

## **The Cost of Discipleship**

"Throw caution to the wind" was for the children who made it look so easy even after just a short ski lesson. Learning to ski at 57 was more of trying to control the trembling knees. Starting from the middle of the slope was confidence boosting. It was alright. But the goal was from the top of the learners' hill. Difficulty in putting the skis on was a premonition but hearing them click in place was the go signal. It only took a few seconds downhill when fear of the unknown forced me to do the "pizza," and the right ski came loose. It was only three days after when I learned that the price of commitment (or lack of it) was a torn ligament. But it was nothing compared to the feeling of accomplishing a goal, albeit a learner's one.

As we gather this 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year, we are shown the cost of discipleship. To help us commit ourselves, God had given us his Spirit that we may recognise the truth and live by it faithfully whatever the cost (1<sup>st</sup> Reading). This will also make us understand our relationship with one another as brothers and sisters, and thus commit ourselves to rid our lives of anything that may alienate us from one another (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading). But the goal of it all is to follow Jesus, renouncing everything (Gospel). And this is not a learner's goal, but the cost of true discipleship as it requires total commitment of all we are, all we have and all we ever hope to be..

## **Social Justice Week 2010**

This will take place from the 12-18 September and takes the theme of *Your people will be my people*. As part of our observance for this week, the Upper Middle Syndicate will be leading us at the 10am Mass.

## **Prayer for Fathers**

We ask your blessing on all those  
to whom you have entrusted fatherhood.  
May your Holy Spirit constantly inspire them  
with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength,  
fidelity and self-giving love.  
May they receive your Grace abundantly in this  
earthly life,  
and may they look forward to eternal joy  
in your presence in the life to come.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and  
Our Lord, **Amen**

## **A Poem for Fathers' Day**

### **What Makes a Dad**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew his masterpiece was complete,  
And so, he called it ... Dad      *Author Unknown*