



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Domine Quo Vadis

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
5 May 2019

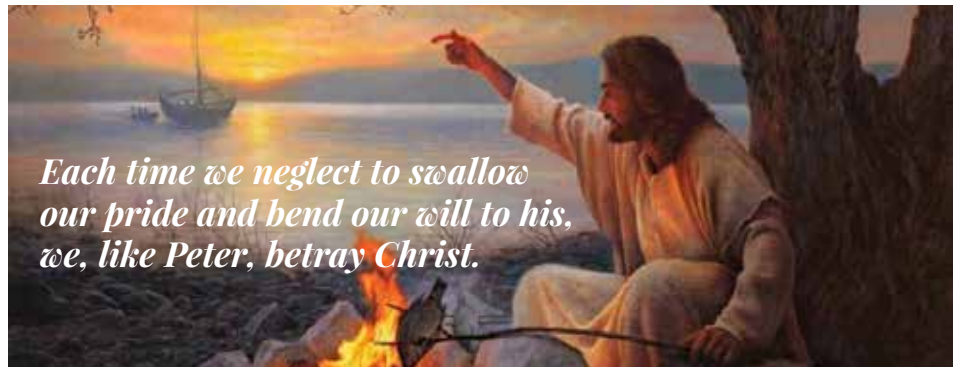
Ac 5:27b-32  
Rev 5:11-14  
Jn 21:1-19

Today's gospel describes this very moment where Peter reconciles with Jesus, mirroring in many ways the parable of the prodigal son (cf CCC 1439). However, in order to fully understand this encounter and how it relates to us, we must first recall why Peter required this reconciliation.

Aside from the crucifixion and death of our Lord, the most moving account in the passion narratives is perhaps Christ's betrayal by Peter. Peter, who was moved by the Holy Spirit to confess Christ as the "Son of the living God"; whose fervour compelled him to ask Christ to wash his entire body at the Last Supper; and whose zeal caused him to cut off a soldier's ear in Christ's defence at Gethsemane.

Indeed, this betrayal comes as a shock not only because it went against his profession of love for Jesus, but also because he denied Christ thrice! When we read of Peter weeping bitterly after, perhaps we too find our hearts weeping for him. Deep down inside we too can identify with the actions of Peter. How many times have we ourselves betrayed Christ despite being 'good Catholics'?

Despite being involved in Church; having 'good' prayer lives; having a 'strong' relationship with him, we, like Peter have betrayed Christ time and time again! Peter's betrayal demonstrates that professing faith



is significantly different from actually living it. Each time we sin, each time we profess doctrines contrary to that of the Church, and each time we neglect to swallow our pride to bend our will to his, we, like Peter, *betray* Christ (cf CCC 1850).

As Christians, we are constantly locked in a cycle of faith and betrayal and hence the example of Peter is especially poignant for us. Unlike Judas who despaired after betraying Christ, Peter, like the prodigal son, returned in humility to seek forgiveness; putting aside his pride to acknowledge his need for Christ. Though "lightly clad" in virtue, Peter did not feel ashamed (cf Gen 3:7, Jn 21:7) to jump into the sea and make an effort to return to Christ with fervour and conviction. After betraying Christ, will we be able to follow Peter's footsteps, or will we let our pride get the better of us?

Reconciliation, however, is not an end in itself but has to result in a renewed conviction to follow Christ (cf CCC 1429). Again, Peter provides us with an example towards the end of his life, echoing the prophecy of Christ at the end of today's gospel. In the apocryphal *Acts of Peter*, we see how Peter, years after this encounter, was fleeing Rome to avoid execution. As he was leaving, Peter saw Christ walking in the opposite

direction towards Rome and asked "Domine Quo Vadis [Lord Where are you going]?" to which Christ replied, "I am going to Rome to be crucified" (Acts of Peter, XXXV).

At this, Peter knew what Christ wanted of him, and putting aside his pride and any possible fear he might have had, he thus followed Christ back into Rome; rejoicing at this imminent martyrdom. Indeed, it could be argued that Peter had good grounds to preserve his life, as the first Pope - the leader of the early Church. Yet he did not let his pride get in his way, letting himself be led by Christ and stretching out his hands to be crucified like Christ on the gibbet of the cross.

In his final act on earth, Peter thus fully redeemed himself on the cross, a cross he tried so hard to avoid years earlier. Reflecting on this, let us always remember that we each have our cross to bear and that in bearing it we share in the sufferings of our redeemer (cf CCC 618). Moreover, when we fail to carry our cross, when we betray Christ, let us always remember not to despair, but to make an effort to return to Christ, who is always on the shore waiting to receive us (CCC 1465). In everything we do, let us thus allow ourselves to be led by the Lord, asking always "Domine Quo Vadis".

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### MAY - MONTH OF MARY

The various ministries will be leading daily rosary at the Grotto:

- **7.15pm** after mass on weekdays
- **6.45pm** after mass on weekends
- **8am** before mass on public holidays

*\*Please note that there is no ministry-led rosary on Ascension - 29 and 30 May.*

### MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS SALE

What better way is there to say 'thank you' to all mothers, grandmothers and the important women in your lives than to show your appreciation with flowers on Mother's Day? **Pick up a nice arrangement next weekend 11/12 May at the front porch!**

1Cor12 community members will be arranging and selling these flowers with all proceeds going towards the parish renovation fund. Come and support their efforts!

### SFX FAMILY WALKATHON - 20 MAY

**Please remember to return all your Walkathon cards and the money collected as soon as possible.** Volunteers will be at church foyer at all masses to collect them, or you may also return them to the Parish Office during office hours. We thank everyone who has helped in raising funds for our church renovations and encourage those who have not signed up for the walk to come for an invigorating morning.

### CHARITIES WEEK 2019

Charities Week 2019 was launched during Lent as part of the Archdiocesan Fundraising Campaign. The funds raised will be used to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family who partners and journeys with the poor and vulnerable including low-income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and also people with mental health problems. Pick up the purple appeal envelope and give generously. All donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction.

*Please note that Charities Week 2019 will close on **Sun 26 May**.*

### FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT

The Feed The Hungry planning committee would like to thank the parish community for generously contributing money, resources and time to support the purchases, packing and distribution of the gift bags. A total of **794** gift bags were distributed to individual parishioners and to larger organisations like Cheshire Home and Anglican Women's Crisis Centre.

**There are still 81 unclaimed gift bags requested by individual parishioners.** *If you have registered for a bag but have not collected, or know of a parishioner who similarly missed collecting too, please approach the Parish Office during office hours. If these gift bags remain unclaimed by end of **Sun 12 May**, they will be passed on to other beneficiaries identified by the planning committee.*

### PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR WORKPLACE AND FAMILY

Struggling to be a witness of Christ in your workplace and in your own home? Come and spend an evening with us as we learn what it means to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world", and bring Christ to all whom God sends us to in our daily lives. Our two speakers, Celine Arents and Anthony Soo, will share with us how they integrate faith in their lives. All are invited!

**Date:** Mon 6 May  
**Time:** 8pm - 10pm (*light snacks will be provided*)  
**Venue:** SFX Main Church  
**Registration:** <http://tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019>

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR YOUTH (RCIY) REGISTRATION

Feeling confused, lonely, aimless and just wanting more from life? Or just curious about Jesus? Come join us on a new RCIY journey with like-minded youth to explore life's meaning and purpose, and discover the bigger plan for your life! Registration forms are available on the SFX website and at the Parish Office. For more information, please contact 8322 1014 (Rebekah) or 9675 5698 (Corinne).

#### 'Come and See' Information Session:

**Date:** Sun 9 Jun  
**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm  
**Venue:** St Francis Xavier Room  
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

#### RCIY Journey:

**Date:** Sun 16 Jun 2019 - May 2020  
(Every Sun)  
**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm  
**Venue:** St Francis Xavier Room  
(Parish Centre, Level 2)  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup](http://tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup)  
or enquire at [rciy@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:rciy@sfxchurch.sg)

### THE POWER OF PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

*"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." - Matt 18:19-20*

Our parish has formed an Intercessory Ministry. Come join us to pray for one another, our families, our priests and religious, our country and the world. ALL are welcome.

**Date:** Every Sat  
**Time:** 7.15am - 8.15am  
**Venue:** SFX Main Church

### ANAWIM

Our next session will be on **Wed 8 May, 8pm** at the **St Francis Xavier Room** (Parish Centre, Level 2). 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.



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

### EVANGELISATION – CHURCH IN AFRICA

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for the continent.

### IN THE MONTH OF APR 2019

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Peter Tan Kiat Boon & Low Bi Hong Angeline

#### CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Chen Chun Meng Adrian
2. McIntyre Clare Gertrude

#### BAPTISM

We welcome the following:

1. Alyssa Danielle Thong Qi
2. Andre Lum Xi En
3. Bernice Louisa Ng Soi Moey
4. Brandon Luke Lai Kah Wai
5. Choo Han Rui Leo
6. Chris Chan Keng Li
7. Dan Tan Fong Seng
8. Daniel Sing
9. Emma Chia Lingxian
10. Emmanuel Carmel Lim Xuan
11. Emmanuel Mohana Prabakar s/o Maniam
12. Eunice Clare Ooi Wan Kim
13. Fabian Dawson Heng Hiang Liang
14. Gabriel James Tay
15. Gan Xiu Ting Selena
16. George Tan Keng Lee
17. Gerlyn Isabelle Cheah Zhi Ning
18. Ian Sing
19. Jennifer Chia Lin Ying
20. Jerome Jairus Jayachandran s/o Doraisamy
21. Joel Phillip Cheung Chun Man
22. Joey Koh See Khee
23. John Gary Tan Zhi Shen
24. Jurene Teo Puay Siang
25. Kay Teresa Lee Qi Ying
26. Kelvin Lim Wee Ho
27. Keson David Tay \*
28. Loh Chee Wee, Christopher
29. Luke Khoo Boo Sun
30. Lydia Koay Saw Choo
31. Mark Bernard Ng Kian Boon \*
32. Michelle Elisabeth Au Poh Yee
33. Nicole Bernadette Soon
34. Nicole Michaela Aw-Yeong Koh Xuan
35. Noel Lim Chun
36. Paul James Chin Kin Wei
37. Philip Chee Chuan Hoe
38. Phriya Zita Darishini Chandrasakaran
39. Rebecca Adela Mettee
40. Rina Tan Phek Leng
41. Ryan Sing
42. Tan Minh Thanh, Ernest Thomas
43. Tan You Qiu Charles
44. Tay Lijun Jophiel Katherine
45. Terence Lucas Sim \*
46. Tham Koun Hao Benedict Desmond
47. Tham Yi En Michael Tyrell
48. Tham Yi Zheng Micah Thaddeus
49. Therese Sandra Lim Seok Hui
50. Vanessa Gabriela Tjong
51. Vivian Sing
52. Walter Dominic Tan \*
53. William Tan Kim Boon
54. Yvonne Chee Siew Kwan

\* Candidates received into full communion

## A Night of Rejoicing and Thanksgiving!

What a joyful and truly blessed night it was, as we finally welcomed our RCIA and RCiY participants into our family of faith during the Easter Vigil. As a community, we also celebrated the reception of four baptised Christians into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Looking back at their RCIA and RCiY journeys, some have shared with us their experiences and encounters with Christ and how these have played a part in their conversion journeys.



*"Growing up in a Catholic school for over 10 years, I was blessed to have been introduced to Jesus and the many wonderful works that he did. But still, I was never a firm believer of him. The only times when I would pray to him were during the dry seasons of my life when I was in most need of help. I never sought to talk to him even with a heart of gratitude when I was finally living happily."*

*The most memorable encounter I had with God was in the RCiY retreat during a meditation session. We were told to look at the cross and it was then that I felt a sense of warmth that flowed within me and an aching in my heart as I realised that Jesus had died on the cross for all of my sins. Suddenly, the statue of Jesus seemed to extend his arms out to me, and I could hear him say, "Give me a drink because I am he, who is speaking to you". I knew at that moment that Jesus was calling me to trust in him wholeheartedly just as he called the Samaritan woman to trust that he who appeared before her was the Lord her God. Going through RCiY was truly God's gift to me and I thank God for this most necessary journey."*

**- Alyssa Danielle Thong**



"Before coming to RC1Y, I found myself searching for purpose and meaning in people and also in myself. I struggled to find my true self as I always compared myself to others all the time. Often, I was consumed with what people thought of me. At my lowest point when I was alone and afraid, I prayed and hoped that God could take away whatever anxiety and struggles I was facing. It was after I received his call that I started searching online and asking my Catholic friends about how I could embark on the journey to know him.



Looking back on this journey at RC1Y, I saw how I slowly opened up my heart to Jesus. I began to look forward to sessions every Sunday and also had my first encounter with him during the RC1Y retreat. As we reflected and adored the cross while the community prayed for us, I was in tears as I felt his presence. Through the group sharings, I realised I wasn't alone and that I had a community that was so supportive. I started showing a side of me that many often don't see, and I was comfortable being myself, speaking my mind and trusting my opinions. Taking this leap of faith definitely wasn't easy for me, but Jesus has opened my eyes to see the goodness of life and the goodness of people, and this has made me a more loving individual. I believe that God has a plan for us and that even through difficult times, we should move forward with faith." - **Nicole Michaela Aw-Yeong**



"Since young, I always had somewhat of a relationship with Christ and more often than not, it was usually in times of hardship and troubles, that I would seek him and pray.

My wife is a Catholic, and the desire to become a Catholic started after seeing my children go through baptism and attend catechism classes. I thought of attending RCIA before but I never submitted the form. Through a divine appointment, I met a friend who was also thinking of attending RCIA, and I took the opportunity to ask him to attend the class together. I recognised indeed that Christ reaches out to us in different and mysterious ways. In the past months, I realised that the final hurdle that freed me to open my heart to Jesus was informing my non-Catholic parents and siblings on my decision to convert. I only came to this revelation during the RCIA retreat where I had time to reflect and unearth what was preventing me from taking the leap of faith. I finally shared it with my family, and was delighted that they respected my decision and gave me their blessings.

I have come to realise that time and time again, Christ has never failed to miraculously show me the way. The path chosen has not always been a bed of roses but looking at where I am today, I'm eternally grateful for the blessings and love that he has shown me and my loved ones. On my baptism day, I was overwhelmed by the number of people congratulating me on entering the faith. Now, it's my duty to share the teachings and love of God so that everyone can join in the heavenly feast that God has prepared." - **Dan Tan**

"My husband and I have been searching for God for a long time. We had been to temples and churches of different denominations. Having spent our formative years in Catholic schools, I wanted to learn more about the Catholic faith and tried to join a church group. Things did not work out, and we thought that perhaps we were not destined to be Catholics.

More than ten years passed and I started working in a Catholic school and was immersed in the Catholic culture again. I shared with my colleagues about my failed attempt to enquire about the Catholic faith and one of them introduced me to SFX's RCIA service team coordinators during the Christmas Fiesta in 2017. When my husband and I first began our RCIA journey, I was alarmed to find out that the journey culminates in baptism and doubted that we would be ready. However, as I listened to the priests and other speakers, I slowly found my doubts disappearing. The group discussions were valuable and I was encouraged to reflect on my feelings.

During the RCIA retreat, the reflection exercises made me question my presence and mission on earth. My perception of the Catholic faith became more focused and clearer during the retreat and most of my prejudices and misconceptions gradually changed. Jesus had spoken to me and I was ready to be baptised. I am still a work-in-progress with many unanswered questions, but I hope to grow my faith by being immersed in the Catholic community, and I look forward to continue my conversations with God and explore my new self." - **Lydia Koay**



For more testimonials from our neophytes, please visit [www.sfxchurch.sg/making-disciples](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/making-disciples)



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://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

## ANOIDTING 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](mailto: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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)