



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Surrendering our Human Attachments

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8 Sep 2019

Wis 9:13-18
Phm 9-10, 12-17
Lk 14:25-33



"[God] knows what he is about. He may take away my friends, he may throw me in among strangers, he may make feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me – still he knows what he is about. Therefore I will trust him."

– Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenged the crowds (and we are challenged as well) that if someone wants to be his disciple, it is necessary to hate one's father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, and even our own lives (cf Lk 14:26). Yet, in Exodus 20:12, the Fourth Commandment exhorts us: "Honour your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Was Jesus contradicting the Fourth Commandment?

Word on Fire Catholic Ministries Founder, Bishop Robert Barron, explains that in saying that those who want to be his disciples must "hate" their family members, Jesus is not "...demonstrating a disturbing misanthropy. Rather, [Jesus] is telling us not to treat those around us as our possessions." In other words, Christians are not to be controlling or possessive, "The spiritual life consists, not in controlling others for the sake of the ego, but in giving others the space to be." (Homily, 9 Sep 2001)

One of the most complex attachments or yearnings one may face is found in human relationships. In the words of St Teresa of Calcutta, "the greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only

cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love ...There's a hunger for love, as there is hunger for God." (*A Simple Path*)

However, therein lies a situation, where the human need for love can easily be confused for human attachment or being possessive over another. We will know if we have become overly attached to someone when we have gone so far as to deify that person. In other words, we just might have made this person our god. This person is now the pinnacle of our existence, with nothing or no one above them. We have therefore become co-dependent rather than having an interdependent relationship with this person; we have gone as far as being possessive over this person.

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890) exemplifies this call of "hating" one's family to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Blessed Cardinal Newman was a former Anglican priest who later became a Catholic priest and was subsequently made a Cardinal. Together with four others, he will be canonised on 13 October 2019. His decision to enter the Catholic Church was not without personal "cost" (Lk 14:28). By converting, Newman lost most of his friends from the Church of England, his family rejected him and he could no longer be a Fellow at

Oxford. He would later describe how the trials of this period moved him to more completely surrender his life to God.

In his *Meditations and Devotions*, he revealed a total trust in God's plans for him and an experience of freedom from all earthly attachments, "He knows what he is about. He may take away my friends, he may throw me in among strangers, he may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me – still he knows what he is about. Therefore I will trust Him."

Blessed Cardinal Newman's filial trust in God may seem too radical for many of us. However, today's First Reading and the Opening Prayer remind us that unless our interior is filled with the Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom to "straighten" our own paths and experience how God's love has "saved" us, by our own "unsure" reasoning and "unstable" intentions, we will always love possessively to satisfy our ego (Wis 9:14-15,18).

Let us therefore, ask the Holy Spirit to help us love with and proclaim to others Christ's love, so that all may recognise and rejoice in the freedom of being loved by God as his sons and daughters (Opening Prayer).

Announcements

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

COLUMBARIUM

Please note that the columbarium will be closed till the completion of phase one of the renovation project (estimated **mid-Nov**). This is for the safety of the public. Thank you for your understanding.

CATECHISM BREAK

Please note that there will be no catechism sessions on **Sun 8 Sep** due to the school holiday break. Catechism resumes on **Sun 15 Sep**.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS FOR SFX CER

Truly, we are made to live by charity! Our upcoming SFX CER in Nov, is an excellent opportunity for us to live up to our charitable self. We will be starting a spiritual bouquet for all involved in the upcoming SFX CER. Spiritual bouquets are prayers or devotional acts that someone (the giver) has or will offer for someone else (the recipient). We will be offering rosary prayers and devotional acts of fasting as part of our spiritual bouquet. From this weekend, booths will be set up during all weekend masses from **7 - 29 Sep**. Come and sign up and contribute to this spiritual bouquet!

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: MONSTER IN EVERY ROOM

Arm yourself and your child with tools to conquer pornography addiction. This talk is for parents and anyone who works with children.

Date: Wed 9 Oct
Time: 7pm - 9.30pm
Venue: The Catholic Centre, Level 3 (55, Waterloo Street, S-187954)
Register: Register at bit.ly/mermail or call 6488 0278 (Jacinta)
Cost: \$10/pax

SPECIAL SALE: DELICIOUS FISH SKIN SNACKS!

Don't miss out! The Renovation fundraising team has received a donation of fish skin snacks. As the expiry date is **end Sep**, the packets are going at a special discounted price! Two flavours are available: Classic and Spicy Seaweed. Priced at just \$3 a packet or \$10 for 5 packets or \$50 for a carton (32 packets). Sales will be held after each mass this weekend. Crunchy snacks to enjoy anytime and anywhere, come get them now! While stocks last!



PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: AUTHENTIC LISTENING II

Have you ever tried to share your life with another, but realised that the other person wasn't really listening to you? Just as we all have an innate desire to be known and heard, so do the people in our lives, our communities and our ministries. Learning how to actively listen will help us to build relationships - to come out of ourselves and build a community in our homes, workplace and in the parish. Come and listen to Lance Ng, a spiritual director at Kingsmead Spirituality Centre, who will be teaching us the art of authentic listening **Mon 9 Sep, 8 - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are welcome!

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: COMMUNITY - CHRIST'S WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ can be difficult, and we feel it even more when we try to walk this road of discipleship alone. Jesus knows that this path is not easy, and thus he calls us to walk with our fellow brothers and sisters in community. He called a community of twelve men to be his first disciples, and these disciples went on to form more communities wherever they proclaimed God's word. Come listen to Mike Arents, as he shares why community is Christ's way of discipleship as well as his personal experiences journeying with a community.

Date: Mon 16 Sep
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: SFX Main Church

60TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER: TICKET SALES!

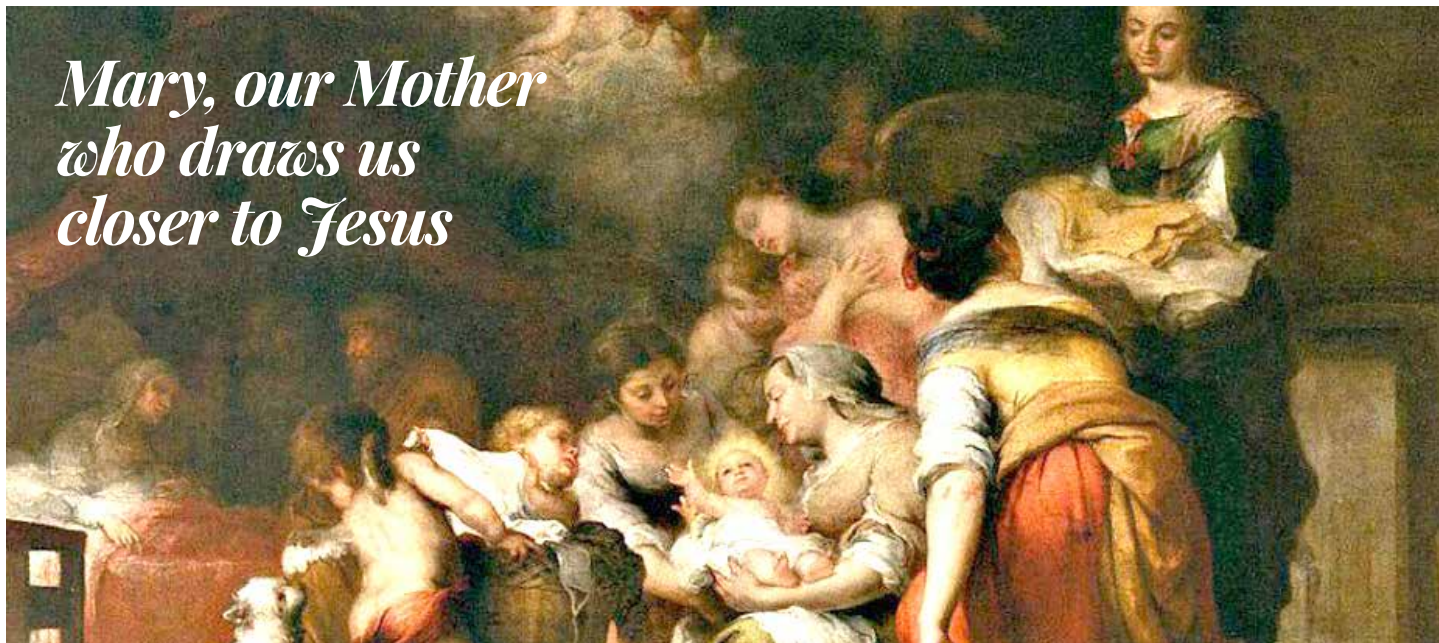
Join us as we celebrate our 60th Feast Day as a parish community on **Sun 1 Dec, 7pm at Ban Heng Restaurant** (Harbourfront Centre #04-01, 1 Maritime Square S099253). Besides the sumptuous menu and entertainment, there will also be exciting games and a lucky draw! Look out for the ticket sales booth after mass and purchase your tickets early. Tickets cost **\$70 per person**, on a first come first served basis! Limited seats left! Nett proceeds from this year's Feast Day Dinner will go towards the Renovation Fund. **Next weekend, we will be selling a one-way bus ticket to Ban Heng at \$4 per person.**

CENACLE SISTERS: PERSONALITY SELF-PORTRAIT

A weekend retreat to learn about one's Personality Self-Portrait (PSP), the latest personality system developed by Dr John Oldham, M.D., former President of the American Psychiatric Association. It presents 14 personality styles that explains why you think, work, love and act the way you do. The PSP is now a widely accepted and highly respected tool in business, research, psychotherapy and educational settings, and it can help you understand your personality and teach you how to modify those aspects of your character that may be keeping you from reaching your full potential. This retreat is conducted by Sr Cecille Tuble, rc. Please register at www.cenaclemission.com.

Date & Time: Fri 18 Oct, 8 pm - Sun 20 Oct, 1 pm
Venue: Montfort Centre (622 Upp Bukit Timah Road S678117)
Contribution: \$300

Mary, our Mother who draws us closer to Jesus



The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on **8 September**, nine months after 8 December, the celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Sts Joachim and Anne.

In God's infinite wisdom, he decided to come into the world to save all of humanity in his Incarnation, but also through the generous "Yes" and collaboration of Mary. Truly, Mary is the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and she is our Mother in the order of grace! We have heard many say that Mary is someone who can lead us to a closer union with Jesus, her Son. However, many of us may not have a relationship with her. For those who desire to draw closer to Mary, we offer five ways that we can live out fully our consecration to Jesus through the loving but extremely powerful presence of Mary.

1. Morning Consecration

Upon rising from sleep, the first gesture of our day should be to consecrate our whole person and being to the glory and honour of God through the intercession of Mary.

2. Pray the Angelus

Get into the habit of praying the Angelus. The Angelus is a beautiful Marian and Christocentric prayer that summarises the key moments in salvation history – the Incarnation of Jesus; his Passion, Death and Resurrection; as well as Mary's key role in these key and pivotal moments leading to our salvation.

A suggestion: try to memorise the Angelus! If possible, get into the habit of praying the Angelus three times a day: in the morning at 9am, to sanctify the morning hours; noon, to sanctify the afternoon; and 6pm to sanctify the evening hours. By sanctifying these three pivotal hours with this key Marian and Christological prayer, you will live more and more in the presence of God's loving embrace and grow in holiness of life. Try it!

3. Imitate Mary

If we love a person, it is natural to want to get to know the person better, love the person more ardently, follow

the person's footsteps, and imitate his or her life. If we love Mary then we should make a concerted effort to imitate her most sublime virtues. In the classic Marian text *"True Devotion to Mary"* (#108), St Louis de Montfort lists the ten most important virtues that Mary practiced: deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom. Knowledge generates love; love generates following; following generates imitation; imitation of Mary generates sanctification!

4. Maria cogita, Maria invoca

One of the key Marian mottos of the Congregation of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, is the Latin *"Maria cogita, maria invoca"* – which means "think about Mary and invoke Mary". Have both Jesus and Mary in our mind, thoughts, feelings, heart as well as our actions. In times of trials, tribulations, desolations, as well as severe temptations, we can lift up our minds, hearts and souls to Mary and trust that through her powerful prayers she will help us to sail through those tempestuous and tumultuous storms to the harbour of salvation.

5. The Hail Mary and the Rosary

Form the habit of praying the most Holy

Rosary – which highlights important events in the life of Jesus and Mary – on a daily basis. In numerous apparitions, including at Lourdes and Fatima, the Blessed Mother asked us to pray the Rosary daily. Many saints and Catholic leaders have impressed upon us the power of the Rosary. Through St Dominic, the Blessed Mother also made 15 promises to those who pray it daily, including "special protection and the greatest graces."

Mary has indeed played such a special role in our faith! Let us continue in our journey to draw closer to her and build a relationship with her today. Trust in her, and call upon her. Like what St Teresa of Calcutta said, "If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon Our Lady. Just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now'."

**Tips adapted from "Five Ways to Approach Jesus Through Mary" by Fr Ed Broom, OMC*

Memorare

The Memorare Prayer invites us to ask the Blessed Mother for her assistance and her grace, especially when we feel most troubled in our daily lives.

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!

SEPTEMBER FEATURED ON FORMED

STUDY: Lectio - Prayer

Though prayer is one of the essentials of a thriving faith, we often feel as if we are talking to ourselves—or, worse, as if we're talking to no one at all. How can something so vital to the Faith be so elusive? Now, with the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy. In six video sessions, *Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God* captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love.



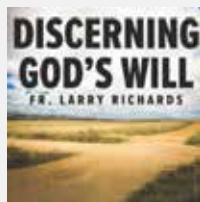
WATCH: Are the Saints Aware of Our Prayers?

Seventh-day Adventists claim that the Bible proves that souls in the afterlife are not cognitively aware of our lives on Earth, much less our prayer, and, if this is true, then invoking the saints to pray for us is futile. This episode

of *Ready Reasons* shows why this objection does not deal the death blow that Seventh-day Adventists think it does.

LISTEN: Discerning God's Will

"How do I know what God wants?" Knowing the will of God can be an intimidating topic for people of all ages. In this talk, Fr Larry Richards, the founder of "The Reason for Our Hope" foundation, delves into the process of discernment. With personal stories, practical steps, and sound advice, Fr Larry encourages all of us to dedicate ourselves to living in accordance with God's plan for us. Living this way will truly make us happy, because we will be oriented towards heaven.



YDISCIPLE: Prayer

More than just a form of communication, like sending out a text to a friend, prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. In prayer, we can have the deepest level of intimacy with the One who loves us the most, sharing from our hearts, about our hopes and dreams, while also hearing his heart and desires for us. This YDisciple course takes a meaningful and relevant approach to the essence of prayer, including discussion of how to pray, how to listen, and how to use the wisdom of the Church to help us along.



FOR CHILDREN

Brother Francis: Let's Pray!

Practice makes perfect! This is a true saying whether one is playing basketball, drawing a picture, reading, or even praying! In this wonderfully fun inaugural episode, the ever-joyful Brother Francis will help your children establish a personal relationship with God!



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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 except PH

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

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 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