



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Growing as a "new creation in Christ"

4th Sunday of Lent
31 Mar 2019

Josh 5:9a, 10-12
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

By virtue of the Sacrament of Baptism, through the waters of baptism, we are not only cleansed of original sin, personal sins and the punishment for sin but our old self has died. We are "born again" (Jn 3:3) to be "a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). By appearance, we may all still look the same after baptism but as we read in today's second reading, God holds none of our faults against us (cf 2 Cor 5:19) – he welcomes us as his "new creation" in Christ (cf 2 Cor 5:21).

We may at times doubt that we have been renewed in Christ as we still fall into sin. The Tradition of the church calls this "concupiscence" – the temporal consequences of sin that remain in the baptised such as suffering, illness, death, weakness of character and the inclination to sin. Even though it is a real challenge to fight against the very thing we do not want to do, there is hope! St Paul has affirmed us, "Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 7:24). Only Jesus Christ can deliver us from this interior struggle of concupiscence as the Catechism teaches us that concupiscence "is left for us to wrestle with, it cannot harm those who do not consent but manfully resist it by the grace of Jesus Christ"

(CCC1264). The Holy Eucharist is the most powerful source of grace given us to allay concupiscence although our disposition for holiness and virtue is also important (cf CCC1128). If we should fall into temptation, we are urged to rise again through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As illustrated in today's Gospel, in the sacrament of reconciliation, the Father greets our repentance with his loving embrace, and gives us a great celebration! This celebration which we experience at every Eucharistic celebration, affirms our baptismal identity as beloved sons and daughters of a loving father who has made us his own in Christ his Son. Our belovedness is therefore a reminder that we are a "new creation in Christ."

The Saints, through whom God's grace and holiness has been manifested, are among the signs we have of how beloved humanity is. The Saints are our powerful witnesses of Christ's Spirit at work in men and women like us – challenged by concupiscence but able to reject temptation and turn to Jesus instead (cf CCC 688, 2030). In our moments of weaknesses, may their examples inspire us to be open to the Holy Spirit and remain as our Father's filial children.

This newness in Christ is also accomplished by living in community, encouraging one another and building one another up." (1 Th 5:11). St Ignatius of Loyola wrote in his Spiritual Exercises that when we see our brothers or sisters in desolation and tempted, "let him not deal severely and harshly with him, but gently and kindly. He should encourage and strengthen



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him for the future by exposing to him the wiles of the enemy of our human nature, and by getting him to prepare and dispose himself for the coming consolation."

How then do we know if we are living as God's "new creation in Christ"? Today's first reading gives us a clue. When we no longer feel "the shame of Egypt" (Josh 5:9) – the enslavement or addiction to the things that drive the materialistic world – but instead, increasingly find inner freedom and fullness of life in our new land, the New Jerusalem which is the church. Here we have the true Passover sacrifice who is Christ and the unleavened bread of the Eucharist – Jesus' Body, Blood Soul and Divinity (cf Josh 5:10-11, CCC 1374). In deepening our understanding of Christ's gift of newness; participating more fully in the sacramental life of the church; cherishing our Saints; sharing in community life and then inviting others to join us – in these ways, we not only live but also become more fully, our Father's "new creation in Christ".

Announcements

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

HOLY HOUR

Come spend time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 4 Apr, 8.30pm** in the main church.

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, musicians (guitarist, drummer, bassist, keyboardist) 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.

SFX FAMILY FUNDRAISING WALKATHON - 20 MAY

A gentle reminder to complete and return the fundraising cards by **Sun 21 April**. Collection is at the front porch after every weekend mass. There are easy, intermediate and challenging walking routes for everyone. So sign up for a fun family activity!

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. 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 invited too!

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

8pm on Fridays, followed by Mass at **8.30pm**.
Please note that there will be no mass at 6.30pm.

SFX COLUMBARIUM NOTICE

Renovations at the SFX Columbarium in the basement of the parsonage will commence from **1 May 2019**. Please be assured that the remains of your loved ones will be treated with dignity and respect during the renovations. The niches will be covered with styrofoam and wood for protection. As loose items such as flowers, ornaments and rosaries may be dislodged or damaged during this process, we sincerely request that they are removed by **21 Apr 2019**. You may reinstate them after the renovations. After 21 Apr, we appreciate your understanding that any remaining loose items will be removed and disposed.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEED THE HUNGRY

Over the last two weekends, you have probably picked up a Lenten box at end of mass to start donations for the Feed The Hungry project. This weekend:

1) Be an ambassador of goodwill

Identify a beneficiary in your neighbourhood, workplace or school. It may be a foreign worker, the lonely or elderly who live on their own, the cleaners or co-workers. Then register your gift bag request (multiple bags/recipients allowed) at the booth at front of the church. The time (on Divine Mercy weekend) and place to collect the bags will be announced later.

2) Volunteers for packing and distribution of gift bags

We are also inviting parishioners to help pack and distribute the gift bags. Make a date with us on **Sat 27 Apr, 9am - 1pm** and **Sun 28 Apr, 8am - 1pm** at the SFX Room, level 2 Parish Centre.

To register as volunteers and for bag requests, please give your name and contact details at the registration desk at the front of church. The forms are also available at the Parish Office.

LENTEN RECOLLECTION BY THE CENACLE SISTERS

Spend a day reflecting and praying the invitations of the Lenten season, to deepen the dispositions in us, not only for this season but throughout the year, and in our daily lives. This retreat will also invite participants to be present to the passion of Jesus Christ.

Date: Sun 7 Apr

Time: 9.30am - 5pm (Mass included)

Venue: St Patrick's House, 490 East Coast Road (behind St. Patrick's Sec. Sch)

Contribution: Love Offering

Register at: www.cenaclemission.com

Rebuilding Church And Spiritual Life

On 15 - 17 Mar, 48 disciples from different ministry and community went for a formation retreat to take stock of their discipleship journey. This prelude the 7-month long parish formation programme, *"Rebuild my Church, Restore my People"*, which aims to grow disciples after the heart of Jesus. The first session in the programme kickstarted on Mar 25, when 200 parishioners came together to hear Mike Arents, Parish Pastoral Executive from Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, share about building a strong prayer life through the Lectio Divina (the



practice of praying and meditating on the scriptures).

Here are some testimonies from participants of the leaders' retreat and Mar 25 session with Mike Arents. Join us in the next formation session on Apr 1 to learn the methods of

prayers. The session, conducted by Lance Ng, Spiritual Director at Kingsmead Centre, focuses on Awareness Examen and Journaling. As our church building undergoes a physical transformation, let us also take time to rebuild our spiritual life and rejuvenate our faith!

Testimonies from the Leaders' Retreat

“I would like to thank God for the wonderful 3 days at the leaders' retreat, discovering his great love and expectations of us as servant-leaders. It also made me aware of my inadequacy and that more is needed to improve oneself and become that intentional disciple before discipling others. I must have more discipline in my prayer life, and 'start to pray my life and live my prayer'. This retreat has opened our eyes to see our discipleship state and to also get to know my fellow brothers and sisters and their struggles in their ministries and communities.”

– *Laura Ong*



“I got to understand myself better and what it takes to be a disciple. I got to understand our SFX Parish's mission of *"Disciples Making Disciples"*, which before the retreat was but only a much-flogged slogan. I got to appreciate how it ties in with Archbishop's vision of a Vibrant Evangelical Missionary Church. I came away charged and resolved to do my part.

Although you may not have been at the retreat, I invite and encourage you all to be open to finding out more about SFX's mission of *"Disciples Making Disciples"*. One of my take-away from the retreat was it is all Christians' Mission to be a disciple and *"Disciples Making Disciples"*. ”

– *Thomas Tan*



Testimonies from 25 Mar session on Discipline of Prayer and Lectio Divina



"It was especially meaningful that the Discipleship Series started on the Feast of The Annunciation, where we celebrate Mary, the perfect disciple's acceptance to God's will in her life. I did not expect an overwhelming response of 200 people, from various ages, ministries and communities. Our sheep are hungry!" - SFX Parishioner

"I am usually not comfortable with praise and worship. But somehow, the praise and worship session went quite well. There were only 2 songs, none of them I knew but I enjoyed learning to sing them. The rest of the session was about acknowledging his love for us, and in return, we praise him! I felt grateful to God for being so loving to me, and the only right response is to praise him." - SFX Parishioner



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