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Disciples
Making Disciples

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Chosen as Children, Sent as Prophets

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 July 2018

Am 7:12-15
Eph 1:3-14
Mk 6:7-13

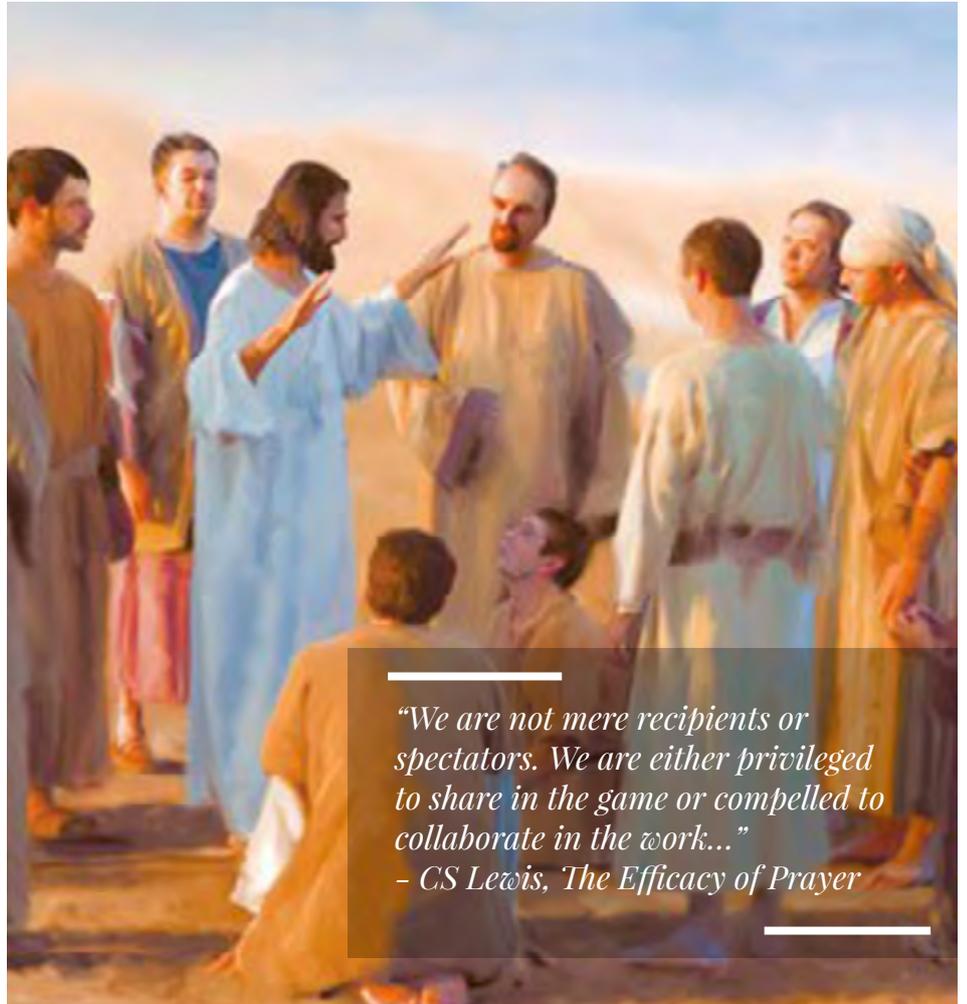
This Sunday's readings are a reflection on our mission as disciples.

First, we are chosen. As St Paul writes to the Ephesians, God has chosen us "to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in [Christ's] presence." Even in—especially in—our ordinary lives, God chooses us. Just as Amos in our First Reading was taken by the Lord while he was herding his flock, so too does God call us in our schools, our work places, our homes, to be his sons and daughters.

Second, we are sent. Just as Jesus sends his disciples on their mission, so do our missions come from the Lord. Similarly, in the First Reading, Amos also declares that it was "the Lord who said, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

In other words, we are not mere recipients or spectators in God's kingdom. God has "let us know the mystery of his purpose," and we are to preach his good news to the world. As CS Lewis writes in his essay *The Efficacy of Prayer*, we are "either privileged to share in the game or compelled to collaborate in the work."

Third, we are not sent alone. While Jesus instructs his disciples to take nothing for the journey, he sends them out in pairs. Critically, he gives



"We are not mere recipients or spectators. We are either privileged to share in the game or compelled to collaborate in the work..."
- CS Lewis, *The Efficacy of Prayer*

them "authority over the unclean spirits." While we are given "no bread, no haversack, no coppers for [our] purses," we have been given much more: we have been "stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit," as St Paul says. We have our community and the Holy Spirit as companions. We need little else.

Fourth, we will face rejection. In the First Reading, Amos was told to return to the land of Judah, for Israel wanted "no more prophesying". In the Gospel reading, following right after Jesus' own hometown rejected him, Jesus pre-empted his disciples for places that

will not welcome them and people who will refuse to listen to them.

The last point then is how we should handle acceptance and rejection. Jesus tells us to stay if we are welcomed, and to leave if we are not. We should be embarrassed neither by accepting generosity nor by being rejected.

After all, this is God's mission that we are sent on. This is God's kingdom that we are building. There is little room for pride. As per a prayer that Pope Francis quoted in 2015, "We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The 1Cor12 group MSC (Mustard Seed Community) will be running the canteen this weekend. Do come down for some fellowship and makan.

THIRD SUNDAY, SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This being the third Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the GIFT programme.

The GIFT or "Giving in Faith and Thankfulness" programme is a campaign for regular giving to the archdiocese of Singapore to support the archdiocese's 10-year pastoral plan for a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church. Thank you for your generosity.

LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS - STARTS NEXT WEEK

A Bible Study presented by SFX BAT.

St Paul's Letter to the Romans has probably influenced Christian thinking and history more than any other epistle of Paul. Paul's longest letter and arguably his most important, Romans carries the imprint of his wisdom, depth and spiritual energy. In this study, you will discover the rich lessons which Romans has to offer for our Christian living.

9 Sundays: 22 July, 29 July, 5 Aug, 12 Aug, 19 Aug, 26 Aug, 9 Sep, 16 Sep and 23 Sep

Time: 9 - 10.30am in SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2). ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen. To register, please contact Helen Chong at 9757 4853.

SFX RETREAT: THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (RTE)

This is a non-stay in retreat meant for SFX Parishioners - to renew your spiritual lives and have a personal encounter with Jesus.

Dates:

04 Oct Thu: 8pm - 10pm
05 Oct Fri: 8pm - 10pm
06 Oct Sat: 9am - 10pm
07 Oct Sun: 9am - 6.30pm (mass included)
13 Oct Sat: 9am - 1.00pm

Register online: tinyurl.com/rte6register

RTE6 Service Team Recruitment

Calling those who have attended previous RTEs and/or PRE retreats! If you are able to help out at RTE6 as a Service Team member, please register using this link: tinyurl.com/rteservice

CHARISMATIC LISS

The next session is on Mon, 16 Jul at 8pm, 2nd Level, Parish Hall. The session begins with praise and worship followed by a talk, "God the Father loves you personally" by Fr Ben.

Walk-in Registration is still open until 23 July. You may also register online through bit.ly/sfxliss.

To learn more about the LISS, visit bit.ly/aboutsfxliss2018 or read testimonies of last year's LISS at bit.ly/SFXLISS2017TEST.

MARYVALE CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS (MCC)

The MCC course is a 2-year distance learning programme for anyone interested in developing his or her own faith for the sake of explaining it to others.

It is jointly offered by Maryvale Institute, UK, and the Office For Catechesis.
2018 Intake Commencement: 10 Nov 2018
Application closing date: 31 Jul 2018

If interested or for more info please email to michele@catechesis.org.sg

JESUS FOR EVERYONE

You're sure to know a family member or friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ.

Consider praying and fasting for this person!

Choose a day to fast for this person. We fast by limiting our food intake in response to God our Father's call to build His kingdom. Effective prayer should be accompanied by fasting.

An initiative by the Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE)



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Liturgy of the Word - The story of God's love for us



This weekend, let's talk about the section of the mass known as the LITURGY OF THE WORD.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

During this time, we listen to our story - the story of God's love for us - through Sacred Scripture. It's not just a collection of stories from the past, though. These words have the power to inform and inspire our lives. If you think they're old, boring and useless, please, just listen with an open mind and an open heart. You might find something that could change your life.

FIRST READING

This is usually taken from the Old Testament but occasionally comes from the New Testament. It's always linked in some way to the Gospel and highlights the Gospel by for instance showing how a prophecy in the Old Testament is fulfilled through Jesus in the Gospel, making a contrast between events and personalities in the Old Testament and the Gospel or enhancing the meaning of the Gospel by providing some background information.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Following the first reading, there is a period of silence for us to reflect on what has been proclaimed. This silence helps us to better understand the reading and thus participate more completely in the Liturgy of the Word.

After this period of silence, we raise our voices in song through the Responsorial Psalm, one of the most important musical moments of the entire liturgy. The Psalms that we proclaim at Mass come from the book of Psalms. The Psalms are at the heart of our prayer, and they express the deepest longings, desires, and emotions of the human heart.

THE SECOND READING

This is taken from the Letters in the New Testament. It doesn't always tie in with the first reading or the Gospel. The Letters were written to the early church by St. Paul and the Apostles. They offered support, encouragement, correction and guidance to a young church finding its way in a society that didn't support it. Likewise, we also need the direction of the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit. Listen to these readings as you would listen to the wise counsel of a trusted mentor.

SAY WHAT?

After the first and second readings, the reader will say, "The Word of the Lord" to which the community responds, "Thanks be to God". In this way, we show our gratitude to have these readings, their insight and guidance.

GET UP, STAND UP

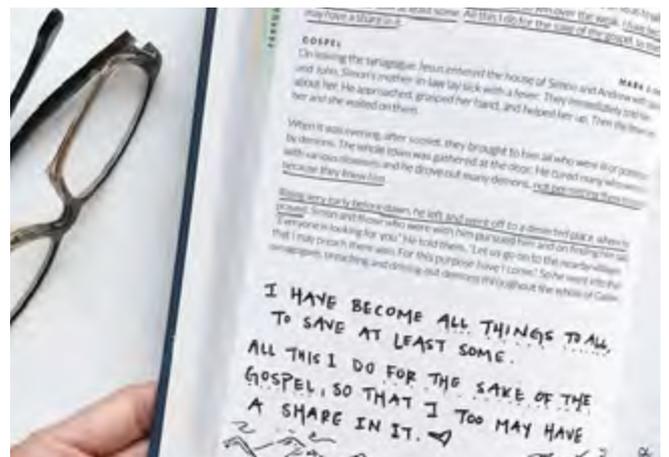
We stand at the acclamation "alleluia", giving thanks for the scriptures we've heard and happy to welcome the Gospel message.

THE GOSPEL READING

The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the Gospel reading. The word Gospel means "good news." The Gospel reading is taken from one of the following books: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These books contain direct accounts of what Christ did and said; and each Gospel book provides a unique take on the life of Jesus. What we hear proclaimed at Mass truly is good news — the best news we can hear: Jesus Christ speaks to us! It's important to remember that when the Gospel is proclaimed, it's no longer the priest speaking, but Christ himself.

To help us focus on this very important reading, the Church gives us some additional postures and symbols of respect. For instance, we stand out of respect for the Gospel reading. Also, the Gospel is often carried in a special book, the Book of Gospels, that is placed in a place of honour during the Mass. Incense and candles are used on solemn feasts to indicate that Christ is present, speaking to us, through the Gospel.

It has become a custom for one to make a small sign of the cross on the forehead, lips and heart before the proclamation of the Gospel. When you make this gesture, ask God to bless your mind, that you may ponder His Word; your lips, that you may speak His praise; and your heart, that you may love the Word of God!





WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

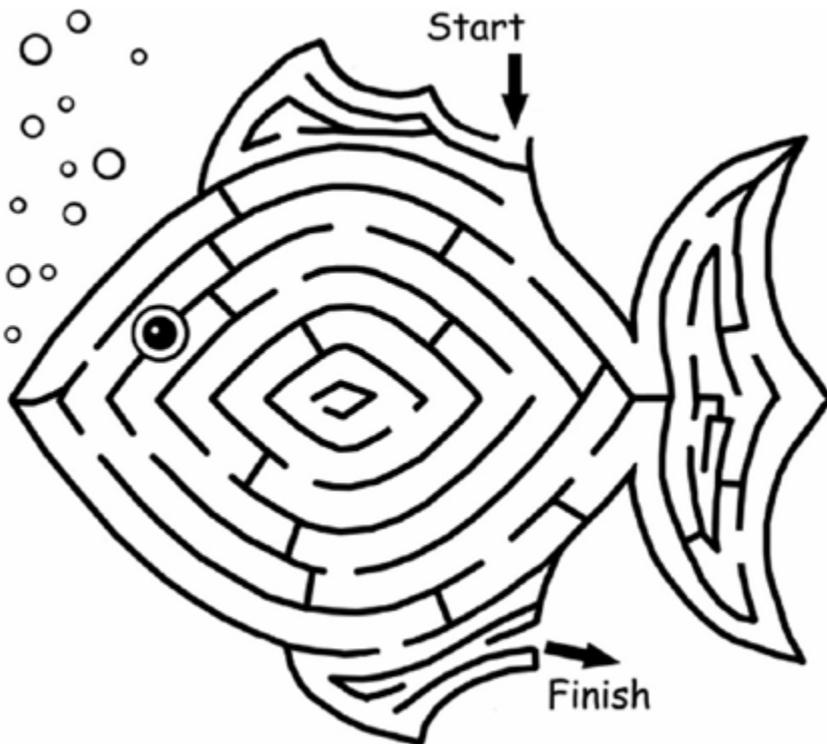
HOMILY

This is not the time to take a nap or read the Catholic News. If we're merely passive listeners as the priest delivers his homily, it can be easy to daydream (no matter how effective a speaker he is). Thus, consider looking for a takeaway message in the homily. Or invest in a Mass journal and write down a couple of things for future reflection. Some Catholics I know intentionally attend mass in churches where they feel inspired by the homilies preached there. If you're still left feeling frustrated or bored during this time, look at the big picture. The priest delivers the homily to help us understand and reflect on the readings. We don't celebrate the holy sacrifice of the Mass to be entertained. Christ is just as present when the homily is dull as He is when it's particularly moving.

"We don't realize that God is always speaking to us. Especially at Mass, He is communicating to us in some way. Be it the homily, one of the hymns, the readings, a thought that is triggered by the altar candles, vestment colors, the stained glass, or the incense rising up toward heaven. The Lord can use anything to speak to us, we just have to be open to listening and being actively attentive." - Fr. Christopher Ortega.



I like to follow Jesus!



**From now on, you will fish for people.
Luke 5:10b**

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

Daily: 5.30am - 11pm

LIBRARY

Sun: 8.30am - 12.30pm

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm

CANTEEN

Sun: 7am - 12pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffers from serious illness or is weakened by old age. Anointing may be before getting admitted 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 infantbap@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