



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Transfigured by Love

2nd Sunday of Lent
17 Mar 2019

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18
Phil 3:17-4:1
Lk 9:28-36

Up to this point of the gospel narrative, the glory of Jesus' divinity had been hidden in his humanity since his birth. In the Transfiguration described in today's gospel, this glory shines forth briefly and becomes visible to the three chosen apostles. On one level, this glorious sight mitigated the apostles' shock when Jesus revealed to them that he must suffer many things at the hands of the elders and chief priests, be killed and on the third day rise again (cf Lk 9:22). On another level, the Transfiguration "gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he "will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body" (CCC556, Phil 3:21), provided we suffer with him (cf Rom 8:17) and persevere till the end in being faithful to him (cf Heb 6:11-12).

But why must Christ suffer and die? The first reading gives us a clue. In response to Abram asking for a sign that he will indeed possess what God has promised, God makes Abram ritually cut animals into half and lay them on the ground as was the covenant ritual practice of that time. Then God alone, passing between the two halves makes a covenant with Abram - thus God took on himself the consequences of man's failure to keep the covenant. This consequence of not

keeping the covenant is signified by the animals being cut into halves. Their deaths represent the consequence of death that will befall any party who fails to uphold the covenant (cf Jer 34:18). Beginning with Adam, man has persistently failed in being faithful to his covenantal relationship with God. The consequences of this infidelity to the covenant is now experienced by all of us in sickness, suffering and death.

Jesus, God Incarnate, is the new Adam. In his baptism, Jesus associated himself with our sins, though he himself is without sin. Having done so, his suffering and death recapitulated the first Adam's disobedience and its consequences and became the atonement of the sin of the world (1 Jn 4:10).

To the modern mind not accustomed to the reality of sin, death and atoning sacrifice, this seems bloodthirsty, but it truly and perfectly reveals the reality of the supreme and utter love of God for humanity.

Before he created the world by his Word, God knew the unfaithfulness of man and the need to sacrifice his only begotten Son in order to restore humanity to its fullness (cf Gen 3:15). God loves us so much that he offered up Christ as an atonement on our behalf in order that we can partake of his glory and have eternal life (cf Jn 3:16). On our part, we must die to our attachment to the things of this world or as St Paul said to the Philippians "stop making our bellies our god", and conduct ourselves as 'citizens of heaven' - living according to God's will. The Cross is thus the only way to the Transfiguration.

As we continue with Lent, let us look at our sacrifices not so much as sufferings but as a way of imitating Christ. A way of giving up our selfish will, and dying to ourselves so that we can align ourselves to the will of God, which is righteousness. Then we can claim the hope that St Paul expressed to the Philippians, that Jesus will transform our lowly bodies to conform to his glorified body, at our own resurrection.



*"And he will
transfigure these
wretched bodies of
ours into copies of
his glorious body."*

Phil 3:21

Announcements

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

CATECHISM BREAK

There will be no catechism sessions on **Sun 17 Mar** due to the school holiday break. Sessions will resume on **Sun 24 Mar**.

Lent @ SFX

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

8pm on Fridays, followed by Mass at **8.30pm**.

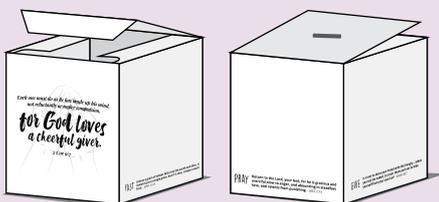
** There will be no mass at 6.30pm*

LENTEN SACRIFICE CROSS

The "Lenten cross" near the tabernacle is back. The coloured stickers represent sacrifices made and fulfilled. Stick them on the cross throughout the period of Lent. It serves as a visible encouragement and reminder for fellow parishioners to walk this paschal journey together.

LENTEN BOX

Each family will be given a cardboard money box to encourage almsgiving. Bring it back on **13/14 Apr**. The monetary contributions will be used to fund our "Feed the Hungry" programme. Any excess will be donated to the Archdiocesan GIFT programme. Our yearly "Feed the Hungry" outreach efforts continue this year. The "hungry" will be given a food hamper on **27/28 Apr, Divine Mercy Sunday**. More details will be given soon.



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. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the church pews, and at the parish office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: REBUILD MY CHURCH, RESTORE MY PEOPLE

Our priests are excited to introduce a new 7-month long parish formation programme that aims to build up our people and rejuvenate our faith! Aligned with our tagline "Disciples making Disciples", the programme seeks to form and grow disciples after the heart of Jesus and to ready us for mission, with practical tools to disciple others!



All parishioners are invited to attend this formation programme. The first module on Discipleship & Prayer will kick off on **Mon 25 Mar, 8 - 10pm** at **Parish Centre, Level 2**. Grab your family and friends and sign up now, at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019! To find out more, keep a lookout for the publicity poster on the formation programme.

SFX INDOOR AIR RIFLE SHOOT

The fundraising committee is organising an indoor air rifle shooting event in support of the SFX Renovation Fund. Discover your marksmanship ability and simply have fun! You can be the next Jasmine Ser or Chris Kyle! The SAFRA instructors will conduct a safety briefing on the handling of the air rifle and no prior experience is required. However, participants must be more than 10 years old. Parishioners may invite guest(s) to participate in this event. There are 120 slots for this event. Those who wish to participate, please register at tinyurl.com/y2yyc5l7 by **Sun 24 Mar**. Payment collection will be on **Sat 23 Mar** and **Sun 24 Mar** after each Mass.

Date: Sat 27 Apr 2019

Time: 9am - 11.30am

Venue: SAFRA Indoor Air Rifle Range

Cost: \$50 per person

Meeting Point: SAFRA Yishun Lobby @ 9am

SFX FAMILY FUNDRAISING WALKATHON

Fundraising: About 800 fundraising cards have been issued out over the last 6 weeks and about 130 have been returned as of last Sunday. A gentle reminder to complete and return the fundraising cards by **Sun 21 April**. Collection is every weekend after all masses.

The signup for the Walkathon is now open! There are 6 routes available between 4.5km to 5.5km. There are 2 routes of each:

- flat routes - PCN routes @ Bishan Park and Punggol Park
- intermediate routes - slight undulating @ Lower Pierce to Upper Pierce and MacRitchie
- challenging routes - uphill slope @ Bukit Batok and Bukit Timah

Sign up as a family or with your friends! Come together and meet others from our parish to build and strengthen relationships in our community. Registration is available at the front porch after each mass. For more details, look out for the walkathon routes info sheets on notice boards.

HOW DOES HIS DYING SAVE ME? UNDERSTANDING THE ATONEMENT

Was there no other way to achieve salvation other than through the death of Jesus? Does God "demand blood"? Does it mean that God is vengeful? Join us in unpacking this mystery in this Lenten special.

Date: Tue 26 Mar 2019

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Venue: CANA The Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street #02-01)

Speakers: Messrs Nick Chui and Joseph Fernandez

Register: email theology.sg@gmail.com or contact Nick at 9784 3682

Please RSVP early as seats are limited.

WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

An evening of testimonies by Catholics who have returned and strengthened their faith with the help of Landings will be held on **Fri 22 Mar**, at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd. You will hear stories of struggles, challenges, grace and reconciliation. Please register at bit.ly/2Dz549P. The Landings programme at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd will take place from **25 Apr - 11 Jul**, with weekly meetings (**7.30pm - 9.30pm**) mostly on Thursdays. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this programme. Interested participants will need to register. **Registration closes on Thu 18 Apr**. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This Lenten season, the Children's Liturgy Ministry is inviting all children to come and spend an hour with the Lord. Come and join us on **Sun 31 Mar** at **3.30pm** in the main church as we journey with Jesus on his way to Calvary. Parents and adults are all invited!

VERBUM DEI: HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - "BECOMING WHAT WE RECEIVE"

Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer with the Verbum Dei Missionaries.

Date: Sun 31 Mar 2019

Time: 3.15pm - 6pm

Venue: 4 Sommerville Rd

Register: Contact Mark at 9487 0999

SOWing the seeds of New Hope and New Life

The School of Witness (SOW) is an eight-week live-in discipleship school that aims to grow participants in the awareness of who God is, and who they are. Organised annually by the Office for Young People (OYP) for youths and young working adults, five of our parishioners had the opportunity to attend it this year, and they will be sharing with us their testimonials in the weeks to come, so stay tuned to it!

"Precious, Priceless and Beloved" - Francine Ho, 19

Growing up, I remembered always feeling insecure. I constantly told myself that I was incapable of being loved, that it was hard to love me, that I was unwanted, not beautiful and never would be. My thinking was very negative and I had very low self-esteem. The fear of being unloved was rooted deep within my heart causing me to place my identity in my appearance and what people thought of me. I spoke many lies into my head and continued to live with this great fear in my heart. I decided to sign up for SOW 2019 through the recommendation



of some friends. At first, eight weeks seemed like an extremely long time and in all honesty, I was afraid. However, I have come to realise that it was the best decision of my entire life.

Through the eight weeks, God slowly healed me of my wounds and saved me from my fears of being unloved. He restored and renewed my soul and reminded me of my identity in Christ. He revealed to me my beauty and helped me to claim my true identity as a precious, priceless and beloved child of God. The Lord has made me to be the joyful and strong Francine that I am today.

He has created me to be unique, original and irreplaceable.

The power of Jesus' saving grace was unveiled to me. Jesus saved me from my insecurities and pulled me out from my darkness of fear and carried me into the light of freedom! By his stripes, I have been healed and he has given me new hope and new life in him. Jesus' salvation has given me a second chance at life. The Lord has restored me and granted me newfound joy. I can firmly say that I am a beautiful child that is greatly loved by the Lord. Jesus rescued me from the depths of my fear and he continues to save me every day of my life!

"I am qualified, I am loved"

- Natasha Wong, 23



Prior to SOW, I deemed myself as "qualified". I had just graduated from university, and was able to boast that I had managed to keep my faith life afloat, thriving both in the secular and Christian world. I was serving in ministry, maintaining an A- average and ticked all the checkboxes of what a #GCG (Good Catholic Girl) was. However, little did I realise that like the younger son in the Prodigal Son parable, I had simply taken my inheritance from God the Father and squandered it all away on myself. Despite my achievements, I was left feeling empty, on edge, and dissatisfied, always hungering for more. Why did I feel like I was never enough?

During the first few weeks of SOW, it was revealed through my sisters in a time of prayer ministry that I had built my identity on a shaky foundation. I had grown up with the lie that I owed something to everyone I met, because I felt that love was conditional and I always had to pay back something in return. This distorted image of love prevented me from fully receiving love from my family, friends, and most of all – God. Hence, this developed into a 'guilt-trip' mentality, that I would feel guilty if I was not performing at my best because I felt like it was my duty to always provide good results in return for anyone's love, effort, and time spent to groom me, to befriend me, to love me.

In that time of prayer ministry, Jesus called me out of this mindset I had been blind to for so long, by helping me to write the truths of who I was in his eyes – a beloved princess of the most high king. Later during SOW, I was addressed directly by the Father. I felt his gaze land on me, and like an arrow piercing through my heart, he spoke the words, "Natasha, I am very proud of you". These words breathed new life into my being, and gave me new hope for my future. It was as if the gardener cut away the dead branches that had been weighing me down and pruned me into a tree, to bear much fruit – fruit that will last. He has called me to love him and serve him, not because I am capable, not because I am qualified but because he loves me so much that he wants me to be a part of his kingdom. Truly, God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called. He desires to love and lead me into a new life with new hope in him!



"God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called."



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

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