



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Death was not God's Doing

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 July 2018

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24
2 Cor 8:7; 9:13-15
Mk 5:21-43

The Liturgy of the Word today is on a topic that has troubled many of us from our childhood – why must there be sickness... and death? For those of us who have experienced in our childhood the death of someone dear to us, the question about God's goodness and love also arises. If God is good and he loves us, why does he allow sickness, death and separation from our loved ones to happen?

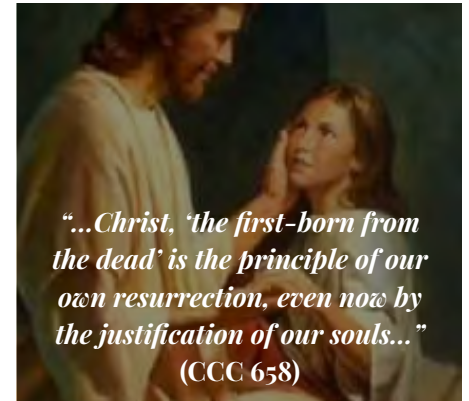
Today's first reading states very clearly that death was not in God's plan for man, "Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living" (Wis 1:13). In fact, God made us imperishable, "Yet God did make man imperishable, he made him in the image of his own nature" (Wis 2:23). The account of the creation of man confirms that God planned for man to be immortal, "Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness... God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them..." (Gn 1:26-27). The Catechism explains that we are "most especially in God's image" by having a soul – the "spiritual principle in man... 'spirit' signifies that from creation man is ordered to a supernatural end and that his soul can gratuitously be raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God" (CCC363, 367).

How is it then that we do not see people living forever but instead know that we will all surely die? When and how did death enter the world?

From our first reading, we are told that "it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world" (Wis 2:24). As we recall the fall of Adam and Eve, we realise that Adam and Eve brought death into the world by believing the serpent or the devil and disbelieving or disobeying God's warning, "...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Gn 2:17).

Nevertheless, that sad event in our human history is now behind us because God has given man back his gift of imperishability by baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. We can join the Psalmist in his elation, "I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me...you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life..." (Ps 29).

Even before Christ's own resurrection from the dead, he already gave us firm hope that he is the source of life and that he can overcome death. The gospels tell us that Jesus brought back to life the son of the widow of Nain, his good friend Lazarus, and Jairus' daughter (Lk 7:11-17, Jn 11, Mk 5 – today's gospel). While they were brought back to earthly life and eventually died again, Jesus' own resurrection is different and is the way in which those who have followed Christ will come to be resurrected when he returns at the Second Coming, "Christ's Resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space... Christ, 'the first-born from the dead' is



the principle of our own resurrection, even now by the justification of our souls..." (CCC646, 658).

By our baptism into Christ and our frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist – the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, we are already being prepared for our resurrection at the end of time – the eventual union of our body and soul (which was separated at death) with the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ who now sits at the right hand of God our Father.

Today's readings encourage us not only to live in hope of our eventual resurrection but to celebrate this merciful and "gratuitous communion with God" (cf CCC367 – see above) by being merciful towards others. In our forgiveness, care and concern for others propelled by our own experience of God's mercy, we are also showing others the face of God's mercy for all people. St Paul's letter to the Corinthians in today's second reading gives us a practical approach to living this out. Let us ponder and reflect more deeply on the foretaste of the resurrection which we are receiving in today's Eucharist and live as God's messengers of his mercy and generosity to others (cf 2 Cor 8:7-9).

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

CANTEEN

The SaLT (Servants at the Lord's Table) Community will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by and give them some support!



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

FOR PRIESTS AND THEIR PASTORAL MINISTRY

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Kelvinder Singh & Charlene Chia Jing Ying
2. Jeremy Koh Meng Yeow & Gillian Tsu Jia Huai
3. Kenneth Teo Wei Yang & Kathryn Chan Li Xin
4. Simeon Tan Shu-Jie & Michelle Tan Hui Teng
5. Loke Peng Mun & Elizabeth Tan Swee Cheng
6. Julius Soo Thoo Kwok Howe & Desiree Wee Pei Wen
7. Aaron Ng Jun Xiang & Katherine Ooi Ley Hui

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Anna Tew Way@Tew Yoke Sew
2. Christina Esmeralda Oliveira
3. Wong Fook Meng Alan
4. Joseph Tan Kim Toh

BAPTISM

We welcome:

1. Lola Elyse Henry
2. Yvonne Pon Gan

PETER'S PENCE

The collection taken at all Masses this weekend will be for Peter's Pence, the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need. Find out more: tinyurl.com/peterspence

PRIESTS ON RETREAT: NO MASS FROM 2-6 JUL

Our priests will be away from 2-6 Jul for a retreat, please keep them in prayer! There will be no mass on these dates, but **communion services** at 6.30am and 6.30pm instead.

PARISH RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

29 companies responded to the "Expression of Interest" advertisement that was placed in the Straits Times last week. The Parish Building Committee has since conducted a site showround to all interested parties. The official tender is expected to be called in September 2018. For any feedback on the parish renovation project, feel free to email reno@sfxchurch.sg.

SFX RETREAT: THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (RTE)

The Road to Emmaus retreat is a non-stay in retreat for SFX parishioners - to renew your spiritual lives and have a personal encounter with Jesus.

Dates:

Thu, 4 Oct: 8pm - 10pm

Fri, 5 Oct: 8pm - 10pm

Sat, 6 Oct: 9am - 10pm

Sun, 7 Oct: 9am - 6.30pm (Mass incl.)

Sat, 13 Oct: 9am - 1.00pm

Register online:

tinyurl.com/rte6register

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR 2018 - ENCOUNTER, EMPOWERED, EVANGELISE

The Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) provides a good opportunity to learn more about the Holy Spirit and how to live a life that is led by him. Experience God's love in a deeper way which will bring you into a closer and more meaningful relationship with Jesus. The LISS sessions will be held on Mon, 8pm at the SFX Parish Hall from 9 Jul. Come sign up now!

About LISS: bit.ly/aboutsfxliss2018

TOPICS

9 Jul	"Encounter, Empowered and Evangelise"	Roderick Lim
16 Jul	"God The Father Loves You personally"	Fr Benedict Chng
23 Jul	"Jesus Saves You And Sets You Free"	Michelle Voo
30 Jul	"Jesus Is The Lord Of Your Life"	Edmund Ang
6 Aug	"Come Back to Me. (Confession)"	Fr Thomas Lim
13 Aug	"Jesus Sends You His Holy Spirit"	Fr Thomas Lim
20 Aug	"Come Holy Spirit Fill Us With Your Gifts"	Fr Thomas Lim
27 Aug	"You Will Receive The Holy Spirit (Baptism)"	Fr Thomas Lim
3 Sep	"Commissioning Mass (Discipleship)"	Fr Benedict Chng

Phone enquiry: Catherine Chew 9066 3514, or Jean Teo 9002 6616

Email enquiry: sfxlifeinthespirit@gmail.com **To Register:** bit.ly/sfxliss

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Active Participation

We have always been told that to be a good Catholic, we needed to go for mass on Sundays. It becomes a habit and attending mass becomes an activity on our Sunday schedule. However, many a time, we show up to church and literally attend and watch what is going on at mass, but we are called to do more than that – we are asked to participate fully and actively at mass.

But what does it mean to participate fully and actively at mass?

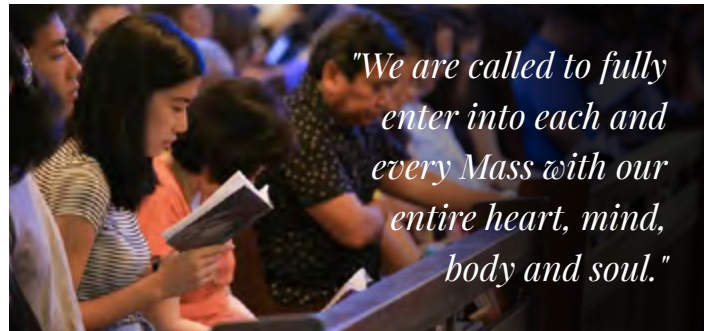
Full participation means that each one of us must participate in the Mass with our whole being, all we are, bringing our whole self into the celebration of the people of God, the liturgy. We are called to fully enter into each and every Mass with our entire heart, mind, body and soul. We should not be mere spectators, but instead, be active worshippers and attentive listeners to God's word.

According to the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (December 1963)*, the Church "earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy, and to which the Christian people, 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people' (1 Peter 2:9) have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism."

When we were baptised, we were given a share in Jesus' priestly, kingly and prophetic offices. Therefore, when we participate fully in mass, we embrace and exercise our priesthood in the liturgy, and with the ministerial priest united with Jesus, our great high priest, we offer up the sacrifice of the Son to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our full participation benefits us in our lives, strengthening us to battle sin as well as to live in faith, hope, and love.



Check out this video by Fr Mike Schmitz as he reminds us that we all have a vital role to play in the Mass: ['Why We Don't Drink Coffee at Mass'](#)



SINGING

St Augustine is famously attributed as saying, "He who sings, prays twice".

Even in Sacred Scripture, we see often, especially in Psalms, that we are called to "sing to the Lord", and St Paul, himself exhorts the Ephesians (Eph 5:19-20) to "Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ". So let us be singing believers and not be shy in expressing our faith through the joining of our voices in the same rhythms and melodies.

"so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks..."

USING MOBILE DEVICES

When entering church, we should silence our mobile devices and turn off all alarms, or even put it to airplane mode so that notifications are disabled. While it is encouraged for us to put away our devices when we are in church, in this digital age, apps are available on our smartphones that avail us with mass readings for us to refer to. So if we are using our devices for this, dim the light on your screen and hold your phone in a manner that does not distract others around you. We also need to remember and be conscious that while at mass, we are committed to giving up that one hour totally to God, and therefore we should not use our phones for any other purposes than to aid participation in worship.

"Committed to giving up that one hour totally to God"

GUESS THE APP! WHICH DO YOU HAVE?



This week, as we gather in the House of God, let us pray for grace and help to focus and to participate fully in the Mass with attention, reverence, and devotion.



L9 Retreat: Discovering and Following Christ



Centring around St Peter's discipleship with a main theme of answering the call to follow Christ, our L9 cohort had a 4-day, 3-night stay-in retreat at SFX. The camp served to help participants discover the person of Christ, for them to willingly choose to follow him and be his disciple. Some participants shared with us their experiences, and also how they encountered the Lord during the camp.

"During this enriching retreat, I felt that God showed me what love is and how to love the sheep (people) around me. This retreat was very emotional for me as a lot of things struck me in different ways. Many topics shared during the sessions were things that may have been very difficult to share about, like family, which I imagine is a touchy subject for most of us. God really showed me how to love him and the others around me. He also showed me how to be his friend and made sure that I do not get any false images of him. The retreat also allowed me to build stronger bonds between my friends through the games and sessions that were planned. Now I feel that we know each other inside out, and am now more comfortable sharing my feelings and opinions with them than ever before."

- Ryan Chua

"Of all the church camps I've attended, this was the best, and it is an experience I will never forget. The subject of discussion and reflection was St Peter and one of the values he exemplified that struck me was trust, and I learnt how to trust in Jesus and surrender my life to him. I know he has a plan for me and I need not worry about my future as long as I trust in him.

I also received the gift of the Holy Spirit during this camp, and I felt the warmth and comfort of God. During Praise and Worship, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit through the lyrics and found so much joy in singing. During the Eucharistic Adoration, when I looked at the monstrance, it was like looking at Jesus face-to-face and I felt so at peace. During the praying-over session by the facilitators, the prayer that was said made me feel so blessed to be a child of God.

We attended mass every day which was something I have not done, but hope to do more often because it is the best form of prayer. This camp also gave me the chance to bond with my group mates and we got to know each other better. I learnt so much through the sessions and sharings, and knowing that what I had shared would be kept confidential helped me open up. The camp was four days long, but I wished it was longer. By the grace of God, he has allowed me to have this amazing experience and has taught me the truth and showed me the way.

Finally, I want to thank my awesome facilitators and group mates for making my time at the camp a blast, and the service team for their hard work and who made this camp possible. Now, knowing that I am precious and priceless in the eyes of God, I will try to do my duty to evangelise and trust that God's promise to me will be fulfilled. I would like to end off with this beautiful bible verse. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" Proverbs 3: 5-6.

- Solana Mendoza

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)
Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm
Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:
6.30am & 6.30pm
Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Daily: 5.30am - 11pm

LIBRARY

Sun: 8.30am - 12.30pm

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm

CANTEEN

Sun: 7am - 12pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffers from serious illness or is weakened by old age. Anointing may be before getting admitted for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

INFANT BAPTISM



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact sfxbaptism@gmail.com.

FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact St.Pio prayer group via the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg