



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Humble Heart, Righteous Life

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
27 Oct 2019

Sir 35:12-14, 16-19
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18
Lk 18:9-14

How many of us are humble enough to voluntarily acknowledge and even publicly declare our faults? In an image-conscious world, we have meticulously constructed and seek to maintain a positive image. From the clothes we wear to the way we behave in public, we constantly manicure and construct an image we would like others to see; perfect and faultless. Ostensibly, *this is* a form of righteousness albeit in a fake and disingenuous sense.

Because we feel the constant need to “put our best foot forward”, we may be tempted to overlook, even hide our failures to emphasise the merits of our achievements. Conditioned to hide our inadequacies behind seemingly perfect porcelain masks and gloss over our shortcomings, we find it difficult to openly acknowledge our faults and shortcomings let alone speak of them. Do we corporatise our filial relationship with God; pridefully listing our accomplishments in prayer whilst neglecting to humbly lift our hearts to seek God’s help and mercy? (Pope Francis, General Audience 1 June 2016)

This has serious implications for our discipleship journey, for the inability to humbly acknowledge our shortcomings will inevitably make it more difficult to deepen

our relationship with the Father; our pridefulness (ie righteousness) closing us off from the mercy of the God. Recalling the parable of the prodigal son, we see that the son was only able to reconcile with the father after he “came to himself” and acknowledged his sinfulness (Lk 15:11-32).

Though God’s mercy is infinite, experiencing it hinges on our ability to consciously acknowledge our need for it, for the gift of free will means that God will not force us to deepen our relationship with him if we ourselves are unwilling to do so (Council of Trent: DS 1525). Behaving like the Pharisee, therefore, will close our hearts to him, for a prideful individual will ostensibly lack the humility necessary to seek the mercy of God (*Libertatis conscientia*: 47-48).

That said, being proud of our successes is not in itself a sin and just as a child openly converses with his father, we should not be afraid rejoice and tell God of the accomplishments we have attained with his help (St Josemaria, Friends of God: 150). The Pharisees’ desire to live a *righteous life* was indeed praiseworthy and should not be prejudiced. However, the way in which he righteously bragged about his achievements in prayer, even judging the tax collector, diminished the quality of his prayer (St Teresa of Avila: Life: 22).

Righteousness in this regard thus takes on a second, more virtuous meaning. While righteousness in prayer bespeaks of pridefulness, it behoves us as baptised and anointed children of God to live a *righteous life* (CCC: 1028, 1042, 2569);

remembering that living a righteous (ie virtuous) life is a most necessary duty (CCC: 2087, 2105, 2472). Putting our best foot forward, therefore, is essential, but should not eclipse the need to remain *humble in prayer*.

Christ himself reminds us of this reality when he tells us: “when you have done everything you were told to do, you should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty’” (Lk 17: 10). Living a righteous life therefore is necessary, but we should *live righteously in humility*; remembering that we need to grace and mercy of God to live righteously (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, General Audience 30 Aug 2016).

Fittingly the liturgy at each mass puts us in the same position as the tax collector. As we echo the words of the centurion before communion: “*domine non sum dignus*” (Lord I am not worthy), we are reminded to approach the Lord in humility just like the tax collector. In striving to live a righteous life let us “always humble ourselves lovingly before God and before men, because God speaks only to those who are truly humble and He enriches them with His gifts”. (St Padre Pio)



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Announcements

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

PARISH HOLY HOUR AT CSC

Parish Holy hour will be on **Thu 7 Nov, 8pm** at the Catholic Spirituality Centre (CSC). Join us as we pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are attending the Conversion Experience Retreat (CER).

OCT - MONTH OF ROSARY

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.**

CENACLE SISTERS: A SPIRITUALITY FOR THE 2ND HALF OF LIFE (PART 1: THE MIDLIFE TRANSITION)

This retreat deals with the experience of transition that moves us into midlife - a stage of personal growth and development. Work with materials on the Crisis of Limits and experience this life stage as a spiritual journey through input, personal reflection, prayer and sharing. Recommended for 40 - 60 year-olds.

Date & Time: 1 Nov, 8pm - 3 Nov, 1pm
Venue: Montfort Centre (622 Upper Bukit Timah Rd)
Contribution: \$300
Register: www.cenaclemission.com

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: COUPLE DATE NITE

For couples married 1 - 5 years. Spend an enjoyable evening together. Enhance your couple relationship.

Date: Thu 14 Nov
Time: 7pm - 9.30pm
Venue: CANA, Level 3 (55 Waterloo Street, S187954)
Cost: \$20 per pax

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 28 OCT (MON) - DEEPAVALI

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

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAY MASSES

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)
31 Oct (Thu) - 8pm (No 6.30pm Mass)
1 Nov (Fri) - 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

All Souls' Day
2 Nov (Sat) - 6.30am, 9am

CATECHISM REGISTRATION FOR 2020

The registration for Nursery Level (children aged 4 years old in 2020) will be on the following dates: **Sun 27 Oct, 3 and 10 Nov, from 9.30am - 11am.** Parents are requested to download the registration form from the church website and submit a copy of their child's baptism certificate (with the completed forms) to the parish office. Forms are also available from the parish office. Spaces are limited so do not delay.

Due to the church renovations, catechism for year 2020 will still be held in CHIJ - Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) and the timings remain unchanged:

Nursery to L4 (P4): 1.30pm - 3pm
L5 (P5) to L6 (P6): 3.15pm - 4.45pm
L7 (S1) to L9 (S3): 3.15pm - 5pm

For any other enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our parish feast day, we invite the elderly and sick to this special Mass with Sacrament of Anointing to experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC, 1527). **Mass will be on Sun 24 Nov from 2 - 4pm, Confessions from 1.15pm.** Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. A registration booth will be set up during all weekend masses on 26 - 27 Oct and 2 - 3 Nov. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2019

Volunteers Needed!

Help is needed to provide transportation to and from Church, ushering and serving refreshments after mass. Please return completed forms to the Parish Office by **10 Nov**. Register at tinyurl.com/MFTSvolunteers2019

LOURDES EXPERIENCE 2019 - TICKETS COLLECTION

This experience will take place on **Sat 7 Dec from 2pm - 9.30pm** at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. Admission is by ticket only. For those who are interested, please collect tickets from the parish office on these 2 days only: **Sat 2 Nov from 10am to 5pm and Sun 3 Nov from 9am to 12 noon. Each adult is entitled to 2 tickets and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.** Please make your own transport arrangements.

Due to limited tickets, no reservation of tickets are allowed. For wheelchair-bound parishioners who wish to attend, please download the form via www.sfxchurch.sg/lourdes-experience-2019/ and email directly to lourdesexperiencesg@gmail.com. For more information, please visit orderofmaltasingapore.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: OCT - DEC WEEKENDS

This weekend, Marriage Encounter (ME) couples are here, before/after mass, to answer your queries and enrol you. You can also buy ME gift vouchers for the registration fee at \$25 each (usual price \$50) for yourself or your friends. Or sign up on wwwmesg.org

Enrol for the coming Weekends: (English) 1 – 3 Nov, 6 – 8 Dec, 3 – 5 Jan 2020, 6 – 8 Mar 2020, and (Mandarin) 20 – 22 Mar 2020

2020 MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Are you willing to put in the time and effort to work for a marriage that will last a lifetime? For programme details & application form, please visit www.catholic.org.sg/mpc or contact 9170 0143 (Karen) if you need any clarification.

2020 Courses:

Q1: 16 Feb - 22 Mar 20

Q2: 19 Apr - 31 May 20

Q3: 05 Jul - 16 Aug 20

Q4: 20 Sep - 25 Oct 20

ADVOCATA NOSTRA - PRAYING ANEW WITH MARY

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Church of Sts Peter & Paul, we invite you to two evenings of prayer and songs in honour of Our Lady presented by Fr Derrick Yap OFM and Fr Edward Lim OCD; and centering on the four Marian dogmas. For more info, email to canaevents2019@gmail.com

Dates: 1 & 2 Nov

Time: 7.45pm

Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul

Contribution: \$6 (Per evening)

SFX KINDERGARTEN

K2 GRADUATION CONCERT 2019: COLOURS OF FRIENDSHIP

Our SFX Kindergarten held its K2 Graduation cum Concert on 19 October. For the second year running, it included children from both the Nursery and K1 levels. Father Brian started the event with the blessing of all present, followed by the march-in of the graduates and certificate presentation. The families and friends showed their support by cheering and whistling for the children. It was heartfelt indeed. This year's concert theme "Colours of Friendship" highlighted the value and importance of friendship. As such, the decor, especially the "friendship tree" on stage brought out the spirit of SFX Kindy as everyone had a hand in making it!

If you want to know more about our kindergarten, do check out <http://www.sfxchurch.sg/kindergarten>.

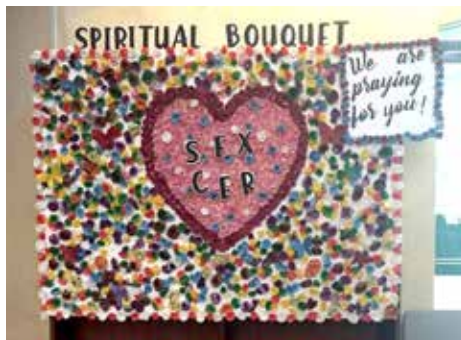


Countdown to CER: 9 Days

In case you didn't realise it, our Parish CER is just slightly over a week away. Please do continue to or, if you haven't done so yet, start praying for all involved.

As a church community, one tangible way by which we express our support for and motivate them is the Spiritual Bouquet of flowers on the board in our church. The flowers represent people who have committed to pray and fast for the Retreatants, Archbishop William Goh and the Service Team.

If you have not made any commitment and now wish to do so, please make a flower and put it in the basket. Someone will help you to place it on the board. To help in your prayer or fast, you might want to pick up a prayer booklet, also available at the front of the church.



Where God Guides He Provides

“I am neither artistic nor creative. Coming up with ideas for a Spiritual Bouquet for our Parish CER was something totally alien to me. But by God's grace, we now have lovely miniature prayer booklets and a colourful flower wall design for the Spiritual Bouquet.

I am humbled by the many people who helped to fold the 1,500 booklets and paper flowers, as well as manding the Spiritual Bouquet booths. Even more so, I am inspired by the 6,582 rosaries and 510 fasts that have been offered for our CER.

Praise Be To God!

Angeline Yeo

PRAYER FOR SEX CONVERSION EXPERIENCE RETREAT

LOVING FATHER, we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all participants at the SFX Conversion Experience Retreat at CSC, that every heart be open to experience Your love personally in a powerful, life-changing way. May You bless everyone abundantly with all the graces they need for total conversion of heart. Lord, fill them with Your Spirit and love, and grant graces of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing in spirit, soul and body. May You transform every heart and mind to be renewed in Your Spirit.

O Holy Spirit, anoint and empower Archbishop William Goh, and the ministering teams to be Your effective instruments abounding in love, wisdom and discernment.

Lord Jesus, protect all Your people from the wickedness and snares of the devil, from harm and danger.

Holy Mary, our Blessed Mother, we ask for your powerful intercession for everyone at the retreat.

To You O Lord, we give glory and praise because of Your constant love and faithfulness. We make this prayer through Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer.

Amen



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 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