



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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The Beatitudes

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 Feb 2019

Jer 17:5-8
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26

The Beatitudes are a core component of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

First, the Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship. Before they prescribe, they describe — as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI puts it — what might be called “the actual condition of Jesus' disciples: They are poor, hungry, weeping men; they are hated and persecuted.”

The Beatitudes thus go beyond a detached code of conduct. They are made real by the lives of the disciples and the saints. St Francis of Assisi, for example, illuminated the exhortation to be “poor in spirit”. Radically inspired by the promise of the first Beatitude, he even gave away his own garments.

The disciples and the saints also demonstrate what true “happiness” and “blessedness” is. In spurning material comforts, and yet exuding a mysterious joy, their lives proclaim the Beatitude's promises. Rather than a postponed fulfillment that is reserved only for the next world, living the Beatitudes makes present something of the *éschaton*, of the reality to come. As Pope Emeritus Benedict writes, “Jesus brings joy into the midst of affliction.”

This brings us to the **second point: the Beatitudes are not just ethical,**

they are Christological. The qualities that the Beatitudes exhort are the qualities of Christ. They apply to the disciple because they were first lived by Christ himself.

Consider, for example, the Beatitude on persecution, in which Jesus makes clear that fidelity to *him* is the criterion for salvation. In doing so, Jesus claims a status that no moral teacher would dare to. Jesus proclaims himself as the reference point of the righteous life.

As CS Lewis pointed out in his famous trilemma, we can call Jesus a liar, a lunatic, or Lord; “but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Third, the Beatitudes invert the standards of the world. The Beatitudes praise the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, the rejected. And yet, even as we are touched by Jesus' affirmation of the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, and the pure, we doubt: is it really so bad to be rich, to eat one's fill, to laugh, and to be praised?

Perhaps it is — to the extent that such desires for fulfillment in this life arises from our zeitgeist of capitalism and individualism. In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, Pope Emeritus suggests that the pursuits of such worldly pleasures “lock man into mere outward appearance, into provisionality, into the loss of his highest and deepest qualities and hence into the loss of God and neighbor — the path to ruin.”



“Jesus brings joy into the midst of affliction.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism to the Transfiguration

He continues, “Yes indeed, the Beatitudes stand opposed to our spontaneous sense of existence, our hunger and thirst for life.” Our zest for life is often rooted in a presumption of autonomy, a claim that we are our own god, “in order to possess life totally and to draw from it every last drop of what it has to offer.” In a word — hubris.

Contrast this instead to Christ who lived and embodied the Beatitudes. Our Lord emptied himself on the Cross. Pope Emeritus thus concludes, “The true morality of Christianity is love. And love does admittedly run counter to self-seeking — it is an exodus out of oneself, and yet this is precisely the way in which man comes to himself.”

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 till **25 Aug 2019**.

ADORATION ROOM CLOSURE

Due to the upcoming renovation works, the adoration room will be temporarily closed from **20 Feb** onwards until further notice.

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**.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIPS

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trips to Myanmar in **29 Mar - 3 Apr** (TBC) and **early June** (TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation, as well as to oversee a water supply project sponsored by CHARIS Singapore. If you are keen to join in either Mission trips or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMINGS



The mass timings for Ash Wednesday, on **6 Mar**, are as follows: **6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

HANDING OVER OF PARSONAGE

We will be handing over the **Parsonage** to Megabuilders on **Wed 20 Feb 2019** at **7pm** at the Canteen Foyer. Parishioners are invited to witness the occasion and join our parish priest in blessing the commencement of the renovation.

CHARIS MISSION TRIP

Join us in building Bio-sand filters for Typhoon Haiyan survivors in the Cebu, Philippines. From **31 Mar - 6 Apr 2019**, \$900 per pax. Limited spaces available. Kindly register at <https://tinyurl.com/chariscebu2019>. For more information, contact Antaeus at antaeus@charis-singapore.org or call 6337 4119. Website www.charis-singapore.org

THE BIBLE AND MARY

A Bible Study presented by SFX BAT. Are Catholic teachings on Mary really biblical or are they "traditions of men"? By praying to Mary, are Catholics worshiping her? Did Mary actually remain a virgin her whole life or are the "brothers of Jesus" mentioned in the Gospels her other children? How does the Bible teach that Mary is the new Eve, the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth and the new Ark of the Covenant? ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen. To register, please contact Helen Chong at 9757 4853.

Date: 3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, 31 Mar 2019 (Sundays)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

MEDIA SALES BY DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

The Daughters of St. Paul will be here **this 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.

CANA: SHORT FILM SCREENING "SISTER"



CANA invites you to the screening of SISTER. Sr Gerard Fernandez became a death row counselor after her experience with the 2 wives of the infamous Adrian Lim - a spirit medium whose outrageous story of sex and rituals shocked the entire nation. Join us for the screening and panel discussion which will include Sr Gerard, the film maker Chai Yee Wei and producer Jeanne Tai, who will share their collective experiences. In fact, the entire cast will be present. Light refreshments will be served.

Date: Sat 23 Feb 2019

Time: 3pm

Venue: Cana, 55 Waterloo Street, 2nd Floor

Register: Call 6338 4080 or email canatheplacetobe2013@gmail.com

SFX FAMILY WALKATHON

There are over **300** fund-raising cards to be issued. To participate, just take a card so that you can assist in the fund-raising efforts. If you have not done so, do take a card or take another card if you have completed your previous one. Every completed card brings the fund-raising amount to the target needed for the renovation fund. We have already started collecting the fund-raising cards from those who have completed. The collection of these completed fund-raising cards is at the front porch of the parish.



SFX Family Walkathon: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why are we raising the funds?

The fund-raising is part of the effort to reach the required amount of **\$2.3M** required for the renovations of the parish.

2. What are the 2 phases of this activity?

The first phase is the fund-raising using a donation card and the second phase is the family walkathon.

3. What is the fund-raising phase?

The first phase is the fund-raising phase which is the distribution of the fund-raising donation cards. Each fund-raising card allows the holder of the card to seek contributions of \$2, \$5, \$10 or \$50, which are marked by amounts. There is also an open amount. The marked amounts total up to \$200. Each donation card is numbered and can be signed out by anyone above 12 years of age. If you are below 12 years of age, you must ask your parent/s to sign out for you. As this is a private fund-raising activity, the holder of the card can seek donations from friends or relatives. Donations cannot be collected by appealing to the public, made by means of house visits or soliciting in the streets or public places. Since it's Lunar New Year, the donation cards will come in handy!

4. When can I sign out the fund-raising or donation card?

Donations cards can be signed out over 6 weekends at the front porch of the Church (plus canteen area if available) if the cards are available.

5. What is the last date I should return the donation or fund-raising card?

The fund-raising cards must be returned by **Sun 21 April 2019** and collection will be at the front porch of the Church. Before 21 April, the fund-raising cards can be returned every Sunday between **8am – 12 noon**.

6. What is the second phase of the SFX Family Fund-Raising Walkathon?

The second phase is the family walkathon. We hope many families will participate in this walkathon which will be held between 3 to 8 locations, depending on the number of signups. The routes will be limited to about 90 people. Each route will be about 5km in distance and walking difficulty level will range from flat areas like Bishan Park to climbing up Bukit Timah hill via the Wallace Education Centre, which is 45 degrees to 60 degrees uphill walk.

7. Why do we need a walkathon?

The walkathon is aimed at bringing the parishioners of SFX together in an outdoor activity and identify themselves as a parish family.

8. When will my family and I be able to sign-up for the walkathon?

The signups for the walkathon will commence in **mid-March**.

9. When will the walkathon be held?

The walkathon itself will be held on **20 May 2019** which is a public holiday. It's held on a Monday, after Vesak Day.

10. Can I fund-raise but not do the walkathon?

Yes.

11. Can I do the walkathon but not do the fund-raising?

Yes.

12. What if I lose the fund-raising donation card?

A report has to be made to the parish office and after reviewing the circumstances, a love offering can be made to this fund-raising activity.

13. Can I take more than one fund-raising / donation card?

Yes, but please try to complete the cards you have taken.

To find out more about the walkathon, please contact Roderick at 8138 3611 or Thud Chee at 9632 3489.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



"Meet 3 pilgrims from Ecuador (Luis, Jahaira and Illona) I got lost and they helped me find my group I was looking for."

World Youth Day: JMJ Panama 2019

I was blessed with the opportunity to attend World Youth Day in Panama at the end of January 2019. It was an experience of a lifetime; interacting with people from all over the world, encountering religious sisters so full of joy and life and hearing the words of our Holy Father in person. One of the most striking experiences was that of sharing vocation journeys with other youths from all walks of life and encountering Christ in our shared vulnerability and faith. The desire to serve our Lord and Church in a tangible and meaningful manner was present in so many. As I return to life in college, I am fully aware of the temptation to question if what I felt and encountered was real and that will last. However, our Holy Father's words remained with me - *our God is not a God of the future but a God of now. It is my "yes" now, today, that matters and the fiat that empowers me to go forward in making missionary disciples: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Speak your word to me and let your will be done."*

- Cordelia Theseira, a parishioner of Church of St Francis Xavier, attended World Youth Day 2019 in Panama.



Cordelia with St Maria Joseffa (Missionary of Charity) and Krista (fellow pilgrim from Boston).



Cordelia, catching a glimpse of the Pope at World Youth Day 2019 in Panama.

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

Daily: 7am - 9pm
Will be closed from **1 Jun - 31 July**

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 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