到宗教課,強調它的獨特性,並指明它與教理講授

互補。「宗教元素是生命的一個面向,不可予以忽視」;因此,家長和學生有權利接受完整的教育,其中包括宗教課。

此外,教理講授的特殊領域涵蓋了大公 運動與跨宗教交談。在大公運動方面,指南強 調,教理講授必須激發基督信徒合一的渴望, 以成為「福傳的可信工具」。在宗教交談領 域,無論如何,在宗教多元的環境中,教理講 授必須「加深並加強信徒的身份認同」,通過 見證及親切融洽的交談,推進傳教動力。

(資料:梵蒂岡新聞網)





今天與大家分享的主題,是套用教宗方濟各的教導;是 他在GC28期間,向整個慈幼家庭所説的;他以慈父的親切 口吻給我們説的。

教宗這位簡樸的屬神的人,也是世上最可信的領導人,在3月27日細雨朦朧的下午,他獨自在空無一人的聖伯多祿大殿廣場祈禱;這位上主的僕人為全人類祈禱(當時疫情開始惡化);人類面對這癱瘓全球的病毒,感到從未有的恐懼、脆弱。那時教宗看似孤單,但實在是與眾人共融。話說在三周前,他原有計劃來到都靈,給正在舉行全代會的眾位代表,來一次家庭式的探訪;在沒有採訪的情況下,與鮑聖的神子們交往。(但最後因疫情未能成行)

教宗方濟各用以下的話,結束了他給我們的信息:「讓我用慈幼會會院中講晚訓的方式,給你們說話:你們要有夢想、高尚的夢想;相信其後會夢境成真。夢想著創立開放的、富有成效的和從事福傳的會院團體,藉此讓上主向許多年輕人展示祂無條件的愛;如此你們更能體驗你們蒙召活現的美善。這樣的夢想,不僅是為了自己和修會的利益,更是為了造福貧苦的青年,他們被阻絕於耶穌基督友誼的力量、光照和慰藉之外,被剝奪加入接納他們的信仰團體,以及無法看到未來及生命的意義。夢想……扶持他人抱有夢想!」

對慈幼家庭的一眾成員,及其他效法鮑聖服務青少年的人士而言,這是一個多有意義的挑戰。這也包括母佑會的修女服務女青年的工作,那是聖鮑思高偕同聖女瑪沙利羅共有的夢想、共創的修女會;「成為鮑思高神父對聖母進教之佑,感恩的生活紀念碑」。

此外,我亦要提及世人目前所經歷的苦痛;疫症已奪去 近四十萬人的生命。我更要提及另一個嚴重的危機:世上數 千萬人沒有收入,缺乏糧食;在短短兩個月的時間內,就有 超過一億人失業,其中一些新增的貧民,能得到國家的一些 援助;但是大多數人卻得不到任何援助。我也不能不提那些活在痛苦中的家庭、兒童和年輕人,尤其是最貧窮的人;儘管他們看似沒有直接被疫症感染,但在社會的任何事件中, 他們總是受影響最大的。

面對這些現實,我們不可對這受苦的一羣置之不理。而 教宗的話,正正針對這個情況:協助年青人敢於夢想、作高 尚的夢想;這是我們的目標和任務!教導他們在面對現實的 同時,更要懷有夢想。可憐的青年,除了應付生存所必須的 一切,還要面對夢想被扼殺、被否決;面對渴望人生有所成 就及作出貢獻的心,被撲滅的厄運。如果他們在生活中無法 找到真正的意義和目標,缺少了那每天給他們激勵和推動力 的生命意義,他們還能怎樣?

今天,很多人在説「烏托邦」正在崩潰,而我們要堅信,可以有共享的願景、理想和夢想。讓我們以信心期盼,在這場疫症結束之後,我們的世界、我們的社會,不僅能在止步點上重新起步,就好像「抓回失去了的時間」一樣。

有些事情是我們需要重新思考的。例如我們要多重視地球這共同的家園,可以讓她「感覺更好」和「呼吸順暢」,因為它只是在「回應」我們所做的;我們是在愛護地球,還是在摧殘地球呢?我夢想,祈願我們不會放棄為建立一個更加公義的社會,而採取必要的步驟。我夢想、更祈求,在世界某些地方仍存在的種族主義(比我們想像的要普遍得多)開始消失。

我夢想、更期待我們對青年和對我們的新一代,有更大 的信任和信心。

因此我套用了教宗方濟各的話:「心懷夢想也令他人抱 有夢想。」

(資料:《鮑思高家庭通訊》277期,P4-5)





#### 主日兒童慕道A班 - 吳芍凝母親

很多小朋友因為COVID-19,困在家裡好一段日子,他們不但失去了校園及堂區生活和與他們的好朋友見面,更沒機會踏出家門。

早前的Zoom視頻會議成為小朋友在這期間學習和與人溝通的工具。謝謝黃家輝神父和各位兒童慕道班的導師,為小朋友們悉心準備活動。透過各類遊戲,使他們能在停課中有趣味地繼續學習主的道理,鞏固他們的信仰,更增加了我們的親子時間。

透過安裝Kahoot聖經問答比賽,是芍凝最喜歡的環節,這個遊戲刺激非常大家都很留神和緊張,而且我們從中亦學習了很多聖經的知識,並牢牢地記着。

很快就到我們領受入門聖事的大日子,雖然今年的入門聖事受疫情影響一再延遲,但是「不要怕,祇管信。」(谷5:36) 相信天主會帶領我們各候洗者克服所有困難,最終成為天父的子女。





#### '主日兒童慕道D班 - 沈喜沛母親

自從今年農曆新年後,因疫情停課,我們就不能去上主日學了。

非常感謝黃神父、培育組、週末主日學、主日學和兒童慕道班的所有導師,悉心安排主日Zoom online lesson。

喜沛非常興奮,他最喜歡「黄昏與主漫遊1小時」的聖經問答遊戲一環,遊戲中好讓我們能加深記憶和知識,更讓我們知道更多聖經內容,包括我們忘記的或不知道的人物和事情。

此外,還有action songs和聖經教理故事,很快一小時就過去,不過這一小時確實很充實和歡樂無比。感謝天主!讚美天主!



#### ‡円兒童慕道A班-黃子庭母親

因疫情關係,很久沒有帶小朋友回聖堂與慕道班導師們見面。在堂區的安排下報名參加了Zoom的視頻會議,在5月3日的黃昏「與主漫遊」一小時,身為家長的我心底裡是很雀躍的,但另一邊廂又擔心小朋友年紀太小而缺乏耐性在電腦前"聽聽話話"的坐定定。

在當天很開心見到黃神父和堂區的導師們,我們一起劃十字聖號祈禱,跟著一起參與歌詠唱遊、講道分享,最印象深刻的是網上聖經問答環節,氣氛實在很激烈,我們分數一直落後,之後子庭突然在電腦面前聽到"黃子庭分數開始上來",他表現得很興奮、投入及雀躍,此外,他不停嚷著瀏覽堂區的facebook及youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVZIUI1MUEA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=lwAR2qqptGD6bZpJOn8nJQukksqw-NvKClnCBu4ouApi0vW9rAhG-1dHuy4m4,觀看視頻重温。

感謝天主、黃神父及導師們的安排及付出,希望疫情快些過去,小朋友可以早日與大家見面,繼續珍惜與天主及在堂區的相聚時刻!



## Living Word of God – **August 2020**

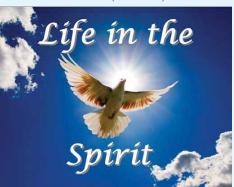
#### Reflection

Paul has categorized the potential threats that separate us from the love of Christ into common "physical and secular" focuses and the supernatural "nature and cosmic" powers. What is your answer if we were asked the same question by Paul today?

Our first act of the Christian life was to undergo baptism, and the whole of Christian life is to foster that seed to fruit. Nothing should separate us from the love of Christ: "you have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 2:23).

Christians who through Baptism have died with Christ to sin (Rom 6:2-4) are freed from the law. Yet through transgressions we are often sinful and cut ourselves off from the love of Christ. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) (1) use the dignity, rights and duties of the lay faithful in the liturgy to express the community of the baptized. It sheds light on whether there can be a greater dignity than being a child of God bathing in the love of God with Christ (Rom 8:17).



The Mass is that sacrificial meal in which the sacrifice of the cross continuously made real present in the church (GIRM 72). The prefaces within the Eucharistic Prayers are described expression thanksgiving that reveals the mystery of salvation (GIRM 364).

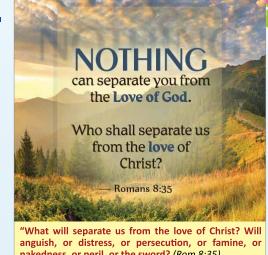
During the challenge of COVID 19 outbreak and social event in the past year Christians may wonder "where is our omnipotent God?" This trial of pandemic helps us to reflect on the statement that "What have been regarded as a matter of course like going to Mass on every Sunday were seemed out of reach."

Upon stabilization of the pandemic Christians can gather together in our parish as one body of Christ to celebrate and receive the Eucharist. Once again, the Eucharist makes it possible for us to overcome fears in the pandemic and gives us the hope (in analogy to the hope in exile of the Israelite in the wilderness) to bear the fruit of newness of life in God with peace of mind.

In its deepest healing power, the Eucharistic Celebration is more than an exemplar of church liturgy and teaching, it can also heal us from our transgression and sufferings. It is an expression of the very mystery of the church, the sanctification of the Cosmos by God, and our response in Christ. The prayers and rites are proclamations

and songs of faith (GIRM 392) that demand actions of a real Christian to be taken seriously.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church composes of four parts corresponding to the fundamental laws of life in Christ. (2) The first part, entitled "The Profession of Faith" the lex credendi, contains a synthesis of the faith professed by



nakedness, or peril, or the sword? (Rom 8:35)

the Catholic Church, as expressed in the Creed. In the liturgical profession of the Creed, the Christian assembly keeps the principal truths of the faith alive in memory. The second part, entitled "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery" the lex celebrandi, presents the essential elements of the Eucharist celebration. The proclamation of the Gospel finds its authentic response in the sacramental life, through which Christians experience and witness, in every moment of their existence, the saving power of the paschal mystery by which Christ has accomplished our redemption. The third part, entitled "Life in Christ", recalls the lex vivendi, through which the baptized manifest their commitment to the faith they have professed and celebrated, through their actions and ethical choices. The Christian faithful are called by the Lord Jesus to act in a way which befits their dignity as children of the Father in the charity of the Holy Spirit. The fourth part, entitled "Christian Prayer", summarizes the lex orandi, the life of prayer. Christians are called to the dialogue with God in prayers. A privileged expression of prayer is the Our Father, the prayer that Jesus has taught us.

What we profess in the creed are not empty words nor lip worship but rather they should become what we live in our daily response to God in our own act and in our prayers. Not only should the law of prayer become the law of our belief, the way we worship become what we celebrate, but our daily life should also act in fellowship with our brothers and sisters to manifest what we believe.

#### **Prayers**

Almighty God our Father, we pray that we should live as we truly believed that nothing can separate us from the love of God so that we can consciously walk through each day of our life. Guide us to live intentionally every day in faith under the shelter of your love.

We beg for your omnipotent and all-conquering saving grace

so that we can walk with Jesus to overcome every obstacle and every threat in life that separate us from God and stop us from reaching Christ's salvation. Please grant us the grace that we need to overcome all afflictions

and trials. Amen



#### Reference:

- (1) Gerard Moore, The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Paulist Press 2007, p 39 - 41
- (2) Compendium Catechism of the Catholic Church, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Washington, DC. Eleventh Printing, February 2017 xvi

(Source: Parish Formation Group)

path of the Kingdom is creativity, always trying to do more. And creativity is what takes life and gives life, and gives, and gives, and gives... It always looks for many other ways to

Jesus, Who is the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value, cannot but inspire joy, all the joy of the world: the joy of discovering a meaning in life, the joy of committing oneself to the adventure of holiness.

May the Blessed Virgin help us to search every day for the treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven, so that the love God has given us through Jesus may be manifested in our words and gestures.

(Pope Francis Angelus, 26 July 2020)

## **Coronavirus Protection Prayer from Pope Francis**



"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research



on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

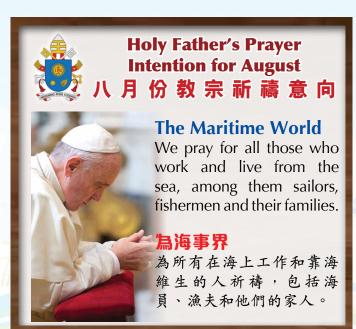
Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his





Pope Francis said: "At this time when the pandemic shows no signs of coming to an end, I want to assure my closeness to all those suffering from the illness and its economic and social repercussions."



#### Saint Anthony's Church Parish Newsletter No. 600

# Shepherd Flock's Dialogue August 2020



#### **Chancery Notice: Temporary Suspension of Public Masses**

#### Parish arrangements:

- Opening Hours of the Church:
  - (a) 7:00am 8:00pm daily

For personal prayers, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, individual spiritual exercises

Special Intention: Containment of Coronavirus as soon as possible

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
  - (a) 7:30 9:00am Monday to Saturday
  - (b) 7:00 8:00pm on Thursday
  - (c) Sunday: 7:00 8:00am; 8:30 9:30am; 10:00 11:00am (Chinese) 11:30am 12:30pm (English)
- Sacrament of Reconciliation:
  - (a) Cancel administering the Sacrament in Confession Rooms
  - (b) Personal arrangements with priests

#### **Online Mass & Services:**

- Sunday Masses participation through the diocesan website www.catholic.org.hk and receive Holy Communion spiritually; OR reflecting on the Sunday liturgical text, reading the Bible or saying the Rosary, etc.
- The faithful can avail themselves of various online services to take part in daily Masses or spiritual exercises, such as the Rosary, the Angelus and daily morning prayer by visiting the diocesan website, the "Click to Pray" network (https://clicktopray.org), the Sunday Examiner website (http:// www.examiner.org.hk/), etc.

#### **Reflection with Pope Francis**

## **Building the Kingdom of Heaven**

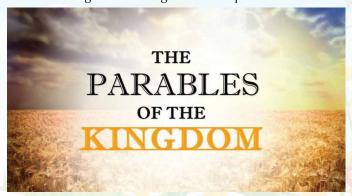
The Sunday's Gospel reading of 26 July (see Mt 13:44-52) consists of the final verses of the chapter Matthew devotes to the parable of the Kingdom of Heaven. The passage includes three parables that are very briefly outlined: that of the hidden treasure, that of the precious pearl, and that of the net cast into the sea.



I will look at the first two in which the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to two different "precious" items, namely, the hidden treasure in the field and the pearl of great value. The reaction of he who finds the pearl or the treasure is practically the same: the man and the merchant sell everything to buy what is now most dear to them. With these two similes, Jesus proposes to involve us in the building of the Kingdom of Heaven, presenting an essential characteristic of Christian life, of the life of the Kingdom of heaven: those who fully pledge themselves to the Kingdom are those who are willing to stake everything, who are courageous. Indeed, both the man and the merchant in these two parables sell everything they have, thus renouncing their material security. From this it can be understood that the building of the Kingdom requires not only the grace of God, but also the active willingness of humanity. Everything is done by grace, everything! We need only have the willingness to receive it, not to resist grace: grace does everything but it takes "my" responsibility, "my" willingness ... and who is responsible for this?

The gestures of the man and the merchant who seek to buy more precious treasures, depriving themselves of their goods, are decisive gestures, and radical gestures; but I would say that they are "one way" gestures, not a "round trip": they are "one way" gestures. Moreover, they are gestures made with joy because both of them have found treasure. We are called upon to assume the attitude of these two Gospel figures, so that we too may become healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a matter of abandoning the heavy burden of our worldly sureties that prevent us from searching and building up the Kingdom: the covetousness for possession, the thirst for profit and power, and thinking only of ourselves.

In our times, as we are all aware, some people's lives can end up mediocre and dull because they probably do not go in search of real treasure: they are content with attractive but fleeting things, whose bright lights prove illusory as they give way to darkness. Instead the light of the Kingdom is not like fireworks, it is light: fireworks last only an instant, whereas the light of the Kingdom accompanies all our life.



The Kingdom of Heaven is the opposite of the superfluous things that the world offers, the opposite of a dull life: it is a treasure that renews life every day and leads it to extend towards wider horizons. Indeed, those who have found this treasure have a creative and inquisitive heart, which does not repeat but rather invents, tracing and setting out on new paths which lead us to love God, to love others, and to truly love ourselves. The sign of those who walk this