



Disciples Making Disciples



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From Jerusalem to the "Heavenly Jerusalem"

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7 Jul 2019

Is 66:10-14
Gal 6:14-18
Lk 10:1-12. 17-20

According to Israel's Tourism Ministry, over four million tourists visit Israel every year with 85% of these inbound tourists heading for the city of Jerusalem. Many state "pilgrimage" as the purpose of their travel.

Today's Jerusalem pilgrim, in a certain sense, is not so different from the 5th century BC Jewish exiles addressed by Trito-Isaiah in today's first reading. Both undertake an arduous journey to seek reconciliation with God. Both desire to receive some sign of his mercy and love. God responds with an outpouring of assurances and a call to rejoice! God will be like a mother nursing her infant, he will console and nurture (cf Is 66:11). He will send "flowing peace" (Is 66:12). This peace is not a passive sentiment. Described as a river or stream (an image for baptism), it will take us along in its current and through the tumble of trials and rejections like what the 72 disciples in today's gospel also faced, we will be made into the "smooth stones" that became David's weapon against Goliath or the "altogether new creature" that radiates the unity and mercy which are the hallmarks of God's Kingdom (cf 1 Sam 17:40, Gal 6:15).

The Holy Land ignites transformation. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum*

Domini, calls her "the Fifth Gospel": "By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word became flesh in a specific time and place, in a strip of land on the edges of the Roman Empire... The stones on which our Redeemer walked are still charged with his memory and continue to 'cry out' the Good News. For this reason, the Synod Fathers recalled the felicitous phrase which speaks of the Holy Land as 'the Fifth Gospel'" (VD 89, 30 Sept 2010).

Pope Emeritus says this sacred journey should be undertaken with the twin objectives of seeking the "heavenly Jerusalem" and the missionary proclamation of Christ's saving work, "The more we turn our eyes and our hearts to the earthly Jerusalem, the more will our yearning be kindled for the heavenly Jerusalem, the true goal of every pilgrimage, along with our eager desire that the name of Jesus, the one name which brings salvation, may be acknowledged by all."

It may come as a surprise to some that this "heavenly Jerusalem", as the Catechism tells us, is the Church: "The Church...is called 'that Jerusalem which is above'... it is she whom Christ 'loved and for whom he delivered himself up that he might sanctify her'" (CCC 757).

The Church is also called "the *building* of God" or "the holy *temple*" - "This temple...is compared in the liturgy to the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. As living stones we here on earth are built into it. It is this holy city that is seen by John as it comes down out of heaven from God when the world is made anew..." (CCC 756).

Today's liturgy encourages us to grow in understanding of the Church in God's plan of salvation. The nourishment and



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communion foretold in Trito-Isaiah are found in our Sacraments. Christians of the first centuries like St Justin Martyr and Tertullian would often say, "The world was created for the sake of the Church". This is because God created the world for the sake of communion with his divine life through the Church of his only-begotten Son (cf CCC 760).

The Holy Land - that "Fifth Gospel" - can be the starting point from which we can begin to tell others how God came down to earth and took on human nature in order that we might see him with our own eyes and touch him with our own hands (cf 1 Jn 1:1). God is not far away from man. As Pope Emeritus says in his book, "God Is Near Us", the Church, the "Heavenly Jerusalem", is "the Lord's Communion with us... God has truly come to dwell among us in the Eucharist. He became flesh so that he might become bread...thus he puts himself in our hands and into our hearts...He is there, and we always know where we can find him".

Announcements

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

NO HOLY HOUR

Please note that there will be no holy hour for July.

COMMISSIONING OF LECTORS

The Commissioning of Lectors will be held this **Sun at the 11am Mass**. Please pray for them!

ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Wed 10 Jul at 8pm in SFX 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.

CATHOLIC YOUTH DAY 2019: JESUS! NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!

Calling all young people aged 16 to 35 years old: Come join in the celebrations at Catholic Youth Day (CYD) 2019 organised by the Office for Young People (OYP)! We gather to celebrate our faith and also to experience our belonging to the wider Church. And to all who have been far from the Lord, the invitation is to come because the Lord desires for you!

Date & Time: Sat 20 Jul, 11am to Sun 21 Jul, 8.30am

Mass: Sat 20 Jul, 5.30pm (celebrated by Archbishop William Goh)

Venue: OYP (2 Lorong Low Koon S536449)



Happy 17th Sacerdotal Anniversary, Fr Brian!

Ordination date: 7th July 2002

Thank you for being our good shepherd! We appreciate your sacrifices and devotion. May God bless you abundantly on this special day and guide you in this sacred vocation!



SFX FUNDRAISING UPDATE

\$1.44 Million

\$2.3M Goal



SFX has raised a total of cash & pledges amounting to **\$1.44 million** as of **May 2019**. The priests and Fundraising Committee appreciate everyone's efforts and thank all parishioners for their contributions in funds and participation in fundraising activities. We look forward to your continued support as we work towards our \$2.3 million fundraising goal.

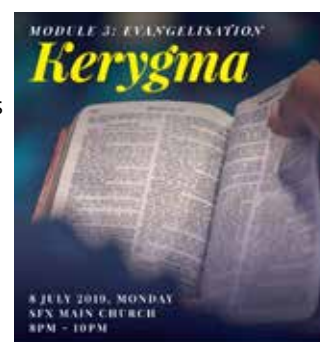
PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: KERYGMA

Are you overwhelmed by sharing to your non-Christian friends about your faith? How do we do so succinctly? Come and learn about how to share the key message of our faith, known since the early days of the Church as the "Kerygma" by Edwyn Desouza, pastoral staff at Novena Church & ICPE Missionary. Sign up now at tinyurl.com/SFXModule3!

Date: Mon 8 Jul

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Main Church



ACCS: TEACH IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL/P1 ENROLMENT INTO A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) regularly provides updates on Catholic education which include school events and celebrations, compilation of vacant teaching positions in our Catholic Schools, and Catholic perspectives on education matters. The ACCS hope to interest and inspire Catholic educators to serve in our Catholic schools, and to journey together with all Catholic educators in the fraternity.

So calling all MOE educators! If you are interested to heed the call to teach in a Catholic School, or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, do join their mailing list by filling up the form accessible via the QR code.



In line with the MOE Open Posting Exercise, the ACCS has compiled a list of vacancies in our Catholic schools in 2020. Once you are on the mailing list, ACCS will email you the instructions to access this list from **1 Jul 2019** onwards. Do note that this list will be updated with new consequential vacancies on **17 Jul** to facilitate your application via the MOE HRMS between **1 Jul 2019 - 23 Jul 2019**.

For Primary 1 Registration under Phase 2B (**22 and 23 Jul 2019**), if you would like to register your child in a Catholic school under Phase 2B Primary 1 admission, do note that the parent's baptism certificate is required at the point of registration. If the baptism certificate is not in English, the Church and the school may request for a baptism certificate that is translated into English, and certified by your parish priest in Singapore or a notary public.



Move mountains through your prayers - Join the Intercessory Ministry!

Prayer can move mountains, everyone can pray, and be prayed for. As Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

These are just a few of the many reasons why God wants you to become a prayer warrior with the SFX Intercessory Ministry, made up of members from different ministries and walks of life. We meet weekly for an hour to intercede for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Invoking God's divine presence and touching his loving heart through prayer are the crux of what we do as intercessors.

As one body, we offer praise, thanksgiving, humble contrition, and plaintive supplication as a spiritual work of mercy for everyone in need – the Church, our priests, the sick, our youth, souls in purgatory, our country, world leaders, sinners and saints among us.

In Luke 10:2, Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Besides good works and kind words, what better way is there to build a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church, than to convert, console, aid and love through prayer?



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

JUSTICE

That those who administer justice may work with integrity and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019

CONDOLENCES

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

1. William Stanley Roy
2. Lee Keng Nio Amy Gertrude (Mrs. Tan Amy)
3. Ng Chew Hui Margaret



If you are stirred by the spirit to intercede for your sisters and brothers in Christ, we invite you to join us at the SFX main church every Saturday, from 7.15am – 8.15am, to stand in the gap for our community.

Witness of Life and Testimony

Sharing one's own faith story is crucial in evangelisation but are we aware of what Jesus is doing in our daily lives? Are we comfortable sharing these stories with others? On Mon 1 Jul, those who attended module 3 on Evangelisation learnt how to write and share our faith testimonies from Amilia Chai, a lay missionary and Leader of the ICPE Companions in Singapore. ICPE is a Catholic Mission made up of Christians committed to the goal of world evangelisation. We also heard from others who shared their stories and reproduce below our very own SFX parishioner, Nick's, faith testimony.



As I child, I was often fearful as I was exposed to domestic violence and the illegal activities my father was involved in. My home was dark, messy and filled with cigarettes smell. My parent were often not at home, so it was always only my sister and I.

I was never good at studies so I left school at age 16, and became involved in gangs, illegal activities and drugs. I was looking for acceptance and my way in life, and hoping for God to bring about a breakthrough.

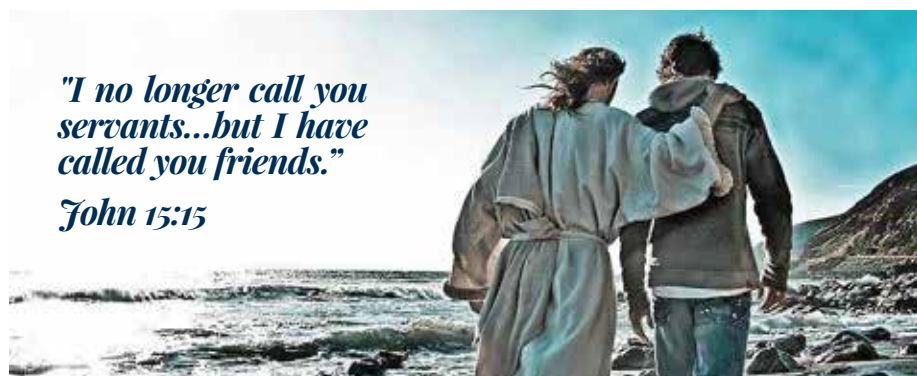
One day, I had a crazy thought to do church work, without knowing what that really means or where to start, since I've left church a long time ago. I went with a friend to two churches but could not find a priest. We decided to go home, only to chance upon a church near my place. We gave it a last shot and found a priest in his office. We shared our intention, only to have the priest ask to speak to me alone. He looked me straight in the eye and told me to speak. Instead of talking about church work, I cried and just kept apologising for all that I've done and that I wanted to come back to the church. It became a confession. The priest said: "From today onwards I'm going to be your friend." I felt that it was Jesus saying these words to me. I was overwhelmed with love and forgiveness. For the first time in my life, Jesus became real to me.

My life started to change. I would meet that priest almost every day, and he taught me how to pray and understand the bible. Whenever I had the urge for drugs, I sat before the Blessed Sacrament and asked Jesus for help. Eventually, I could stop taking drugs and joined a church ministry three years later.

Whenever I take my life for granted, I look back to that day when I met Jesus and I realised that everything I have today, being married, working with abused children, and just living a normal life, is a miracle.

Indeed, the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, but Jesus has come that we may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

As for me, this verse in John 15:15 really came alive for me: "I no longer call you servants...but I have called you friends." This is my story of being a friend of Jesus.



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

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

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 check with the Parish Office.



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