



Disciples
Making Disciples



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A "Risk" for God

4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday/
Vocation Sunday
12 May 2019

Ac 13:14,43-52
Rev 7:9,14-17
Jn 10:27-30

Today marks the 56th Day of Prayer for Vocations. When Pope St Paul VI established this Day of Prayer on 11 April 1964, he urged all Catholics to petition the Lord for a "blossoming" of priestly and religious vocations.

Such a fruitfulness is the sign that we, "the sheep of his flock", truly belong and listen to Christ and follow him (cf Jn 10:27) as Pope St Paul VI pointed out, "Where numerous vocations blossom to the ecclesiastical and religious state... there is a sign that there are fervent and good parents, who not only do not fear, but feel happy and honoured to give their children to [the] Church; there are zealous and faithful priests, for whom the continuity of their priesthood is the first and most important pastoral care program; above all there are generous and open adolescents, pure and courageous who, nourished by Eucharistic life and sensitive to the voice of Christ...desire to one day serve the Church, and to give themselves to souls...to reproduce in himself the features of the Good Shepherd, and faithfully follow his footsteps".

Our Holy Father took up this call to be courageous in his Vocation Sunday message, "The Courage to Take a Risk for God's Promise". He acknowledged that God's call can be met with mixed



feelings, "It is a discovery that can excite and at the same time frighten us...Many kinds of interior resistance can stand in the way...do not yield to fear...Always remember...the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey."

St John Mary Vianney, the Curé of Ars and Patron of Parish Priests, whose 160th "*dies natalis*" we celebrate this August, said this of the priest, "O, how great is the priest! ... If he realised what he is, he would die not of fright but of love... The priest continues the work of redemption on earth...God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host... Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. Who put him there in that tabernacle? The priest. Who welcomed your soul at the beginning of your life? The priest. Who feeds your soul and gives it strength for its journey? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, bathing it one last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest, always the priest." (CCC 1589; B. Nodet, *Jean-Marie Vianney, Curé d' Ars*).

Solitude is a real fear that could prompt resistance to God's call. As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima tomorrow, we are reminded that then 10-year old Servant of God Sr Lucia dos

"The priest continues the work of redemption on earth...God obeys him: he utters a few words and the Lord descends from heaven at his voice, to be contained within a small host..."

~ St John Mary Vianney

Santos had asked our Lady, "Am I to stay here alone?" when she was told that her cousins Sts Francisco and Jacinta de Jesus Marto would go to heaven first. Our Lady in turn assured her, "Do not lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." (Leo Madigan, *The Children of Fatima*)

Sr Lucia later joined the Carmelites, keeping a life of solitude and contemplation. Silence and solitude are necessary for Christian maturing as Carmelite Founder, St Teresa of Avila, advised, "Settle yourself in solitude, and you will come upon God in yourself". Silence is also cherished by Missionaries of Charity Founder, St Teresa of Kolkata, "The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace." These great Saints imitated the Immaculate Heart of Mary in pondering God's will and allowed themselves to be led by the Good Shepherd.

Today, may we be sheep that truly belong to Christ and incline the ear of our hearts to his voice. With the blood of Christ that has inebriated us in Holy Communion, may we pluck up the courage he has given us to "risk" everything and follow him.

Announcements

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

CATECHISM NOTICE

Please do note that there will be **NO CATECHISM SESSIONS** on **Sun 19 May** as there will be an Archdiocesan-wide retreat for all catechists from 18 to 20 May.

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.**

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

All collections taken at Masses this weekend will be for the ongoing formation of Clergy and the expenses relating to the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary.

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 this weekend at the front porch!**

1Cor12 community members will be selling flower bouquets and cards with all proceeds going towards the parish renovation fund. Come and support their efforts!

FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT - BAG COLLECTION

If you have registered for a bag but have not collected, 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.

CONFIRMATION MASS

A total of 55 teens from our church will be confirmed by Archbishop William Goh during the 5.30pm mass on **Sun 19 May**. Please do keep our teens in your prayers for this important sacrament as we pray for the Holy Spirit to descend on all.

"I will put my Spirit in you and you will live." Ezekiel 37:14.

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 the 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. **For those who have signed up for the 6 different routes, we shall be meeting after mass at the church porch at 9am. It would be great if you can join us for mass as an offering.** There will be a 15 min briefing before the buses leave. For any clarification, please contact Roderick at 8138 3611 or email rodericktheseira@gmail.com.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: DISCIPLESHIP & THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian Faith! In it, we find strength for a life of Discipleship. So come listen to module 2 on **28 May, 4 Jun, 11 Jun, 18 Jun (Tues), from 8pm - 10pm** at **SFX Main Church** as Fr JJ Fenelon unravels the importance of the Sacraments and how community can deepen our appreciation for them. All are invited!

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
or enquire at rciy@sfxchurch.sg

SFX INTERCESSORY MINISTRY - NEW!

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.

"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

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

OYP: KICKSTART - UNI FRESHMEN GATHERING 2019

Entering university and wondering how to grow your faith? Looking for a community of fellow Catholics on campus? Join our youths at OYP's Kickstart Freshman Gathering 2019 for a time of prayer, worship, community and encounter!

Date & Time: Sat 22 Jun, 10am - Sun 23 Jun, 6pm
Venue: Office for Young People (2 Lor Low Koon, S536449)
Cost: \$10
Register: <http://oyp.org.sg/kickstart2019>

CANA: FINDING GOD IN LAUGHTER

CANA invites you to an afternoon of comedy - good laughs, good food, good company. FINDING GOD IN LAUGHTER features our own KEITH NEUBRONNER - let him put you in stitches of laughter. Then meet Vicki Quade (Chicago), she has played at Broadway and is known for her religious comedies! They say she is "Holy Impressive!"

Date: 1 or 2 Jun 2019

Time: 1.15pm - 4.45pm

Venue: SFX Training Centre (618 Bukit Timah Rd, S678214),

Cost: \$50 (\$45 if you book before 15 May)

Register: www.canacatholiccentre.com or email canaevents2019@gmail.com or call 9176 8909/6338 4080

ONE: JESUS MARY RALLY 2019

Come and encounter Jesus Christ through Mary our Mother. The programme includes talks, the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Celebration, and Consecration to Our Lady.

Date: Sat 25 May 2019

Time: 2pm - 8pm

Venue: Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (24 Highland Rd)

Speaker: Rev Fr Simon Pereira, CSSR

Register: www.one.org.sg/events

Feed The Hungry Project 2019



"To Become The Eyes and Hands of Christ"

For the 4th year running, members of the parish community gathered on Easter Saturday (27 Apr) for the Feed the Hungry Project. Coordinated by the members and volunteers from the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, this year's Parish Lenten Outreach saw the inclusion of a very special group of people into the list of beneficiaries – the workers who are working behind the scenes to rebuild and renew the physical structures of our parish community spaces. All in all, there were a total of 900 bags to be packed and distributed.

It was a moving sight, truly, to see how this project brought members of the parish community together – it was an opportunity to work side-by-side and get to know other members of this parish community who attend Mass at different times over the weekend. People of different ages, from primary school children to the young at heart, all coming together not only to pack the 900 gift bags with items, but also to fill these gift bags with thoughts and prayers for those who would be receiving them. While there were those packing, there were also those who were opening up the carton boxes and flattening them, as well as replenishing the stocks at the packing tables and moving the packed bags to the counting stations. All in all, the gift bags were packed in record time – all 900 bags were packed in under an hour, all thanks to the efficient, open communication, and the joy of serving from all who were gathered.

Aside from the workers labouring in our parish, the gift bags were distributed to individual parishioners as well as larger organisations such as the Cheshire Home and Anglican Women's Crisis Centre.



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From the bottom of our hearts, we from the Feed the Hungry Project Planning Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude



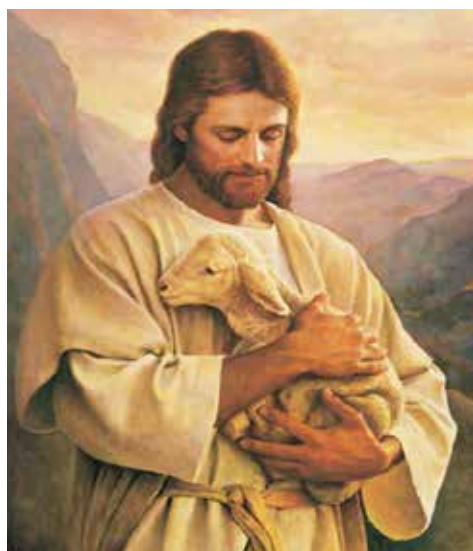
to our shepherds, Fr. Ben, Fr. Don and Fr. Brian, as well as the parish community for so generously contributing your time, resources, as well as donations to support the purchasing, packing and distribution of the gift bags. Such an outreach would not have been possible without the aid rendered by the parish community at large.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because, in each year of the liturgical cycle, on this 4th Sunday of Easter, the Gospel reading is always taken from Chapter 10 of John's Gospel where Jesus refers to himself as the "Good Shepherd".

In the Gospel reading, Jesus says that "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." This highlights an intimacy and a deep mutual bond between Jesus and his flock - which is us, the Church. As the Good Shepherd, not only does Jesus guide his sheep but he also gave up his life so that we can be saved.

This Sunday is also known as "Vocation Sunday" and marks the 56th World Day of Prayer for Vocations instituted by St Paul VI in 1963. On this day, we are especially encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In addition to praying for priestly and religious vocations, we remember also that every one of us is called to a vocation. While for some it may be as a priest or religious, but for all of us, God is calling us to work for the Gospel through our lives.



Prayer for Vocations by Pope St John Paul II

Lord Jesus, as once you called the first disciples and made them fishers of men, continue to let resound today your sweet invitation: "Come and follow me."

Grant to men and women in our day the grace and trust to respond to your voice. Sustain our bishops, priests and consecrated souls in their apostolic work. Give perseverance to our seminarians and to all those living a life of total consecration to your service.

Enkindle in our communities a missionary zeal. Send, Lord, workers into your fields to feed and guide your flock as Good Shepherds in imitation of you.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Model of Vocations, help us to say "Yes" to the Lord who calls each one of us to play our part in his plan of salvation.

Amen



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