

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

John Le Carré’s novel, *The Secret Pilgrim*, tells of a young man, a member of the intelligence services, visiting the former East Germany to liaise with a spy. Against all proper procedure, acting from anxiety to do things right, he carries in his pocket some cards on which were written details of the spy network. The visit goes well, and it is only on his return that he notices that the cards are missing, that they must have fallen out of his pocket, not knowing that they were stolen by his enemies.

Shortly afterwards, the spy network is rolled up, resulting in torture and loss of life. This leads to the young man having a mental crisis and confessing to his superior in the intelligence services what he had done. The superior in question is the narrator, and in the novel, there are these words about the narrator’s reaction to what he had just heard: *“Then the appalling banality of what the young man had told me got through to me: that you could lose a [spy] network as easily as you could lose a bunch of keys.”*

Although sin involves free choice and decision, I wonder if there’s not an important part of the story that is not unlike sin careless, unthinking banality, almost like losing a bunch of keys through lack of thought and care. Sin renders us blind, insensitive and stops us from being truly free. When sin gets into our system, we can find ourselves almost sleepwalking into hurting others and hurting ourselves, thoughtlessly, committing all those acts of petty cruelty and betrayal, that despite their banality and carelessness leave a trail of hurt and damage in their wake.

We are tempted by desire for bodily satisfaction; we are tempted by desire for power, to be like God; and we are tempted by our psychological complexity, playing mind games and seeking quick and easy satisfaction. Satan, in the desert, tempts Jesus in these very ways, and so discloses to us what temptation is about.

Christ, being tempted by Satan, is meant to give us hope and to show us something about what it is to be truly happy. Jesus resists the temptation to turn stones into bread; but this is the same Jesus who eats and who drinks with his disciples. Perhaps, one lesson to draw from this is that, it is only the one who can eat his food with self-control and without greed who can enjoy it fully. Greedy people are too busy thinking about what they do not have, to enjoy what they already possess.

Sin is a complex business that stops us from living as we ought. Therefore, Lent is a wonderful opportunity to ask ourselves hard but realistic questions about true human happiness, questions that involve reflecting on the role of sin our lives. To take up this opportunity is to ask if we have been sleepwalking through life, sleepwalking into patterns of sin and destruction, perhaps not so much out of active malice or greed, but almost carelessly, unthinkingly, almost like losing a bunch of keys through lack of thought and care.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS
Membership Drive: This Sunday, Mar. 10th in the vestibule.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Mar. 11th - Leviticus;19:1-2. 11-18; Mat. 25:31-46
- Tue. Mar. 12th - Is. 55:10-11; Mat. 6:7-15
- Wed. Mar. 13th - Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
- Thurs. Mar. 14th - Esther 14:1, 3-5, 12-14; Mat. 7:7-12
- Fri. Mar. 15th - Ezekiel 18:21-28; Mat. 5:20-26
- Sat. Mar. 16th - Deut. 26:16-19; Mat. 5:43-48
- Sun. Mar. 17th - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
 Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philip. 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Have you picked up your set of parish envelopes for 2019 from the entrance of the church? If you have recently requested envelopes, they will also be there. Anyone wishing a set, call the parish office.

2nd Collection this Sunday for St. Joseph’s Society.

ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Mar. 13th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers
- Fri. Mar. 15th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers
- Sat. Mar. 16th - 5:00 PM - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanuza, J.Nguyen.
- Sun. Mar. 17th - 9:00 AM - N.Chao, J & N Yuen, C.Vu.
 11:00 AM - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pham, J.Roque, S.Yip. 5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, F & T Le, E.Nguyen, J.Plata.



TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts for your church contributions as well as your Project Advance contributions have been mailed. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Mar. 9 th	5 pm Mass for the int. of Eileen Teo
Sun. Mar. 10 th	9 am Mass for Rafaela Hombrebueno, R.I.P. 11 am Mass for Marino Balmaceda, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Mar. 11 th	8 am Mass for Benjamin Laureola Sr., R.I.P.
Tue. Mar. 12 th	8 am Mass for Felice & Giovanna Virginillo, R.I.P.
Wed. Mar. 13 th	9 am Mass for Humberto Almeida, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass
Thur. Mar. 14 th	8:00 am Mass for Belen Laureola, R.I.P.
Fri. Mar. 15 th	8:00 am Mass for Abilio Campos, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Mass for the int. of Teofista Bacatan & Fml
Sat. Mar. 16 th	9:00 am Mass for Adelina Morgado, R.I.P.

EXTRA LENTEN SERVICES

Every Friday in Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross at 7 pm followed by Mass. All are invited to attend.



During Lent, as part of your prayer life why not check out **FORMED**, a virtual library with video and ebooks for adults and children. You will find lots of good content for Lent. Sign-up for FREE! Visit formed.org and enter our parish access code: **RMNYFF** and create your personal account.

SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- Student Led Conferences: This Friday, Mar. 15th.
- Spring Break: March 18th to 29th
- New Family Application Forms: If you know of a family that is considering St. Jude School for their child's education, please direct them to the school website or office. Click [here](#) to see the application form.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." (Deut. 26:10)

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is left over? Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

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Young People and the Church? A Conversation

Young adults and those who work with young people are invited to a panel discussion followed by small group conversations responding to the 2018 Synod on Youth. The panelists and hosts include experts in theology, educators, and young people who live active faith lives. Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's College, Vancouver. To register visit <https://rcav.org/event/young-people-and-the-church/>

2019 Parish Mission with Fr. Emmerich Vogt

Join Fr. Emmerich Vogt for a "Spiritual Healing", a 2019 Parish Mission offered by Corpus Christi Parish, Mar. 18-21. Two conference options: 9-10am with confession at 7:30-7:55 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. with confession at 6-6:45 p.m. <https://rcav.org/event/2019-parish-mission-with-fr-emmerich-vogt>

Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events

Day of Reflection with Archbishop Miller on Saturday, March 23, 10-3 p.m. at John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register at least one week in advance by contacting the Vocations Office at vocations@rcav.org or call 604-443-3254.

Fiat: Women's Discernment Events – Day of Reflection

Day of Reflection – Fiat of Women in the New Testament on Saturday, March 23, 12-3:30 p.m. at FSE Convent, 2811 Venables Street, Vancouver. Fiat, the women's vocation discernment group for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, is getting ready for another year of events. Events are open to single, Catholic young women ages 18-35 who are open to discerning and responding to God's call in their life. Sign up now to receive emails of events throughout the year. Email womensvocations@rcav.org for more information.

HELP LINE Volunteers Needed for Domestic Abuse Services – OLGCS No experience needed but would be a valuable asset! Volunteer from home; choose your hours! Our next comprehensive training session starts Mar. 29th Fridays and Saturdays (3wks) at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. If you're interested in volunteering, please call 604.585.6688 or email us: operationsmgr@domesticabuseservices.ca

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

"I stretch out my hands toward you, my soul to you like a parched land." – Psalm 143:6

Has your soul felt dry and without life since your abortion experience? Our loving Father is ready to send the abundant rains of His mercy to quench the dryness in your soul and restore new life in you. Your Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat team has been there and wants nothing more than to walk with you as you stretch out your hands to God for His mercy. You are not alone. Join us on our next Retreat in May 2019. For confidential information and to register contact 604-525-0999.

Birthingright Vancouver

Would you like to help women in crisis pregnancy situations? Birthingright Vancouver is currently looking for volunteers who can commit 3 hours a week to this mission. Training provided. If interested, contact 604-687-7223 or birthingrightvancouver@gmail.com

