



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Of Farewells and Greetings

6th Sunday of Easter
26 May 2019

Ac 15:1-2, 22-29
Rev 21:10-14, 22-23
Jn 14:23-29

This Sunday's gospel text is taken from what biblical scholars call Jesus' Farewell Discourse—Chapters 14 to 17 in the Gospel of John. In this series of texts, Jesus addresses his disciples just after the Last Supper but before his Passion begins at the Garden of Gethsemane.

But liturgically, we are in Eastertide. Why, then, is our Sunday Gospel from the Farewell Discourse?

Let us first re-visit Easter itself. On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples had locked the door of the room that they were in, for fear of the Jews (Jn 20:19). They had given up everything to follow Jesus; now that he had died, they doubted and feared.

But Jesus entered through the locked doors, stood among them and in the midst of their fears, and greeted them, "Peace be with you." After showing them his hands and side, he said to them again, "Peace be with you."

In Jewish tradition, greeting another with *shalom* is common enough. However, the peace that Jesus' appearance brings is wholly unique. It is a peace borne out of the knowledge that the Lord is risen and that our salvation is in Him. It is a peace that Jesus bequeathed his disciples even before his Passion began in Gethsemane —

"a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you" (as per this Sunday's gospel).

Easter thus fulfills Jesus' promise in his Farewell Discourse. In then-Pope Benedict XVI's address at St Peter's Square in April 2012, he said, the "common greeting... now acquires new significance because it brings about an inner change; it is the Easter greeting that enables the disciples to overcome all fear... By then it was obvious that it was not only a greeting. It was a gift, *the* gift that the Risen One wants to offer his friends [emphasis in original]."

Another element ties Jesus' Farewell Discourse and his post-resurrection greetings together. In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus promises his disciples that his Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. In Jesus' first appearance to his disciples, he breathes

on them and says to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 20:22)

Just as Elijah recognised the Lord in the gentle whisper (see 1 Kgs 19:12), so have the masters of discernment counseled that peace is a mark of the Holy Spirit. In *Weeds Among the Wheat*, Thomas Green S.J. wrote that the Lord "always speaks in peace." This is a peace that indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit, a peace that arises from doing God's will, a peace the world cannot give.

As we prepare for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, let us remember that the Holy Spirit is present in our lives, even as Jesus is no longer physically with us. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, bringing about the peace that the world cannot give. Let us find that peace in the Risen Lord, and in knowing that our salvation is in him.



"[Jesus' greeting of peace] is a common greeting but it now acquires new significance because it brings about an inner change; it is the Easter greeting that enables the disciples to overcome all fear. The peace that Jesus brings is the gift of salvation that he had promised in his farewell discourses: "peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
General Audience at
St Peter's Square, 11 April 2012

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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD 30 MAY - DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass on 29 May (Wed)

8pm (Please note there is no 6.30pm Mass)

Masses on 30 May (Thu)

6.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm

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

The **last session** for catechism will be on **Sun 26 May**. Sessions for all levels will **resume on Sun 30 Jun**. Have a restful mid-year break.

LIFE DIRECTION SINGAPORE: TENDING THE HOLY

Come and discover how to live a more fully integrated life, "Becoming Fully Alive" and "Growing through Difficult Times" at a spiritual direction symposium organised by Life Direction Singapore, led by Fr Matt Linn, SJ.

Date: Sat & Sun, 8 - 9 Jun

Time: 9am - 6pm daily (ending with Pentecost mass on 9th)

Venue: Assumption Pathway School, Auditorium

Register: tinyurl.com/tth2019 or call 9101 0747 or email tendingtheholy@lifedirectionsingapore.sg

SFX FAMILY WALKATHON CARDS

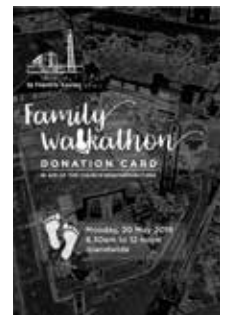
Please return all outstanding fund-raising cards to the parish office during office hours. The parish office is opened from:

Mon to Fri: 9am - 9pm

Sat: 9am - 7pm

Sun: 8am - 1pm

The office is closed on public holidays.



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 and learn about the History & Theology of the Eucharist on **Tue 28 May, 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, so grab your family & friends and sign up now, at tinyurl.com/DMDRCP2019!

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

MONTFORT JUNIOR OPEN HOUSE

Have you been thinking about which school you want your child to spend the next ten years? A school should be a place where a child encounters God. Come visit Montfort Junior School; let us share with you our journey in Catholic education. Get practical pointers on transiting to Primary 1 as well.

Date: Sat, 1 Jun

Time: 9am - 12pm (Talks commence 9am)

Venue: Montfort Junior School (52 Hougang Ave 8 S538786)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/open-housecatholic-education>
(Limited seats available)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER GALA DINNER

As part of the 40th anniversary celebration this year, Marriage Encounter Singapore (WWMESG) is organising a gala dinner & dance at Orchard Hotel on **Sat 24 Aug**. All encountered couples are welcome to join and celebrate in Classic Vintage Marvelous 70s style. Ticket enquiries, email me40.tickets@gmail.com.

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.

Confirmation 2019

What is your hope for the world? What is your dream?

The sacraments are important tenets in our lives. They presuppose our faith and with words and ritual elements, they nourish, strengthen and express it (CCC 1123). On Sun 19 May, 55 teens from our parish received the sacrament of confirmation and were anointed with chrism oil by Archbishop Goh. As one phase of their 10-year journey ends (the catechetical programme of 10 years from age 6 to 16) and another begins, this question was asked of them, "What is your hope for the world tomorrow? What is your dream?" We spoke to a few of them and share their responses below.



As we celebrate with them, our parish community join in prayers and fervent hope that they will continue to keep this fire within them burning bright and infuse all those they encounter with the gifts they have been entrusted with.

“My hope for the world tomorrow is to live in a world of peace, with no wars, extremism and distrust. To resist fears and nurture love instead. I hope that world leaders can work together to solve issues like poverty and rising inequality and promote sustainable development in the face of climate change, to make our earth a place worth living in for future generations. My dream is to help others in my own way and through a ripple effect, I wish to make a positive change in my own community, no matter how small it may be.”

- Tessa Louise Foo

“What Archbishop William Goh said made me realise that this world and the church we live in have declined in the standards God has set for us. I hope for the world to change their perspective on babies in the womb so that they may be protected and cherished as they are God's creation. We need to continue fighting against abortion and for the rights of these unborn children. My dream is for all Christians who are suffering persecution in the world to be able to practice their faith and to go to church safely without fear of death. I also dream of a time when we Catholics can be more vocal in our faith and to be able to stand for what is right and wrong more bravely and to go out to evangelise more as Christ's disciples.”

- Michael James Long

“I agree with what Archbishop William Goh said about the world today being filled with isolation, despair and even bullying. However, even if the world today seems dark, I would like to believe that the world of tomorrow can be something brighter. Small acts such as being there for the people who are facing tough times or even taking the time to listen and understand each other's thoughts and beliefs can go a long way towards making this world a brighter place. This world we live in may be dark, but with hope and charity, we can be the guiding light in this darkness.”

- Axel Jude Chong

What's new in FORMED?



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

FORMED PICK

Joan of Arc

See Trust and Faith in Action

Join the adventure of the legendary warrior and saint, Joan of Arc, who, at seventeen, led one of the greatest military campaigns for freedom the world has ever witnessed.

Watch on formed.org



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FORMED is an online platform that offers access to thousands of studies, films, audio and e-books including from over 40 of the best Catholic content producers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, the USCCB, Catholic Answers, among others.

To get the free access for SFX parishioners:

For new viewers, go to <https://sfxchurch.formed.org/>. Click on 'Register Now' and complete the registration process. Once the registration is completed, you will be logged into FORMED automatically.

You can also login via <https://formed.org/> when you already have an account.



He'll Be Back

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. John 14:28-29

The puzzle is based on John 14:23-29

G D I B F P E A C E R Q S A W
P S S B E S O Q U X W F Y H S
F V O G A L T X C A W A Y J J
M P B R G O I A K A K J C G H
B W E Q U X C E U B I S N R A
A A Y B O Y K P V G L A D E A
R A C S G Q P U P E C Y X A M
U T L K D I A N Q T O B G T O
A K J U L O V E U E M P G E Z
Z F U R C O M N A A I X L R R
F M R W G Q I J W C N Z R E T
M O A A D O H O Z H G T H R F
S Z S X I D I N Y Y E T A J T
R U M V K D B N I J A E U E J
O M H O M E H T G F H L Y A N

AWAY
HEART
PEACE
GREATER
TEACH
GLAD
AFRAID
FATHER
COMING
BELIEVE
OBEY
GOING
HOME
BACK
LOVE

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

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