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Disciples
Making Disciples

Encounter, Awe, Believe and Change

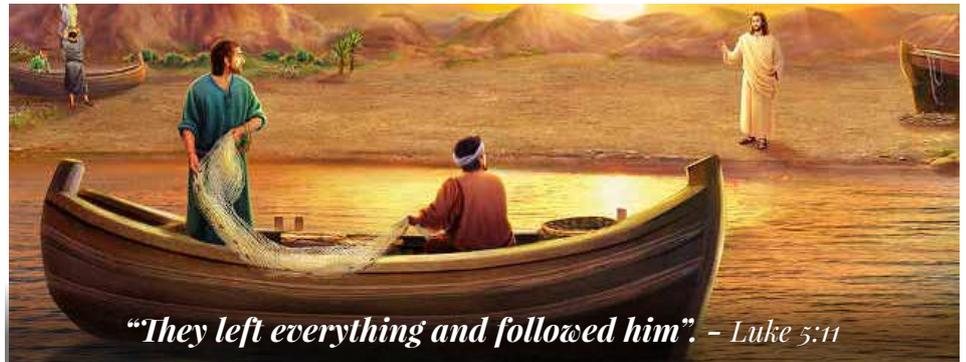
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10 Feb 2019

Is 6:1-2, 3-8
1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11

Imagine for a moment that you are standing in the temple of God in the middle of Isaiah's vision as recounted in today's first reading. You see God sitting high up on a throne in all his majesty, and six-winged seraphim standing above him, with the whole temple filled with smoke and shaking at its foundations from the voice of one crying out the glory of God. Then a seraph, holding a red-hot live coal, flies directly towards you...

It will not be difficult to imagine that anyone who has had the privilege of such an encounter with God, would be standing in awe, trembling at such unfathomable majesty and holiness. Even the proudest and most righteous of persons will come to realise how wretched they are in comparison with the holiness of God.

In contrast to the mystical encounter described by Isaiah, the gospel reading today tells us about a more down to earth encounter with God, experienced by Peter and his friends. Peter had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. At the prompting of Jesus, the eternal Son of God, Peter cast his net one more time, and managed to haul in so much fish that his boat was filled to sinking point. Again, if you can imagine yourself as one of the hired hands working on the boat alongside Peter, witnessing the discourse with Jesus and the



abundant catch, it is not difficult to also imagine being filled with awe, and humbled in the presence of holiness and the divine.

Some of us may feel disconnected with and unaffected by these events described in today's readings because they happened a long, long time ago in a land far, far away from our current reality. At the back of our minds, we are thinking - this does not happen anymore, at least not to me. Perhaps this is why God continues to give us close encounters with Him in present times, if only we see with eyes and hearts of humility like Isaiah and Peter did. For example, within the living memory of our own parish, in the year 2003, a family from our parish was struck down with SARS. At its height, the entire family except the father was in isolation at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Through intercessory prayers and the work of medical staff, the family eventually recovered. Their collective encounter changed them and today, in response, they serve powerfully within various ministries of SFX. Another even more recent encounter with God was experienced by our intercessory prayer team for our current batch of RCIA candidates. Early scepticism of some of the prayer team members was turned to awe and belief when they saw their prayers indisputably answered in a powerful way.

Summarising this in a concise way, CCC 208 tells us that "faced with God's fascinating and mysterious presence, man discovers his own insignificance." Therefore, Isaiah declares "Woe is me! I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips" (Is 6:5) and Peter exclaims "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Lk 5:8). This may sound bleak, but CCC 208 ends with a bright note as the Church teaches that "because God is holy, he can forgive the man who realises that he is a sinner before him" (see 1 Jn 3:19-20).

St. Paul, in the second reading today, also echoes this teaching, when he reminds us that because Jesus the Christ died for our sins, was buried and is resurrected, God pours out his grace in such abundance that even St. Paul, a sinner who persecuted the church of God, could become what he became - a powerful and fruitful instrument of God to bring people into the Kingdom of Heaven.

All it takes from us is genuine humility. A humility of heart and mind to recognise the many encounters with our Holy Trinitarian God in our everyday lives. With humility, God will give us the grace of courage in our convictions to change our lives, to be willing to leave everything and follow Jesus, who is "the way, the truth and the life".

Announcements

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

NO CANTEEN

Due to the upcoming renovation works, there will be no canteen service from **this weekend to 25 Aug 2019**.

DISCARDING OF OLD PALMS



You may return your old palms in the boxes that will be placed at the front and side entrances of the church from **23 Feb - 3 Mar**.

THE ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT

The Altar Servers Society will be having its recruitment for new servers **this weekend**. The recruitment form can be found in the church office. Please fill it up and hand it back to the church office by **17 Feb**.

60TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER

The feast day dinner will be held on **Sun 1 Dec** at **Ban Heng @ HarbourFront**. Mark your calendar and spread the news for family and friends to gather to celebrate this awesome parish milestone together. Watch this space for further details.

ACF: SYMPOSIUM ON DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT BY FR TERENCE PEREIRA

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family is collaborating with the Archdiocesan Tribunal to help Catholics understand the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment on **Sat 16 Feb** from **9am - 1pm (includes 1 tea break)** at **Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, St Peter's Auditorium (2 Highland Road, S549102)**. Contribution: Love Offering. Do register at: <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/dsa>

SFX FUNDRAISING UPDATE

\$1,054,831.60

\$2.3M Goal



SFX has raised a total of cash & pledges amounting to **\$1,054,831.60** as of **Dec 2018**. 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 the continued support as we work towards our \$2.3 million fundraising goal.

PARISH BUILDING UPDATE

The Main Contract has been awarded to Megabuilders & Development Pte Ltd after a rigorous evaluation process. Megabuilders attained the highest combined price, quality and project management score in that process.

We are happy to announce that we are able to keep within the \$6.8 million budget for the original scope of works. However, there was a sharp deterioration of the Parsonage Roof during the last November/December rainy season causing some ceiling elements to fall onto the access corridor. The roof was assessed to be beyond economical repair and has to be replaced. This additional work will increase the overall project sum to \$7,116,743.98. Despite the increase in project cost, a decision was made to maintain the fund raising amount at \$2.3 million whilst funding the difference from parish reserves.

The building committee is in the process of preparing an update on the work schedule which will be shared with parishioners and posted on our parish website. We would like to thank the parish for your continued patience and your continued prayers as we bring the improvements to fruition.

TOTAL COLLECTED FOR SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$15,353.95** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

FAMILY WALKATHON

As part of the fund-raising efforts for the church's renovation, a family walkathon is being organised. To allow all in the family to participate, fund-raisers need not participate in the walk and vice versa. Donation cards are available at the front porch and the canteen areas. If you are above 12 years of age, you can sign out for a donation card. Those below 12 years of age can still participate in the fund-raising if a parent/guardian signs out the card for them. The donation cards can be returned every Sunday from 10th Feb 2019 to 21st Apr 2019 (last date) between 8am - 12 noon at the front porch of the main Church.

The sign-up for the actual walkathon will commence in mid-March 2019 and there will be multiple walking routes of about 5km to choose from, to cater to all. This walkathon will be held on a public holiday, **Mon 20 May 2019**. Come join us! Have some family bonding time and fun with your friends and your parish community!

CARITAS SINGAPORE TALKS @ AGAPE VILLAGE – CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN YEARS

Hear from best-selling author, The Sunday Times' Invest Editor, Lorna Tan as she shares about CPF life. How have you lived your lives up till this point? How would you like to spend the rest of your years? In the second part of the talk, Sr Linda Lizada, RC will address some of these questions that come up as we go through the transition: questions about identity, relationships, meaning and fruitfulness of life.

Date: Fri 22 Feb 2019
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh Singapore 319264)
Register at: agapevillage@caritas-singapore.org
 or call 6801 7400 (10am-6pm, Mon-Fri)

ACF-CTIS FORMATION PROGRAMME: "COME BE MY LIGHT"

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family (ACF) is collaborating with the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore (CTIS) to offer a Formation Programme in Marriage and Family. Open to all in the Marriage and Family apostolate and those who are interested.

Date: Beginning 1 March (Refer to website)
Time: 7.45pm - 10pm
Venue: Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore, (618 Upper Bukit Timah Road)
Contribution: \$30 per person per module (for Family Ministry members), \$60 per person per module (for others)
Register at: catholicfamily.org.sg/come-be-my-light-acf-ctis-formation/

ACF: UNPACKING THE DEEPEST DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS

Come learn and understand the Church's teaching on Human Sexuality as written by St John Paul II in his document Theology of the Body. Listen as Fr David Garcia, OP, Mr Andrew Kong and Dr Douglas Ong share more about this hot topic. For married couples and singles (above 20).

Date: Sat 2 March 2019
Time: 9am - 3pm
Venue: St Joseph's Institution, Lecture Theatre 2 (38 Malcolm Road, Singapore 308274)
Contribution: Love Offering
Register at: catholicfamily.org.sg/unpacking-the-deepest-desire-of-our-hearts/

CENACLE SISTERS: AT HOME RETREAT

Journey from Ashes to Easter - a 10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola to know Jesus more intimately in the midst of life's daily routine. It is a school of prayer and a Lenten preparation for Easter. Includes weekly meeting of faith sharing, daily prayer with Scripture and one spiritual direction by Cenacle Sisters & Team.

It will be held **every Tues from 26 Feb - 30 Apr** at LaSalle Centre - St. Patrick School (490 East Coast Road) in the morning from **9.30am - 11.30am** or in the evening from **7.30pm - 9.30 pm** at Cana - the Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo St). There will be a contribution of \$250. To register, go to www.cenaclemission.com or call 9722 3148 / 9298 5808 or email cenaclemissionsingapore@gmail.com to find out more.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, 16/17 Feb, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with continued support for the numerous archdiocesan organisations needed for the mission of the church. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

MEDIA SALES BY DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

The Daughters of St. Paul will be here **next weekend** for their annual media parish outreach with a variety of media materials - books, DVDs, CDs - for your spiritual nourishment. Do come and browse to see if there are any materials that can help you or your loved ones draw closer to the Lord.

COME ALIVE: A WEEKEND RETREAT - 2ND RUN

Pray with the songs from the movie, "The Greatest Showman". Discover who you are and discern God's dream for you. Where are you fully alive, and what keeps you from being fully alive.



Date:
8 - 10 March 2019

Venue:
Montfort Centre
(622 Upper Bukit Timah Road,
Singapore 678117)

Contribution:
\$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin)

Register at:
anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com
or call 9631 1943 to find out more.

Parish Renovation PROJECT



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

20 Feb onwards, temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

20 Feb onwards, temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1: When will the renovation commence and end?

The renovation will be carried out in three phases over 16 months from **mid-Feb 2019 to June 2020**. The first phase will comprise the Parsonage, the Canteen and the levelling between the two buildings. This phase will take six months to complete. The Parsonage will be handed over to Megabuilders on **20 Feb 2019**.

Q2: Where will the Parish Office and Adoration Room be re-located?

From 20 Feb onwards, the Adoration Room will be temporarily closed. Parish Office including our Priests' Offices will be re-located to Level 2 of the Parish Center.

Q3: Can we access the Columbarium during the renovation?

From 20 Feb onwards, the Columbarium will be temporarily closed to facilitate works, access to the Columbarium may not be possible.

Q4: Where are the alternative toilets?

Parishioners can use the toilets at the Parish Center. In addition, we will be renting mobile toilets.

Q5: Will Masses in the Main Church be affected?

There is no change to the current Mass timings for weekday and weekend Masses up to 31 Aug 2019.

Q6: When will the Main Church and Parish Center be renovated?

Works will start on both buildings from September 2019 onwards. The Main Church will be renovated by end-November 2019 and the Parish Center by June 2020.

Q7: What will happen to the Kindergarten?

The Kindergarten will be re-located to Level 2 of the Parsonage from 1 Sep 2019.

Q8: Where will Mass be held after 1 Sep 2019?

Mass will be celebrated at the new Community Hall of the Parsonage.

Q9: Can we still park our cars within the Church premises during the renovation?

Yes, the Basement Carpark can be used. However, some surface lots will be cordoned-off in view of the renovation works.

Q10: Are we able to use the access corridor from the Church to CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel for catechism?

Yes.

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 contact infbaptism@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