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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

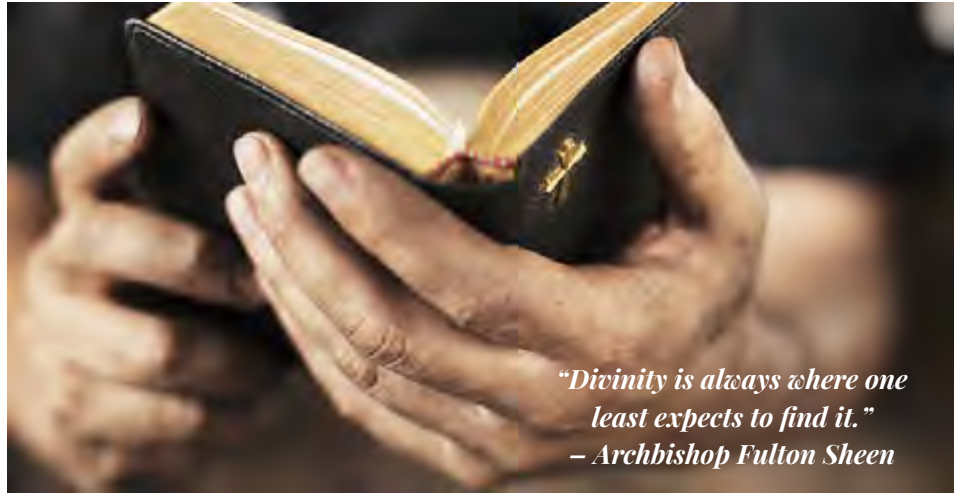
Finding God

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Bible Sunday
8 July 2018

Ez 2:2-5
2 Cor 12:7-10
Mk 6:1-6

The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen observed in his book "The Life of Christ" that only the poor shepherds and the Wise Men found Jesus in the manger. The shepherds represent the simple-minded, and the Wise Men represent the learned. Only these two classes of people ever find God; the simple because they know that they know nothing; and the learned because they know that they do not know everything. There is a third class of people who never find God - those who think they know. "Not even God can tell the proud anything! Only the humble can find God."

Thus, the tone of questioning in today's Gospel reading, from the people of Jesus' own home town, gives a distinct impression of a lack of humility. "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely..." (Mk 6:2-3). While there is a hint of praise, there is also the underlying sneer on his lowly background and the snobbery of the inquisitors who think they know better. The self-pride or lack of humility blinded those who questioned Jesus and prevented them from recognising the fact that they are in truth looking at and hearing from God himself! "Divinity is always where one least expects to find it." (Archbishop Fulton Sheen)



*"Divinity is always where one least expects to find it."
- Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

If we sincerely examine ourselves, it will not be difficult to recognise that we often unconsciously blind ourselves to God through our self-pride and lack of humility. Too often, we sit at Mass listening to the homily thinking to ourselves - "This priest is a terrible speaker! His homily is so uninspiring!"; and we switch off our hearing, allowing our minds to drift away to "more important" thoughts in our busy lives. Outside of church, we often draw quick conclusions on the worthiness of a person by the way he is dressed, coiffured and speaks before we really know the person. Thus, too often, we fail to recognise God when he is in our midst and in turn God can work no miracles in hearts that are clogged with pride and illusion of self-sufficiency.

Thankfully, God knows and loves us better than we know and love ourselves, and therefore he gives us all necessary grace to overcome our pride that prevents us from recognising him. This truth is related to us by St. Paul in the second reading. With an abundance of revelations from Jesus to him, St. Paul could easily drift into a state of being where he feels

he is superior to all his fellow men. Such a superiority complex could well turn people off from his efforts to proclaim the Gospel and evangelise. Therefore, God permitted a "thorn" to be in St. Paul, in order to manifest his grace and to keep St. Paul humble, for the sake of his own soul and the conversion of more souls to Christ! (2 Cor 12:7)

Furthermore, not only will God give us all necessary grace, he will never stop trying to bring us to holiness even if we are a stubborn lot - and we are stubborn! The first reading attest to this fact when God sends Ezekiel to the Israelites to give them warnings about turning away from God, even when God knows that they are defiant and obstinate. The love of God for his created beings never diminishes even when we, time and again, spurn his efforts to make us holy.

This being Bible Sunday, may we all meditate upon God's Word today and pray that we are open enough to feel the thorn at our side so that we can remain humble in order to see, hear and feel God's guiding hand in our lives.

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

Serangoon North Neighbourhood Group will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by for some delicious breakfast or brunch.

ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE (ACCIRD)

Interreligious Panel on "Marriage" on Tue, 17 July at 7.30pm-9.30pm, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Annex Building Level 3.

Rabbi Mordechai Abergel (Chief Rabbi of Singapore), Ustaz Zuhilmi Mohamed (Mosque Manager, An-Nahdhah Mosque) and Ms Michelle Voo (Member, ACCIRD) will share the meaning and significance of marriage as per their faith traditions, as well as the attendant rituals, rites and customs.

Register with your name, parish/organisation and handphone number by 15 July at gerald.accird@catholic.org.sg

PUBLIC TALKS @ AGAPE VILLAGE: UNDERSTANDING LABOUR, BIRTH AND POSTNATAL SELF-CARE

Come be an empowered parent! Gain insights and tips from childbirth educators, counsellors, psychologists and from experienced mothers as they share their parenthood journeys. To register/for more info, email agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org or call 6801 7400 (10am-6pm, Mon-Fri).

Sat, 14 Jul, 10am to 12.30pm, Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh S 319264)

BIBLE PRESENTATION ON BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is on 8 July. At the 11 am mass, the parents of our L4 cohort will be presenting bibles to their children. This simple paraliturgy signifies how parents 'hand over' their faith to their children. Please join us in praying for our children that they may be moved to read the Word and to live by the Word.

LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS: A BIBLE STUDY PRESENTED BY SFX BAT

St Paul's Letter to the Romans has probably influenced Christian thinking and history more than any other epistle of Paul. Paul's longest letter and arguably his most important, carries the imprint of his wisdom, depth and spiritual energy. In this study, you will discover the rich lessons which Romans has to offer for our Christian living.

9 Sundays: 9.00 – 10.30 am at SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2).

22 July, 29 July, 5 Aug, 12 Aug, 19 Aug, 26 Aug, 9 Sep, 16 Sep and 23 Sep

ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen. To register, please contact Helen Chong at 9757 4853.

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 and **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 commencing on the coming Mon evening, 8pm at the SFX Parish Hall from 9 Jul.

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

Registration is still open! Come and sign up at: bit.ly/sfxliss

About LISS: bit.ly/aboutsfxliss2018

Testimonies from last year: <https://bit.ly/SFXLISS2017TEST>

The Bible came alive for us!

44 participants of the SFX Sunday Bible Class made a 2-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June, under the spiritual direction of Fr Marc Lim. Organised by the SFX Bible Apostolate Team (BAT), the trip enabled the pilgrims to discover the cultural, historical and topographical landscapes of the land of the Gospels. Appropriate Bible verses were read at each Holy Land site to allow for prayerful contemplation. Every evening, the pilgrims gathered for a time of prayer, reflection, consolidation and sharing. This helped to keep everyone focused on the purpose of the pilgrimage – growth in knowledge and strength of faith as a Bible Class community – as we allowed Jesus to touch us and heal us during our sojourn in His homeland.

In Israel, our pilgrimage began in Galilee, where we visited the places where Jesus grew up, ministered, preached, healed and worked miracles. On route to Judea from Galilee, we passed through Sychar and visited the site where Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. There we drank from Jacob's Well, which has been yielding fresh water for the last



Carrying the Cross on the Via Dolorosa

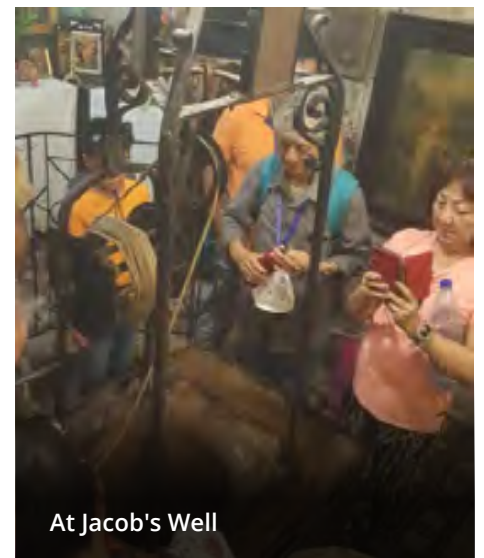


At Church of Transfiguration, Mt Tabor

3500 years. At Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, we stayed within walking distance of the Churches of the Annunciation, the Nativity and the Holy Sepulchre respectively. This made it convenient for those of us who wished to rise early in the morning to pray for at least an hour at these churches before breakfast. We treasured these times of quietude and contemplation at the Annunciation Cave, the Manger Grotto and the Rock of Calvary. The highlight of our stay in Jerusalem was undoubtedly the mass celebrated by Fr Marc at the Tomb of Christ, a rare privilege and a spirit-filled experience which moved many of us profoundly.

Each of us came away from the pilgrimage changed in some way, not least because we were able to relate much of what we experienced in the Holy Land with what we had been studying and reading in the Bible. As a group, we received many graces, healings and spiritual encounters during the trip. Going forward, it is important for us to use these graces to urge each other on in our faith journey, all the while

praying that the Spirit will guide and strengthen us as a community and add to our numbers.



At Jacob's Well

Testimonies from the trip:

A most spiritual, uplifting and experiential trip! I was better able to connect with and visualize the scriptures I had learnt in SFXBAT's Sunday Bible Class.

- Eileen Pek

It was seeing and experiencing the Greatest Love Ever.

- John Lim



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!



Mt Nebo

Each site we visited brought the Bible to life. Bible readings will never be the same for us anymore; God has not only opened our eyes, but our hearts and minds as well. - *Dominic and June Chia*

Seeing the terrain of the place made me aware how physically challenging the journeys from town to town must have been for Jesus and His disciples. I am reminded how much God loves us; for this I am forever grateful and I am determined to love Him back not in words but in actions. - *Maisie Lee*

Too caught up with praying daily for 50+ people, I prayed only once for myself, for physical healing. After that, my backache, which had plagued me since before the start of the trip, was gone. - *Tony Lim*

My first pilgrimage trip as a Catholic. I found the experience very edifying. - *Katherine Tan*

A deeply spiritual experience, akin to stepping into the bible. The biblical verses I had read countless times before felt more intimate and poignant, as if the Word had come to life before my eyes. Carrying the cross on the Via Dolorosa was the highlight of my pilgrim journey. I was struck by how Jesus took the burden of our sins upon himself. I came away from this pilgrimage humbled, and with a renewed sense of my identity as a child of God. - *Stephanie Seet*

The pilgrimage was truly an eye- and heart-opener for me every step of the way. - *Jimmy Ho*

Find more testimonies about their trip and more on our website www.sfxchurch.sg/making-disciples/

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 infantbap@sfxchurch.sg.

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. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

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