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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

The King's Confession

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
25 Nov 2018

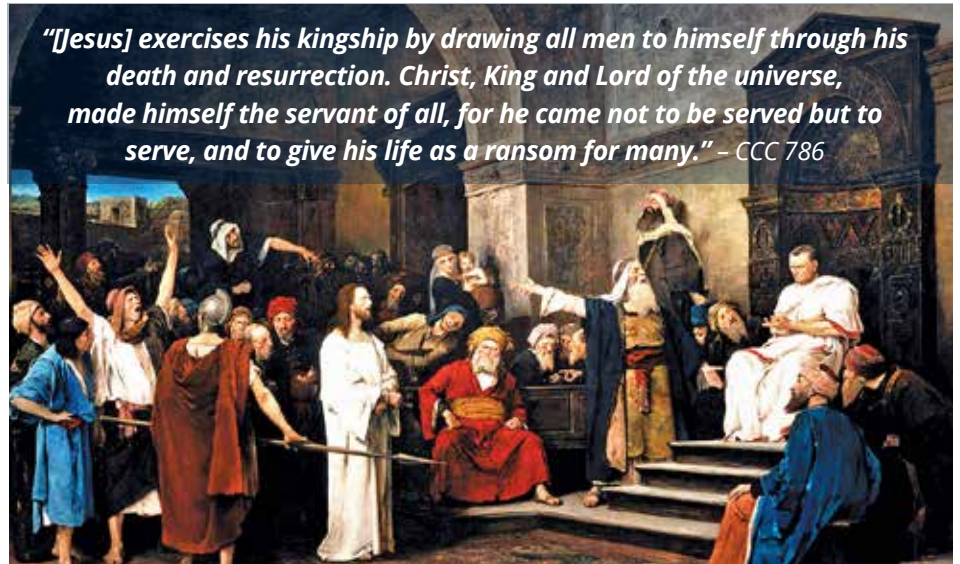
Dan 7:13-14
Rev 1:5-8
Jn 18:33-37

"Yes, I am a king," Jesus confesses
(Jn 18:37).

This conversation between Pilate and Jesus, found only in John's Gospel, is a 'confession' in both senses of the word. First, it is a statement that unequivocally sets out an essential religious doctrine that Jesus is King. Second, in a time when the fully human and fully divine nature of Jesus presented an utter novelty, it is an admission that proves Jesus' 'guilt': to the Temple aristocracy, Jesus had blasphemed and therefore had to die.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI points out in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, the Jews' accusation that Jesus claimed to be king was a serious one. During that time, regional kings like Herod had to be legitimated by Rome, who defined and limited their sovereignty. Conversely, claims to kingship without Rome's support threatened the *Pax Romana*, which justified the death sentence.

To Pilate, however, Jesus' confession was a conundrum. As Roman Governor, Pilate's job was to keep the peace and to quell rebellions. But perhaps the most glaring point of Jesus' confession was what his kingship is *not*: "[His] is not a kingdom of this world." Jesus had no legions and had instigated no uprisings. In other words, Pilate had nothing that



"[Jesus] exercises his kingship by drawing all men to himself through his death and resurrection. Christ, King and Lord of the universe, made himself the servant of all, for he came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - CCC 786

could incriminate Jesus because Pilate knew that Jesus posed no risk to law and order.

In this scene, Pilate thus stands in stark contrast to Jesus. Pilate represents classical worldly power; Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Pilate is about to commit a crime; Jesus is the 'criminal'. Pilate knows the truth; Jesus is the Truth.

At a deeper level then, beyond the problem of what to do with Jesus, Jesus' confession challenges Pilate's *raison d'être*. While Pilate derives his authority from power, Jesus' kingship is rooted in truth. As Jesus declared to Pilate, "I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice."

Reflecting on the relationship between truth and power is particularly apt in today's world. We have backpedaled from an age of enlightenment to an age of post-truths, from information to disinformation. As academics such as Jason Stanley wrote in *How Fascism Works*, "A fascist leader can replace truth with power, ultimately lying without consequence."

Indeed, history has shown that tyrants and dictators have always subordinated truth to power, and in fact, wielded power by concealing truth. So did the Sanhedrin when they ignored Jesus' divinity; so did Pilate when he washed his hands off the blood of Jesus' humanity. The conviction of Jesus is thus, ironically, an indictment of both the Jews' spiritual authority and the Romans' worldly authority.

Instead, Jesus' kingship and authority is rooted in the truths of his life, death, and resurrection. As CCC 786 states, "[Jesus] exercises his kingship by drawing all men to himself through his death and resurrection."

For us Christians, we do not want to wash our hands off Jesus' blood; like our Second Reading states, we want our sins to be washed away by it. Not because we participated in the Crucifixion of our king, but because we participated in his Passion. And then perhaps, when we come face to face with God, we would have been "washed white by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:14).

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

Angels of Manna will be running the canteen this weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come down for some makan and fellowship.

LAST DAY OF CATECHISM

The last catechetical session for the year will be on **Sun 25 Nov**, the Feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the Liturgical Year. Catechism sessions for next year will resume on **Sun 20 Jan 2019**. For all new registrations/queries for our Catechetical Programme please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg. Have a blessed Advent and Happy Holidays!

URGENT VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) urgently needs pro bono tuition teachers immediately and into 2019 for two Sec 4 students in Maths, Science and Chinese subjects. Please contact Anne Veloo at 8608 7857 if you wish to provide this free service to our friends-in-need, even if only for **Nov & Dec** so that these students can catch up when school re-opens.

SALE OF PARISH TEE SHIRTS

New parish tee shirts will be on sale after all weekend masses, so do check out the new parish tee shirt design and get yours quick! All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.



TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY 2018
THANKSGIVING
REMEMBERING OUR BLESSINGS

25 NOV (SUN)
MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING
Confession 1.15PM, Mass and Anointing 2PM
Forms available at Parish Office. Registration closes 11 Nov

Celebrant: Fr Romeo Villavicencio (Philippines)

29 NOV (THU) RECALL our God moments TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	30 NOV (FRI) REFLECT on God's faithfulness TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	1 DEC (SAT) RECHARGE with a Mission TRIDUUM MASS 5.30PM
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2 DEC (SUN) FEAST DAY
RENEW in discipleship
5PM* FEAST DAY MASS, with His Grace Archbishop William Goh
7, 9, 11AM SUNDAY MASS + CELEBRATORY MEALS*
*Blessing of PPC/NCC/SCC Leaders at 5pm Mass *after Morning Masses only

FEAST DAY DINNER **SOLD OUT!** Serangoon Garden Country Club
7PM, Tickets at \$45 per person

We would like to humbly appeal for your generosity for **donations and/ or sponsorship of prizes** for our Feast Day lucky draw! Please do contact Patrick at 9616 6663 if you would like to lend us your support.

CATECHISM 2019 REGISTRATION

Please take note that due to renovations next year, the venue for catechism will be at **CHIJ (Our Lady of Good Counsel)** on **Sundays** and timings will be as follows:

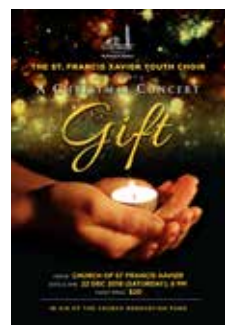
Nursery to L4 (Pri 4): 1.30pm - 3pm

L5 (Pri 5) to L10 (Sec 4): 3.15pm - 5pm

For any enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY SFX YOUTH CHOIR

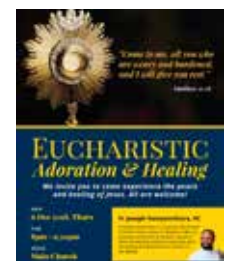
Our very own Youth Choir is putting up a Christmas concert on **Sat 22 Dec, 8 pm** at SFX! Titled "Gift", our Youth Choir will showcase and harmonise their beautiful voices to the tunes of our all-time favourite hymns and carols. Come and support them and get your tickets today! Bring your family and friends too, for an evening of music and fellowship! **Tickets are priced at \$20 each**. For ticketing enquiries, please contact Thud Chee at 9632 3489 or Melissa at 9363 6516. All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & HEALING

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

Come experience the peace and healing of Jesus on **6 Dec at 8pm** in the main church. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Drop by the Christmas Bazaar on **Sun morning, 25 Nov** with your hungry tummies! Held outside the Parish Office, delicious desserts like apple pies, brownies, cookies, cakes, pineapple tarts and more will be on sale! All these mouthwatering goodies are homemade and baked with love! Also, do look out for specialty French food products too!

Also, if you missed last weekend's Christmas Bazaar, fret not. There are some items that we are specially bringing back just for you! There's definitely something for everyone, so do drop by. All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.



CHRISTMAS ICED COOKIE DECORATION

This Yuletide season, surprise and delight your loved ones and friends with the gift of iced cookies! Learn the art of making beautifully iced cookies to present as a dessert or snack or even as personalised gifts. Create your own patterns, messages and customise your creations! In this 2-hour session on **Sat 8 Dec, 10am - 12noon**, you will learn how to make icing with the correct consistency, how to add colour and be equipped with some basic piping skills.

Take home a cookie recipe and a set of 4 cookies that you have personally piped in the session! *As there will not be baking on site, please note that cookies will be pre-baked and pre-cut but the demonstration will be done and recipe shared.* The cost for this session is **\$80**, do register and make payment at the Parish Office during office hours. Registration closes on **Sun 2 Dec**, or when all slots are taken up, so do sign up soon! All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.

ONE: ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE) has produced a reflection booklet for the season of Advent to Christmas in English, Mandarin and Tamil.

The advent theme is "Watching & Active Waiting in Communion"; and the Christmas theme is "Celebrating in Communion". Grab a copy at the back of the church or download it at bit.ly/one-advent-2018



PIETA SINGAPORE

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our monthly session is on every **4th Tues of the month, 7.30pm - 9.00pm** at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8, and the next one would be held on **Tue 27 Nov**. For more info, please email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or find the group on Facebook at: <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>

BOOK OF PSALMS: BIBLE STUDY BY ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE

Come and learn more about the Book of Psalms, the only book apart from the four Gospels which is used in every mass. Over the course of 16 weeks, the bible study sessions are run by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate and taught by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD. Held **every Tue, 22 Jan 2019 - 28 May 2019** from **9.30am - 11.30 am** at 2 Highland Road, #03-17 CAEC Building, S549102. There is a discount if you register early! For more info, please email: aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg and register at <https://goo.gl/forms/ooXUGzFcXAD5gpG63>



Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King

On November 25, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in which we recognise the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of the cosmos. It is fitting that the feast celebrating Christ's kingship is observed right before Advent, when we liturgically wait for the promised Messiah (King).

Unlike secular royalty, Christ's kingship is one of humility and service. Jesus said: "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognise as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45).

The Feast of Christ the King is, as Catholic feasts go, a relatively recent one. It is to remind Catholics (and the world generally) that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Universe, both as God and as Man.

Pope Pius XI announced the feast in his encyclical *Quas Primas*, which was delivered on December 11, 1925. At the end of the encyclical, he declared that he expected three "blessings" to flow from the celebration of the feast.

First: "Men will doubtless be reminded that the Church, founded by Christ as a perfect society, has a natural and inalienable right to perfect freedom and immunity from the power of the state";

Second: "Nations will be reminded by the annual celebration of this feast that not only private individuals but also rulers and princes are bound to give public honor and obedience to Christ";

Third: "The faithful, moreover, by meditating upon these truths, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal."

How is the date of the Feast of Christ the King determined?

In *Quas Primas*, Pope Pius XI established the celebration of the feast "on the last Sunday of the month of October — the Sunday, which immediately precedes the Feast of All Saints." He tied it to All Saints Day because "before celebrating the triumph of all the Saints, we proclaim and extol the glory of him who triumphs in all the Saints and in all the Elect." With the revision of the Church's liturgical calendar in 1969 however, Pope Paul VI moved the Feast of Christ the King to the final Sunday of the liturgical year—that is, the last Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent. As such, it is a moveable feast; the date changes every year.



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: Reopen in Dec 2019

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