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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

**Mission in the
Ordinariness
of Life**

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
27 Jan 2019

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-16
1 Cor 12:12-30
Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

In today's Gospel, Jesus returned to his hometown, Nazareth, where he was known to be Joseph's son, and when he was in the synagogue, he stood and read a passage from the prophet Isaiah that spoke of the mission that he was called to. As we recall our baptism into Christ, we too, are reminded of our mission as Christ's co-workers. It is a mission that is constantly challenged - changes in societal norms, economics, science and technology all pose a challenge to us not only in Christian living but also in fulfilling the mission of evangelisation Christ has entrusted to us.

In 1975, Pope Saint Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Evangelization in the Modern World, that reminded us "She [The Church] exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God ..." As it is written in today's 2nd reading, "But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I do not need you' (1 Cor 12:20-21).

Similarly, everyone in the Church is needed for the mission of evangelisation - the hierarchy (bishops, priests and deacons) as well as the laity (those not in Holy Orders or belong to a religious state approved by the Church - CCC897). In 1965 at the Second Vatican Council, 2,340 bishops voted in support of encouraging and empowering lay Catholics to be more active in lay apostolate through the "Decree on Apostolate of the Laity", *Apostolicam Actuositatem*. The Decree affirmed that the laity and the Apostles of Christ share the same mission even though there are diverse ministries, "... Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world."

The mission that Christ has entrusted to us may appear to be insurmountable, but Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who is the patron saint of missions, has developed a simple formula of living this missionary call. She once shared that, "picking up a needle out of love can save the world" and in fact, she went on saying that we do not have to accomplish exceptional things but certainly can express ourselves through the ordinariness of life.

In our daily and ordinary life, as social beings, it is almost inevitable that we will somehow interact with someone. Our way of expressing

*"Picking up a needle
out of love can save
the world"*

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux



our thoughts through words of blessing another person can make an impact on his life. In the late Father Henri Nouwen's book, "Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in the Secular World", he wrote that the word, "blessing" comes from the Latin word, *benedicere*, which literally means, speaking (diction) well (bene) or saying good things of someone. He continued that to affirm another "is more than just a word of praise or appreciation; it is more than pointing out someone's talent or good deeds; it is more than putting someone in the light... To give a blessing is to affirm, to say 'yes' to a person's Belovedness...A blessing goes beyond the distinction between admiration or condemnation, between virtues or vices, between good deeds or evil deeds. A blessing touches the original goodness of the other and calls forth his or her Belovedness."

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Mother's Prayer and Infant Baptism Groups are running the canteen this weekend. Please support them by coming down for some makan and fellowship.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 28 Jan, 8pm - 10pm** at the **Parish Hall**. Praise and Worship followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Tom Curran. All are welcome.

BLESSING OF CANDLES (2 FEB)

There will be the blessing of candles on **Sat, 2 Feb 6.30am mass only** for the feast of the presentation of the Lord. Place them on the table in front of the sanctuary before Mass starts.

SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers and Sacristan Ministry are selling Chinese New Year cookies this weekend, **26/27 Jan**. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Come and give them your support!



THANK YOU FROM CHILDREN'S LITURGY (CL)

We would like to acknowledge and send our heartfelt thanks to Grace, Lauren, Naomi and Gerald (L6s), Darryl (L9), Ashleigh (L10), Gabby (script creator and director), parents and children who participated in CL sessions, CL members and their children who acted, helped and made our two Christmas pageants special!

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS

Mon 4 Feb (CNY Eve):
6.30am and 4pm (*No evening mass*)

Tue 5 Feb (CNY Day 1):
8.30am and 10.30am (*No evening mass*)

Wed 6 Feb (CNY Day 2):
8.30am only

ACF: SYMPOSIUM ON DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT BY FR TERENCE PEREIRA

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is collaborating with the Archdiocesan Tribunal to help Catholics understand the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment on **Sat 16 Feb** from **9am - 1pm (includes 1 tea break)** at **Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, St Peter's Auditorium (2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102)**. Contribution: Love Offering. Do register at: <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/dsa>

COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Join us on **22 to 24 Mar** at our stay-in Catechetical L10 retreat 2019! We're looking for young adults and youths who can facilitate, help in logistics or intercede for the participants.

In preparation for the camp, we'll get together to pray, fellowship and learn on **12 Feb, 2 Mar and 16 Mar**. If you have the interest and excitement in your heart, do not hesitate and join us today!

Contact Renae at 9060 4326 or Sarah at 9819 7559 to find out more.

LANDINGS: WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

The 2019 Landings programme will commence at Church of the Holy Spirit on **Mon 4 Mar** and Cathedral of the Good Shepherd on **Thu 25 Apr**. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register. Registration closes on **Mon 18 Feb** (for programme in Church of the Holy Spirit) and **Thu 18 Apr** (for programme in Cathedral of the Good Shepherd).

An evening of Returning Stories will be held on **Fri 22 Mar** at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. You will hear stories of Catholics returning to the church – of their struggles, challenges, grace and reconciliation. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg.

RCIY Retreat: A Testimony of God's love

Tammy Liu reflects on the recent RCIY retreat.

This is my second RCIY retreat. At my first, I had confidently said 'yes' to following Jesus, but quickly settled back into the regime of working life. As I walked into this second retreat, I felt slightly ashamed that I have been wishy-washy about my spiritual journey.

I have been feeling a lot of unhappiness and self-doubt at work, with 2019 off to a bad start. Although good friends tell me that all that is needed to overcome those times of defeat is to know and remember that Jesus loves me regardless, I still couldn't help but wonder, "Has God forsaken me? Why is he "punishing" me?"



One of the befrienders shared how suffering is not a stage, but a perspective. How true! Another shared how our relationship with God will never be perfect because of sin and our inherent weaknesses. We are forever works-in-progress, but like the woman at the well, we can receive 'living water'. God's graces will be given so long as we genuinely desire to know him and to let him into our lives.



RCIY retreat, where participants took time to reflect on how God has been instrumental in their lives.



I reflected on my major life episodes and realised that I was never alone during times when I felt most abandoned. Instead, God had been protecting me through the support of caring friends and family (and I've never noticed). I realised certain things happened at timings that were 'perfect' for me – and I knew that it was all God's doing. I was overwhelmed to know that there is a great God and Father who cares for all the small details of my life and was always there for me. He has planted people at different times for specific needs, all whom has been instrumental in pulling me out of the dark times. During worship on the second night, I was completely overwhelmed by the words and I couldn't stop crying as I was so awed by God's wondrous ways and promises to never leave us in the lurch. All I felt that night was love – pure and total love – and those tears of joy were my gift back to Him.

This second retreat helped grow my faith. I walked into it burdened, but emerged thankful and blessed for being so loved by God. Nothing at work or in life has changed, yet I feel happier and more at peace, knowing that even though my life is imperfect, it is beautiful and I feel safe in his hands!



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



RC1Y participants taking time to retreat with God.



JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

Follow the path to Jesus.



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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