



Disciples
Making Disciples



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To Love is to Suffer

5th Sunday of Easter
19 May 2019

Ac 14:21-27
Rev 21:1-5
Jn 13:31-35

Jesus gave us a commandment - "...love one another, just as I have loved you..." (Jn 13:34). Familiarity with this verse can dull our senses, and we then fail to ponder enough about its deeper meaning and its implications. Applying it superficially, we go down the narrow path of only loving those who love us back; those we consider 'lovable'; those who agree with us intellectually and socially. In short, we love without self-sacrifice.

At a deeper level, we are commanded to love one another the way Jesus has loved us. And how did Jesus love us? He loved to the point of voluntarily laying down his life for all the wrongs that we have done, so that we can live eternally in the presence of God, which is our only true and ultimate destiny in life (cf CCC 27). Jesus loved without counting the cost to himself, even when he knew he was going to suffer terrible physical and psychological torture unto death. He loved even his ultimate betrayer, Judas Iscariot. This is evidenced by the fact that at the Last Supper, none of the Apostles knew who it was who would betray Jesus. This implies that throughout his three-year ministry, Jesus never showed nor hinted at any partiality or resentment towards Judas Iscariot. Jesus loved even those who would not love him back. His was a total and unconditional self-sacrificial love for all.



"By this love you have for one another, every one will know that you are my disciples."

- John 13:35

And therefore, if we are to be disciples of Jesus and love as he has loved, then we ought to also love all whom we come in contact with. We ought to love even when it means we are inconvenienced; when the people we love do not love us back. And we ought to love even if it calls for some self-sacrifice on our part. As St. Paul puts it so eloquently, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (cf 1 Cor 13:4-7).

When we strive to love others the way Jesus loved, it will hurt - sometimes we get hurt and other times we 'cause' hurt. Love hurts because our expectations of how others react to the way we love falls short and leaves us unfulfilled. This can happen between persons and within a community, which leads to suffering. And we can experience suffering in many different levels - physical suffering in pain; psychological suffering when we feel a sense of loss; social suffering when we are outcast or shamed; and spiritual suffering when we lose hope and become despondent.

The first reading today helps us to make sense of suffering. Paul and Barnabas taught the disciples that "we all have to experience many hardships (suffering)...before we enter the kingdom of God." This teaching is congruent with what Jesus says about having to carry our cross (a symbol

of suffering and pain) daily, if we are to follow him (Mt 10:38, Mk 8:34, Lk 9:23). While God himself does not cause suffering (we suffer because of our fallen human nature), God allows suffering to happen because he always has a good purpose for it, even when that purpose is not at that moment known to us. God allows suffering because it can awaken our senses to the fact of our sin, our impending death and judgement, our emptiness without God or to help us repent and turn our hearts to God (CCC 1500-1501). Or like Job, God can allow suffering to test us and reveal to ourselves if we love God because he provides for our material well-being or simply because he is God and should be adored and worshipped. God can also use suffering to discipline and teach us humility so that we learn to trust in him (1 Cor 11:32, Heb 12:5-11). And finally, suffering can also be a way we give glory to God by loving him and others even in the midst of our own suffering, and thus participate in his redemptive work.

Those who do not know God view suffering as pointless and cruel. Christians know that suffering opens the way to the glory of heaven. So we love as Christ loved, and we submit to suffering as Christ suffered to redeem us. And if we suffer with Christ, we may also be glorified with him (Rom 8:17).

Announcements

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

CHURCH SAFETY

With our renovations on-going, many parents and children have to cross the carpark near Mother Mary's grotto to get to the lift or stairs leading to the basement carpark.

We urge all drivers to be patient and extra careful when driving out after mass and all parents to be extra vigilant and responsible for the safety of their child/children.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY OBSERVED ON 20 MAY (MON) - VESAK DAY

There will only be one mass at 8.30am and no evening mass.

MAY - MONTH OF MARY

Do join us for 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.*

CATECHISM NOTICE

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. **The last session for this term is on Sun 26 May and term 3 will resume on Sun 30 Jun.**

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the front foyer and Parish Office.

Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More information is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

SFX FAMILY WALKATHON - 20 MAY

Please return your Walkathon cards and the money collected. Volunteers will be at the church foyer at all masses to collect them, or you may return them to the Parish Office during office hours. Buses have been chartered to bring us to and from the different destinations. **Please meet at the church porch at 9am. As there will be mass at 8.30am, it would be great to attend mass together as an offering.** There will be a 15-minute briefing before the buses leave. For any clarification, please contact Roderick at 8138 3611 or email rodericktheseira@gmail.com.

RCIY REGISTRATION

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

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!

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY BOOK N GIFT SHOP

Due to the closure of the Catholic News Book and Media Store, the IHM Book n Gift Shop will be open on Tue to Thu from 11am - 6.15pm, Sat from 11am - 7.30pm, Sun from 8am - 1pm; 5pm - 7.30pm. Closed on Mondays, Fridays & Public Holidays.

PIETA SUPPORT GROUP

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tuesday of the month) is on **Tue 28 May, 7.30pm** at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Contact us via email: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit us at <https://facebook.com/PietaSingapore>.

CTIS: CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY PROGRAMME

Registration is now open for the Certificate in Theology Programme at CTIS for 2nd Semester 2019. Application forms are available from CTIS Office or you can download them at www.ctis.sg. Closing date of registration is **Sat 1 Jun**. For more info, do attend the Info Night on **Wed 8 May** at CTIS or contact 6902 8700.

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 young people 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> or email ryan.oyp@catholic.org.sg

HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR 2019 ROADSHOW

Interested to do overseas volunteer work or go on a mission trip? Come learn more about overseas humanitarian work at the CHARIS Humanitarian Forum & Fair on **Sat 1 Jun, 9am-6pm** at Catholic Junior College. To register via our online form, visit our website at www.charis-singapore.org/hff2019 or call 6337 4119.

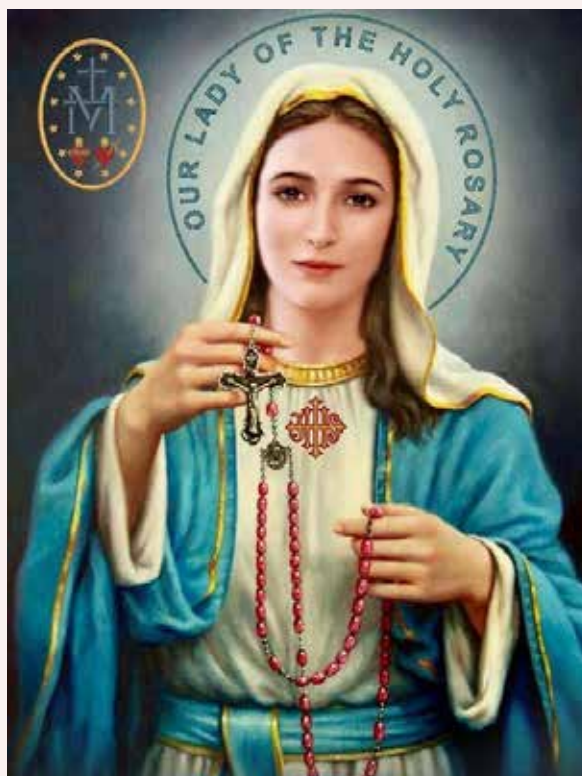
May is Mother Mary's Month

Among Catholics, May is most well known as "Mary's Month," a whole and specific month when special devotions are performed in Mother Mary's honour.

Among the numerous devotions that developed over time was the custom of visiting a Marian shrine, church or grotto. This tradition has inspired numerous saints over the centuries and deepened their love for our Blessed Mother. In May 2017, for instance, Pope Francis made his own pilgrimage to Fatima, paying homage to our Lady on the 100th anniversary of the apparitions.

During this month, most parishes erect a special altar with a statue or picture of Mary; or crown her statue. This is not only to honour her but also to remind ourselves to strive to imitate her virtues in our lives.

We can echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes and small communities. For instance, this month, give Mary a special place in your prayer corner. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her. **Make the time to say the rosary more regularly – by yourself or with fellow Catholics at the sessions held at our parish Grotto.** After all, our Lady has referred to herself as the "Lady of the Rosary".



We honour Mary not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is; or because there are any special graces connected to it, although there are. But because Mary is our Mother, who cares for and tirelessly intercedes for us in even the tiniest of matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

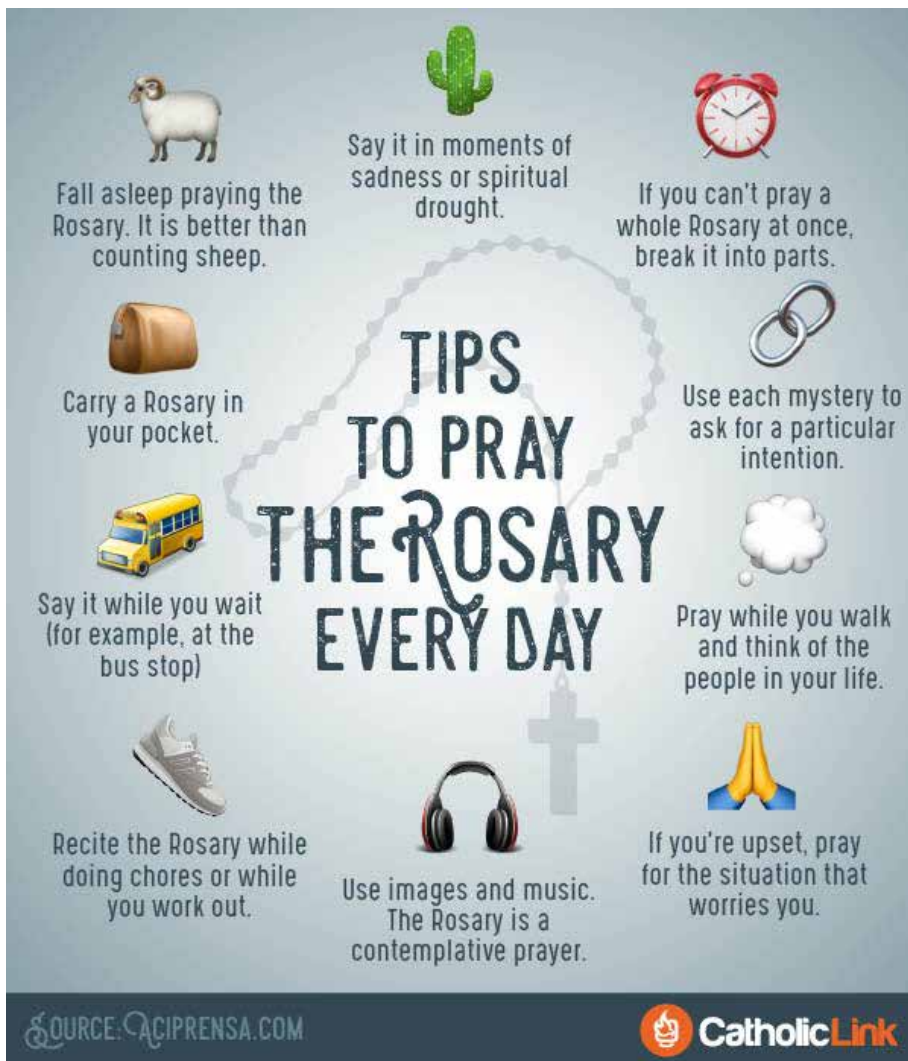
“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

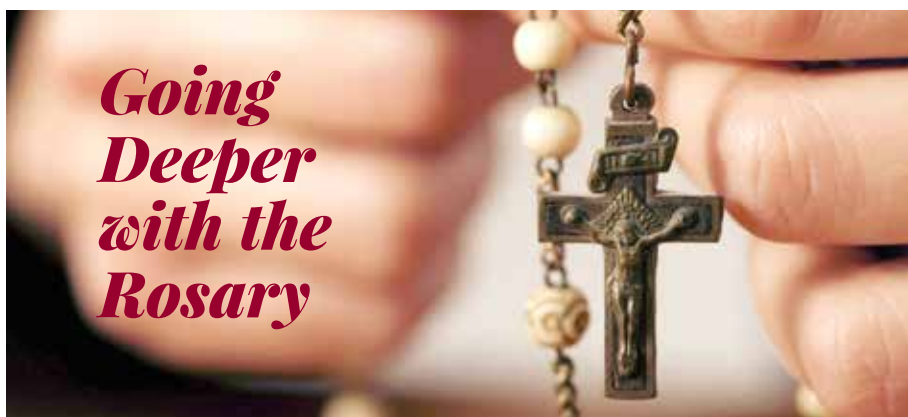




Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!



(From the Catholic-Link resource library)



Going Deeper with the Rosary

The rosary can take us deeper - a lot deeper. When we pray the rosary in its ideal setting, doing a whole set of mysteries, the prayer can slow us down, calm our hearts, and enable us to rest in God's presence. It draws out the deepest desires in our souls, desires for God and God alone.

The rhythm of the repetitious prayers can have a profound spiritual effect. In this, it is much like the traditional *"Jesus Prayer"* many early Christians recited: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* They would slowly repeat these words over and over again throughout the day, such that the rhythm of this prayer was linked to the rhythm of their breathing. In the same way, the repeated prayers in the rosary help us get more in touch with the deepest desires in our souls for God.

(Adopted from <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/why-pray-the-rosary>)

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