



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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The Name of God

3rd Sunday of Lent
24 Mar 2019

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk 13:1-9

Names have power. Right from the beginning of Creation, Genesis tells us that Adam gave names to all the living creatures. In doing so, Adam identified and recognised each creature in their entirety. In ancient times, a name was thus more than a descriptor. A name was an entity's very being.

The Old Testament is replete with such examples. Just as they were about to leave the Garden of Eden, Adam gave the woman the name 'Eve', meaning 'giver of life', for she alone could give birth and mitigate the mortality that had befallen them. Later on, God changes Abram's name to Abraham to show that he shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. He changed Jacob's name to Israel after the latter had wrestled with the angel.

In our First Reading for this week, Moses encounters God in the burning bush. When Moses asks God what he should tell the Israelites should they ask him what God's name is, God reveals his personal name, which in Hebrew, is composed of the consonants 'YHWH' (as most vowels are not written). Among the Jews, it was forbidden to pronounce these four consonants, sometimes known as the Tetragrammaton, for fear of blaspheming God's name. As such,



"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world."

John 17:6

most English bibles use 'LORD' in place of the Tetragrammaton.

Alongside God's revelation of his personal name, God also says that Moses should call God: "I Am who I Am," and to say to the Israelites that "I Am has sent me to you." In other words, the Tetragrammaton can be interpreted as 'I Am' (Ex 3:14).

Against the Old Testament context of the significance of names, what are we to make of God's cryptic answer to Moses?

First, God designates himself as the "I Am." He just is, without any qualification. To prescribe any other name or to describe him in any other way would be to circumscribe him.

Second, the prerequisite of addressing a person is knowing that person's name. Thus, in revealing his personal name to Moses, God has allowed himself to be invoked. In giving his name to his people, God has empowered them to call him, to address him, to communicate with him. He has entered into communion with Israel.

This self-gift brings us to the third point: the revelation of God's name that began in the burning bush is completed in the Cross. In Jesus' high-

priestly prayer (Jn 17:6), Jesus declares that he has "manifested [God's] name" to the men that God had given to him. In doing so, Jesus thus presents himself as the new Moses, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI writes in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*.

Thus, we arrive at Jesus himself, whose very name (*Jeshua*) means 'YHWH is salvation'. In the passage (Mt 1:21) where the angel of the Lord names Mary's child, the angel explains Jesus' essential mission inherent in his name: Jesus will save his people from their sins.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus' key message is for people to repent from their sins. Similarly, St Paul warns the Corinthians in the Second Reading to avoid the "wicked lusts for forbidden things" and to be "careful that [they do] not fall". For even as God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, the Israelites' sins resulted in "their corpses litter[ing] the desert".

As we enter deeper into the Lenten season, let us remember that repentance and seeking forgiveness for our sins are the foundation for true healing and the only way for the fig trees of our lives to bear good fruit.

Announcements

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

SFX COLUMBARIUM NOTICE

Renovations in the Columbarium will commence from Wed 1 May.

The remains of loved ones will be treated with respect and each block will be covered with protective material. To prevent damage and loss, please temporarily remove all loose/protruding items **such as flowers, ornaments, rosaries by Sun 21 April**. After this date, all such items will have to be removed and disposed by the church. We seek your kind understanding and cooperation.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

8pm on Fridays, followed by Mass at **8.30pm**. * *There will be no mass at 6.30pm*

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This Lenten season, the Children's Liturgy Ministry is inviting all children to come and spend an hour with the Lord. Come and join us on **Sun 31 Mar at 3.30pm** in the **main church** as we journey with Jesus on his way to Calvary. Parents and adults are all invited!

CALLING ALL SFX CER ALUMNI

SFX has been chosen for a parish CER from **6 - 10 Nov 2019**. We are calling for all SFX parishioners who have experienced CER to step up to serve in the following areas: F&B, intercessory prayer team, Praise & Worship and many more. Registration will take place after all masses this weekend at the Church entrance foyer and Parish Centre foyer. Alternatively, you can also register online via tinyurl.com/SFXCERManpower.

Let us put our hands on the plough to till the soil of SFX together and Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord! More details on the retreat will be given soon.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN SERANGOON DISTRICT

Wed 3 Apr - Church of St. Vincent de Paul
Thu 4 Apr - Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mon 8 Apr - Church of the Transfiguration
Tue 9 Apr - St Anne's Church
Wed 10 Apr - Church of St Francis Xavier
Thu 11 Apr - Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

CHARITIES WEEK 2019

The season of Lent is the time when the Church conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2019. Your donation will provide much needed funding to support Caritas Singapore in serving diverse and marginalised groups including low-income families, youths-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and also people with mental health problems. Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. It will enable our Catholic charities to further their cause and do more to help our brothers and sisters in need.

SFX FAMILY FUNDRAISING WALKATHON

A gentle reminder to complete and return the fundraising cards by **Sun 21 Apr**. Collection is every weekend after all masses. Places for the various routes are still available. Please collect the registration forms and information at the front porch of the church. **Forms should be returned by 21 Apr**.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: REBUILD MY CHURCH, RESTORE MY PEOPLE

Our priests are excited to introduce a new 7-month long parish formation programme that aims to build up our people and rejuvenate our faith! Aligned with our tagline "Disciples making Disciples", the programme seeks to form and grow disciples after the heart of Jesus and to ready us for mission, with practical tools to disciple others!



All parishioners are invited to attend this formation programme. The first module on Discipleship & Prayer will kick off on **Mon 25 Mar, 8 - 10pm** at **Parish Centre, Level 2**. Grab your family and friends and sign up now, at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019!

SFX INDOOR AIR RIFLE SHOOT

The fundraising committee is organising an indoor air rifle shooting event in support of the SFX Renovation Fund. We are still hoping for more to sign up as we need a minimum number to proceed. So don't wait and sign up this weekend. Discover your marksmanship ability and simply have fun! There will be safety briefings conducted on the handling of the air rifle and no prior experience is required. However, participants must be more than 10 years old. Come as a family or with your friends and enjoy the bonding time. Please register at tinyurl.com/y2yyc5l7 by **Sun 24 Mar**. Payment collection will be on **Sat 23 Mar** and **Sun 24 Mar** after each Mass. For enquiries, please contact Alfred at 9822 2695

Date: Sat 27 Apr 2019

Time: 9am – 11.30am

Venue: SAFRA Indoor Air Rifle Range

Cost: \$50 per person

Meeting Point: SAFRA Yishun Lobby @ 9am

CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: CHURCH OUTSIDE CHURCH

For most Catholics, Church means the place that we go to usually on a Sunday. We should become aware at the end of these talks that we, the baptised, the people of God are the Church. The call is to be Church in the working milieu. We should not be afraid to be identified with other Catholics and to form communities in the market place.

Speaker: Fr David Garcia

Dates: 25 Mar, 1 Apr, 8 Apr and 15 Apr (Mondays)

Time: 12.30pm - 1.15pm

Venue: TPI BUILDING, 62 Cecil Street, 6th floor

Register at: tinyurl.com/CPSChurchOutsideChurch

VERBUM DEI: HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - "BECOMING WHAT WE RECEIVE"

Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer.

Date: Sun 31 Mar 2019

Time: 3.15pm - 6pm

Venue: 4 Sommerville Rd

Register: Contact Mark at 9487 0999



PIETA SINGAPORE

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents. We come together as bereaved parents - in prayer, in WORD and in faith. 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 next monthly session (every 4th Tue of the month) is on **Tue 26 Mar, 7.30pm** at **Agape Village**, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit us at facebook.com/PietaSingapore.

Solemnity of the Annunciation

On this day, as we ponder on the Annunciation, let us listen quietly and reverently to what He is telling us, to have courage and to be available to his plan and to always trust in God and in his promises.



The Angelus Prayer

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary..

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary..

And the Word was made Flesh.
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary..

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Every year, on 25th March, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Annunciation, which is exactly 9 months before Christmas. Typically, the Mystery of the Incarnation of Christ is commemorated and celebrated on Christmas. However, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he made a life-changing announcement to Mary, that she would conceive in her womb and bear a son. By Mary's free consent, the Word was made flesh, and hence, Christ was incarnated in Mary's womb.

Thrice within a day, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to direct their focus on Jesus' Incarnation through the recitation of the ancient Marian devotion, the Angelus Prayer. In fact, among all the major religions in the world, Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God became man. Like any other human, Jesus "grew in wisdom and in stature" (Luke 2:52), "wept" (John 11:35), "ate", "slept" (Mark 4:38) etc. Being human, however, does not mean that we can just simply say, 'oh ... it is okay to sin since we are all human.' Yes, as human beings, we have our limitations and weaknesses, but being weak certainly does not give us the excuse to say no to sin. All these are possible only through the grace of God as the Catechism tells us, "Grace is favour, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life...it is in us the source of the work of sanctification" (CCC1996, 1999).

Simplicity. Community. Mission.

- Jeslynn Seah, 30



Through the School of Witness (SOW) 2019, God deepened my call in simplicity, community and mission. When I entered the school, I had been staying in Rome for three months and it took more out of my spirit than I had thought. I was uninspired, confused and lost in a sea of possibilities. I was holding so many things in tension that I was breaking down with decision paralysis.

Simplicity: I had the image of myself alone in the supermarket, my fear turned into panic as I thought: Do I dash down the middle aisle scanning left and right? Or do I simply stay still and let myself be found? I break down from not knowing what to do. But of course, God is there. He is the store owner, the eyes behind the CCTV, the voice on the intercom that says, "Yes, I see you, I have got you". He even sent his son to come sit with me and count cans of tomato sauce while waiting for my family to come get me. God reminds me to just relax and listen, to trust him, to follow him on an adventure I do not know – Simple. However, being simple is not about minimalism. It is about being clear on what the priority is and sticking to the principles that bring you life (Matt 6:33).

Community: One of the greatest joys from the school was the opportunity to pray with people. There was a great power in deep Christian unity as we draw strength from God – our hearts would unite in pursuit of Jesus.

"Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy... he who prophesies speaks to men for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation... strive to excel in building up the church." - 1 Cor 14:1,3,12

Mission: Often, I have served from a place of frustration. Ultimately, God calls me to serve with love. He also gives me great hope that a balanced Christian life that is not marked with burn-outs and frustration is indeed a possibility. He will resolve what he has unearthed if we let him.

New Hope, New Life: God continues to remind me that I am significant to him and sustains me. I need only respond with courage, joy and gratitude. *You say I am loved, when I can't feel a thing. You say I am yours. I believe, Oh, I believe.*



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

20 Feb Onwards,
Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm
Will be closed from **1 Jun - 31 July**

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission 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