



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Choose Life!

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
30 September 2018

Num 11:25-29
Jm 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-43, 47-48

We often hear others say that they had no choice in making a particular decision. Most of the time, if not always, "I had no choice" is really a way of justifying a decision made, rather than there being absolutely no options at all. Granted that not all options will be palatable or to our liking, invariably there will be some options from which we make a choice. Our ability to make a free-will choice in every situation, is one of the greatest gifts of love that God has bestowed upon man. Some may seek to trample upon our free-will, whilst some may allow others to influence it. But ultimately, we ourselves make a choice - for good or bad; moral or immoral.

Free-will gives rise to the possibility of a person choosing either to love or to sin against God. Of the two categories of sin - venial and mortal (see CCC1854-1863 for definitions), the latter results in a loss of charity and removes us from a state of grace, which causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell (CCC1861). The seriousness of mortal sin is highlighted in the gospel reading today, where Jesus uses hyperbole to make his point that we must do whatever it takes to avoid sin, in order to avoid the consequences of sin, which is eternal damnation. For example, if we engage in a particular relationship or lifestyle that brings us temporary pleasure and/or joy on earth but causes us to commit mortal



"The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple"
Psalm 18:7

sin, Jesus is telling us that we should cut out that relationship or lifestyle, so that we can avoid sinning. Or if owning vast amounts of material wealth causes avarice, it would be better to give that wealth away to good causes, rather than allow wealth to poison our hearts.

Jesus also makes special mention of those who cause others to sin (Mk 9:42). In this verse, the Greek verb "skandalizo" is used, referring to what causes one to stumble into sin. It is from this Greek word that the words "scandal" and "scandalize" come from. The Church defines scandal as an attitude or behaviour which leads another to do evil, and the person who gives scandal becomes his neighbour's tempter (CCC2284). Once again, such is the gravity of scandal that Jesus pronounces a divine judgement that it is better for such persons to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone around their necks!

But we all sin! We want to avoid sin, but sometimes the choices we make do not reflect that desire and we fall into sin. Some fall more easily than others, but eventually, sin gets us (cf Rom 7:15-24). We all sin! So what then is our hope?

Firstly, we must realise that God loves us all unconditionally (even when we

are sinners) and desires all men to be saved (Rom 5:8, 1Tim 2:4). Secondly, our choices may be hard and unpalatable to our earthly desires, but God will always give us sufficient grace to overcome our tendency to give in to temptation (1 Cor 10:13). It will be difficult, but all we have to do is to look to Jesus and choose God. And finally, when all else fails, know that God has given us a way back to him each time we fail to choose not to sin. That way back is in the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation. There are no limits to the mercy of God. All we have to do is to make a choice to accept God's mercy by repenting of our sins and grasping for ourselves the forgiveness and salvation that is freely offered by Jesus himself in the Confessional. (CCC1484).

For all of her history, Israel has experienced this abundant mercy, kindness and guidance of God which is captured in today's responsorial psalm, "The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple" (Ps 18:7). May we, as the New People of God, humbly submit ourselves to God's mercy and continue to joyfully praise him with this psalm.

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Lectors' Ministry has a wide and unique variety of dishes such as Mediterranean Shakshuka and Indonesian Yellow Rice with roasted chicken. They will also be selling an array of household items and knick knacks. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. So do come and support their efforts.

HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, this **Thurs 4 Oct, 8.30pm** in the main church.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 1 Oct at 8pm, Parish Hall**. Praise and Worship followed by LISS 4th Growth Series, a talk on 'Gift of Discernment of spirits' by Philip Kok. All are welcome.

ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Tue, 2 Oct at 8pm** in the canteen. We welcome anyone who wants to rediscover some aspects of our faith and to live it more meaningfully and joyfully.

If interested, please contact Theresa at 9643 7132.

PRAISE@WORK: MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS

All are welcome and no registration is needed. This will be on **Sat 6 Oct 2018** at Church of Sts. Peter and Paul (Main church). Praise and worship at **2pm** followed by mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Curran. Prayers for healing will be after mass which will end at approx 4pm. For enquiries, please email praiseatworksg@yahoo.com or call 9747 2467.

SFX RETREAT : ROAD TO EMMAUS 6

If your non-Catholic friends ask you how much does God love you, what will your answer be? We can always quote John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

However, how many of us truly understand and experience the full extent of His love? Perhaps it's time that YOU have a personal encounter with Him! Come join us on the Road To Emmaus retreat. Jesus is waiting for you.

Registration booths are set up at the front porch and outside the canteen. Let our friendly Service Team members answer your queries about RTE6. Or sign up online: tinyurl.com/RTE6register

"Many are invited, but few are chosen." -Matthew 22:14.
The good news is YOU are already chosen and called by name!

PERSONALISED CANDLES WORKSHOP

Want to learn a new craft in time for Christmas? Come and learn how to create your own personalised candles. You can learn to create images on candles and transform plain candles into a lovely piece of art in time to use as Christmas gifts or for the home. All materials provided but do bring along a good hair dryer, gloves and a friend to have some fun together! Mark the date - **Sat 13 Oct from 2 to 4.30pm** in the canteen, \$60 per person and all proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund. Please call/whatsapp Irene on 9769 4008 to register.



SiGN'S MISSION TRIP IN DEC

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing the next mission trip to Myanmar in early-mid December (TBC). SiGN will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to continue their friendship with the children there. The key objective is to help the children with their spiritual formation.

If you are keen to join in this Mission or wish to find out more, please contact Anne at 9741 9634 or Thud Chee at 9632 3489 for more details.



MERCY AND MARRIAGE: OUR POPES' TEACHINGS BY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY NETWORK

Critics of Pope Francis have pointed out that the Pope's teaching on mercy in his Apostolic Exhortation "*Amoris Laetitia*" seems to contradict what John Paul II has taught on the moral life. Is this contradiction real and why should Catholics care? Join us to explore this important issue.

The speaker is Mr Andrew Kong, JCL. Andrew has a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of Holy Cross and since 2014, is the Defender of the Bond (Matrimonial) for the Archdiocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal. He is currently a consultant and trainer with more than 30 years of experience in sharing the church's teaching on marriage and family.

This will be on **Tues 16 Oct from 7.30pm-9pm** at CANA the Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street #02-01. Please direct all enquires and register at theology.sg@gmail.com or call Nick at 9784 3682. Do RSVP early as seats are limited.

ACCIRD: INTERRELIGIOUS PANEL ON 'DEATH'

Rabbi Mordechai Abergel (Chief Rabbi of Singapore), Ustazah Lina Salim (Docent, Harmony Centre, Muis) and Sr Theresa Seow, FDCC (Vice Chairperson, ACCIRD) will speak about the meaning and significance of "death" in their respective religions as well as the attendant rituals, rites and customs.

To be held on **Thurs, 4 Oct from 7.30pm-9.30pm**, at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Annex Building Level 3. Please register with your name, parish/organisation and contact number by 1 Oct to gerald.accird@catholic.org.sg

ACMI: PR & COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE NEEDED

Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerants (ACMI), is looking for PR & Communications Executive. Understanding the role and strategy of PR & Communication is key. This role requires a lot of interfacing and interaction with members of ACMI and its various audiences. Ensuring that the social media platforms are always alive and up-to-date with news relevant to the different audiences is important. If you have the calling to be part of this ministry and with the right attitude as Christ the Good Shepherd in your heart, please write to Esther Chia at esther.chia@catholic.org.sg or call +65 6801 7441.

ACF: SAME SEX MARRIAGE TALK

Why can't same sex couples get married? Don't they have the right to love as others do? Check out these questions and more, as Fr David Garcia unpacks the issues surrounding this topic, and challenges us to ask the right questions. To be held on **Sat, 3 Nov 2018 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm** at Auditorium @ Church of the Holy Cross. Love offering accepted. Please register at https://catholicfamily.org.sg/ssm_talk

The Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of the Holy Rosary is October and this entire month is dedicated to the Rosary. The feast day of the Holy Rosary in particular is **7 October** - in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the battle of Lepanto. That battle was the most convincing military victory that proved without a doubt the great power of the Rosary. The month of October is a good time to commit to praying the Rosary everyday. The Rosary will bring great peace and holiness to our life. It is a powerful instrument for conversion. The Rosary is the best method of honoring Mary.

Activities in Our Parish

ROSARY EVERY EVENING

During the month of the Rosary, you may gather with fellow Catholics to **pray the Rosary at the Grotto after evening mass** every day (about 7.15pm on weekdays, 6.45pm on the weekends).

MAP OF PRAYER & ROSARY WALK

In the spirit of evangelization, as it is also the month of mission, do join us on the Rosary walk as well. Just gather in small groups and walk as you pray the rosary. When you're done, please take a marker and highlight the path that you walked in the map found at the canteen (weekdays) or at the front of the church (weekends). If you walked outside of the parish boundaries, just write the name of the area along the sides of the map. Hopefully, we will fill the estate and Singapore with prayer during this month of the rosary. If you wish to follow the parish-organised walks, these will be held from **15 to 21 Oct. Meet at the Grotto after evening mass.**

ROSARY BOOKLETS

With the 4 mysteries, as well as a thematic rosary booklet for specific intentions such as families, vocations, souls in purgatory, pro-life and healing! These can also be found on our **parish website under "resources"** (<http://www.sfxchurch.sg/resources/>) so you can download it and use it for your rosary walks!



Reflection on "New Wine Conference"



Together with a small delegation of SFX parishioners, I attended the New Wine Conference 2018 on 15 September. This annual conference, in its third year running, was organised by the Office of New Evangelization (ONE) and headed by Fr Terence Pereira. It was a first-time experience for me and it certainly was not a celebration of Beaujolais Nouveau (French: first wine of the season).

In fact, the day was dedicated to Pope Francis' newest Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* which means Rejoice and Be Glad, and whose "modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time".

It was an eye-opener for me because I was introduced to a papal document that was written in everyday language for my layman's ears. This holiness to which the Lord calls me to grow is unique and can be done simply through small gestures of perseverance, patience and meekness, joyfulness & humour, boldness, passion, community and prayer. The text suggests many how-tos even for a housewife like me. For example, be holy by loving and caring for your husband, by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus.

Because we can only accomplish all this by God's grace, Pope Francis stresses the importance of unceasing prayer, sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, the offering of personal sacrifices, devotion and seeking spiritual direction. Yet he also cautions us to be alert spiritually by staying vigilant and really discern about our unique mission in life.

As I thought about our parish embarking on its year-long renovations, I pray that our parishioners will likewise renovate their hearts and minds to respond to the Holy Father's call to holiness.

- *Samantha Kuntaryo*



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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 infbaptism@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