



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Growing the Seed of Faith

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
6 Oct 2019

Hab 1:2-3, 2:2-4  
2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14  
Lk 17:5-10

Two decades ago, Pope St John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Fides et Ratio* ("On the Relationship Between Faith & Reason", 1998) that "in the far reaches of the human heart there is a seed of desire and nostalgia for God."

In order to seek God, know his will and live in truth, he says that God has given us the twin gifts of faith and reason, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth - in a word, to know himself - so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves." That truth about ourselves is that God made us, we belong to him and are led by his hand (cf Ps 94).

Our search for God however, must firstly be from a sincere or "upright" disposition as today's first reading emphasizes. God has revealed to us the truth through his written word "to be easily read" (Hab 2:2). However, the one "whose soul is not at rights" will choose to read his own purposes into God's revealed word, thereby causing confusion and leading others astray (Hab 2:4). The 2nd Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, tells us to be on our guard and seek

*"...fan into a flame the gift that God gave you...the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control"*

2 Tim 1:6-7



the coherence between Scripture, Tradition and Magisterial Teaching, "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture comprise a single sacred deposit of the word of God... The 'supreme rule of her faith' derives from the unity which the Spirit has created between Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church... which means that none of the three can survive without the others." (FR 55, DV 21)

In addition to having an "upright" or sincere heart to seek God, our pursuit to know God better also requires perseverance and an active faith on our part. Hence, St Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading to "fan into a flame" the gift of God's Spirit which Timothy received when St Paul laid his hands on him. All of us have similarly received God's Spirit at our baptism when the priest laid his hands on us. At the Sacrament of Confirmation which completes our initiation into the faith, we receive "the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost." (CCC 1302)

Like Timothy and the apostles, we too, may be hesitant or "timid" to acknowledge this gift. We need to be reminded that "God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control." (2 Tim 1:7) Faith is directed to works as Jesus tells his apostles, "Were your

faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it would obey you." This work is humble and persevering evangelisation: "... when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.'" (Lk 17:5,10)

We are called today to reflect on what we have done with this "seed of desire and nostalgia for God". Have we been growing through his written Word? Do we have an "upright" disposition? Are we humble yet bold in evangelising to others?

His Grace, Archbishop William Goh encourages us to work on an informed and certain faith, "Faith and reason always go together... theology, which is a systematic study of our faith...can provide credibility in our beliefs in Christ. But certainty of faith in Christ...comes through our personal encounter with the Lord in worship, both as individuals and as a community...Theology is not mere intellectual knowledge but a living relationship with the Lord. We know Him to love Him and to serve Him." (Reflection, 26 Jan 2019, Feast of Sts Timothy and Titus)

Let us surrender ourselves to be set ablaze by the Holy Spirit today so that God's love revealed in Christ may be known throughout the world!

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

**This weekend**, there will be a second collection by the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Thank you for your generosity!

### COLUMBARIUM

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

### OCT - 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

**\* Prayers will be held indoors if haze condition is bad or during wet weather. Please note that there is no ministry-led rosary on 31 Oct.**

### CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trip to Myanmar in the **3rd week Dec** (Dates are TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation. If you are keen to join the mission trip or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

### CHARIS: APPEAL FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AID FUND

CHARIS is making its annual appeal for its Humanitarian Aid Fund to support overseas humanitarian work. Appeal flyers and envelopes are available at the Parish Office. Please contact Irene / Michelle at 6337 4119 or [info@charis-singapore.org](mailto:info@charis-singapore.org) for further information.

### TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE MAIN CHURCH (7 - 9 OCT)

Due to the parish renovations, the Main Church will be closed on **7 - 9 Oct**. Mass will be held at the following rooms - St Matthew, St Mark & St Luke, located on the 2nd floor of the parish centre. **Mon 7 Oct morning mass is still celebrated in the Main Church.** There is no change in the mass timings.

### ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Tue 8 Oct, 8pm** in **St Luke Room**, at the 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.

### PIETA MEMORIAL MASS FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIED

We come together as bereaved families to remember our children who have died, no matter how recently or long ago, including unborn and adult children. The mass will be celebrated by Msgr Philip Heng SJ, Rector of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd on **Fri 8 Nov, 7.30pm**. Parents who wish to include the name of your child for this mass, please register before **Fri 18 Oct** at [tinyurl.com/PietaMM2019](http://tinyurl.com/PietaMM2019). For more information, email to [pietamass@gmail.com](mailto:pietamass@gmail.com).

### CPS 2019 LUNCHTIME TALK: DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE

A series of talks by Rev. Fr Terence Pereira. Can a divorcee receive the Eucharist? How does a Catholic obtain an annulment when there are already children in the marriage? Why are divorced Catholics allowed to remarry in Church? Come & find out more about the Church's teachings on divorce, annulment and remarriage.

**Date:** 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 4 Nov and 11 Nov (Mondays)

**Time:** 12.30pm - 1.15pm

**Venue:** TPI Building (62 Cecil Street, 6th Floor)

**Register:** [tinyurl.com/CPS-Divorce-Marriage](http://tinyurl.com/CPS-Divorce-Marriage)

### ACCIRD: INTERRELIGIOUS PANEL ON SERVING THE POOR AND NEEDY

Come join in ACCIRD's third interreligious panel for the year for an enriching and engaging time where three speakers will be sharing on "Serving the Poor and Needy" according to the Islamic, Sikh and Catholic perspectives.

**Date:** Mon 21 Oct

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (Annex Building, Level 3 Hall)

**Speakers:** Ustaz Dr Leyaket Ali, Founder/MD, Human Connection. sg, Mr Gurdip Singh Usma, Chairman, Sikh Welfare Council and Msgr Philip Heng, SJ, VG (Interreligious Relations)

**Register:** [tinyurl.com/21Oct-ACCIRD-Panel](http://tinyurl.com/21Oct-ACCIRD-Panel) (by Sun 20 Oct)

### ONE: MISSION IS COMMUNITY IN ACTION

The Church celebrates World Mission Sunday on **20 Oct**. The Office for the New Evangelisation has published weekly reflections leading up to the celebration. The e-booklet '*Mission is Community in Action*' is available for download at [one.org.sg/resources](http://one.org.sg/resources). Use this booklet with your communities and families to deepen our understanding on Mission.



# Why don't we wear our Sunday best to Church anymore?



In the Golden Temple in Amritsa, the holiest site of the Sikh religion, visitors are asked to remove their shoes and socks, even to wear a handkerchief on their head as a sort of "turban", to wash their hands, and then traverse a small pool of water before stepping inside - barefoot.

I have visited Buddhist temples in which I'm not allowed in if my legs or shoulders are bare.

Why then, when scanning the pews during Mass in our church, is it not uncommon to find parishioners in slippers or home clothes - in short, their SUNDAY WORST?

## Why do we not dress up for Mass?

Jesus cares more about what's inside than outside, some people argue. Others say he's like my BFF who loves me the way I am.

The truth is, wearing nice clothes doesn't make one a better Catholic. In fact, we're certainly not asking parishioners to come dressed to kill in designer items and finery. But there is a big difference between someone who comes to church neatly attired

in clothes that may not be as "nice" because they don't have the time, energy or money and someone who dresses sloppily for Mass because they just can't be bothered.

We dress up for date nights, when meeting our bosses or clients. Is it too much to ask to dress up for one hour a week to meet with the King of Kings? Shouldn't we have that same reverential attitude when we show up at church to meet God? After all, doesn't our outfit reveal the importance we attach to an occasion? If Mass matters, then what we wear matters. It just shows where our heart is at.

Mass is about worshiping God. It's important enough that Catholics are required to go every week. We believe that a miracle happens every Mass wherein our God comes to us in the form of bread and wine. So, it makes sense to dress up for Mass more than you would for say, a sporting event or a day of errands. There should be some sort of approach to God that will include certain steps to honour the God who is not our buddy but ... GOD!



**HOLY FATHER'S  
PRAYER INTENTIONS  
THIS MONTH**

## EVANGELISATION - HOLY SPIRIT

That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the church.

## IN THE MONTH OF SEP 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

### BAPTISMS

We welcome:

1. Meredith Jean Lee Xin En
2. Luke Ng Teng Yu
3. Yim Xi En Hailey
4. Rea Michaela Hug
5. Gan Yu Fang Esther Claire
6. Renae Beatrice Chew
7. Mabel Genevieve Ng Yen En
8. Tan Xuan Kai Claire
9. Sim Minrui Celina
10. Caroline Quay-Rui Barel

## Reverence and love

### When you attend Mass,

- Do you treat it as something special, something sacred? Or is it just another item on your to-do list?
- Do you prepare your heart ahead of time, or do you just show up?
- Do you remember that you're meeting the King of Kings, or just mechanically going through the motions?

When you get dressed, are you thinking about what will make YOU look good and draw attention to you, or are you thinking about THE ONE you are there to celebrate?

THESE are the questions we need to be asking ourselves. And when we do, appropriate dress will follow.





# Community, Ministry & Mission

God has a mission for all of us. But have we ever thought seriously about this mission?

Mike Arents shared in his enlightening session during last week's session of the Parish Formation Programme that God calls us to evangelise, to spread his word. Mike highlighted that in Evangelii Gaudium 120, it is stated that, "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19)". What this means is that evangelisation should be carried out not only by our priests and religious but all the rest of us baptised Catholics who may think we can get by just being passive recipients of God's word.

For us to be able to evangelise, we have to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. Being a disciple of Christ is more than just pronouncing that you believe in him. It is also about living the faith and acting based upon his teachings.

## 3 Elements in Discipleship

According to Mike, there are 3 elements in discipleship:-

### 1. Solitude

which is our own personal prayer life and relationship with God;

### 2. Community,

which involves praying together as a community and;

### 3. Mission

which is looking towards what we should do for others.

God loves us so much that he wants us to grow in wisdom and in faith. Being in a community not only helps us to achieve this but can also strengthen our resolve to serve God.



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://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 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 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 and Church. 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)