



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Being Merciful by Becoming Human

2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
28 Apr 2019

Ac 5:12-16
Rev 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19
Jn 20:19-31

In today's Gospel, Jesus revealed himself to the disciples on the day of his resurrection, showing them that he had truly risen as he said he would. However, Thomas, also called Didymus ("twin"), was not there in the Upper Room and was adamant that he would only believe if he could see and touch the wounds of Jesus for himself (cf Jn 20:25).

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis says that we are like Thomas' "twin-brother or sister" in this regard. We, too, are incredulous about Jesus' resurrection and wish to see the risen Lord for ourselves. He says it is understandable for us to feel unfulfilled by "[a] God who is risen but remains distant...we too need to 'see God', to touch him with our hands and to know that he is risen, and risen for us." (Homily, Divine Mercy Sunday 2018)

Just as Thomas was willing to believe only if he could see and touch the wounds of Christ, our Holy Father directs us too, to see the depth of God's love and mercy through Jesus' wounds. Despite having been abandoned by his disciples, Jesus showed himself to them on the day of his resurrection with the gift of peace (cf Jn 20:19). Hence, "[t]hey understood that he had forgiven them". Pope Francis said Jesus showed

them his wounds not as a chastisement of their betrayal but the proof of his love, "To enter into Jesus' wounds is to contemplate the boundless love flowing from his heart...It is to realise that his heart beats for me, for you, for each one of us... Only thus can we go to the heart of the faith and, like the disciples, find peace and joy beyond all doubt." (*ibid*)

Providentially, we also celebrate today the Feast of the Divine Mercy as instructed by our Lord through St Faustina Kowalska. On 30 April 2000, Pope St John Paul II officially designated the Second Sunday of Easter as the Sunday of the Divine Mercy. He also canonised St Faustina Kowalska, the "Apostle of Divine Mercy".

On this day, we are invited not only to renew our awareness and gratitude for God's mercy but also desire to become merciful just as the Father is merciful (cf Lk 6:36). With so much injustices in today's secularised world, how can we find the strength to be the merciful and compassionate witnesses of Christ to the world? Perhaps we can do this only when we are aware of our own personal weaknesses, limitations, vulnerabilities and nakedness through the merciful eyes of Jesus.

As our Holy Father pointed out, "... we need to begin...to let ourselves be forgiven...I ask myself, and each one of you: do I allow myself to be forgiven? To experience [Jesus'] love, we need to begin there". It is only by welcoming this offer of Divine Mercy that we, having experienced the joy of being forgiven will be able to forgive those who have wronged us.

In pondering Jesus' glorious resurrection this Easter, we also come to realise that



"Christ, by his Incarnation, Death and Resurrection has become the 'perfect man' to which we must strive to model ourselves after."

our fallen human nature of sin and unforgiveness has been elevated by being made "partakers of the divine nature" through baptism (CCC 460). In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul contrasted Adam and Christ. Adam brought a heritage of sin but Christ, "the second Adam", brought the gift of eternal life to all (cf 1 Cor 15:22). As such, Christ, by his Incarnation, Death and Resurrection has become the "perfect man" to which we must strive to model ourselves after: "For God's Word, through Whom all things were made, was Himself made flesh and dwelt on the earth of men. Thus He entered the world's history as a perfect man, taking that history up into Himself... He Himself revealed to us that 'God is love' and at the same time taught us that the new command of love was the basic law of human perfection and hence of the world's transformation." (*Gaudium et spes* 38)

Let us today learn to become like "the perfect man" who is Christ. In so doing, it will also be in our human nature to be merciful, to forgive and to love.

Announcements

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 1 MAY (WED) - LABOUR DAY

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

HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 2 May, 8.30pm** in the Main Church.

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 in 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

FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT

If you forgot to bring the lenten almsgiving box, you may drop it at the Parish Office over the week. You can also donate cash – place it in an envelope marked 'Feed the Hungry' and leave it with the Parish Office or drop it into any of the donation boxes in the church.

PACKING OF GIFT BAGS

Date: Sat 27 Apr
Time: 9am - 12noon
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2

COLLECTION OF GIFT BAGS

Date: Sat 27 Apr
Time: 12noon - 1pm
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2, St Luke Room

OR

Date: Sun 28 Apr
Time: 8am - 1pm
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2, St Luke Room

SFX FUNDRAISING UPDATE

\$1,259,205.90

\$2.3M Goal



SFX has raised a total of cash & pledges amounting to **\$1,259,205.90** as of **Mar 2019**. 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 your continued support as we work towards our \$2.3 million fundraising goal.

SFX FAMILY FUNDRAISING WALKATHON - 20 MAY

A gentle reminder to complete and return the fundraising cards. Collection is at the front porch after every weekend mass. Spaces for the various routes are still available. Please collect the registration forms and information at the front porch.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: SPIRITUAL GROWTH & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Desiring to strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with God? Come and listen to Sr Linda Lizada, Cenacle Sister, as she shares the importance of spiritual growth and provides some guidance on how to improve your interior life as disciples of Christ. The fourth session of the first module Discipleship & Prayer will be held on **Mon 29 Apr, 8 - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are invited, so grab your family and friends and sign up now, at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019!

DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER RETREAT

Come spend a morning together to learn more about Ignatian Contemplation. Experience this form of imaginative prayer and receive practical tips on how to practise this. All are welcome!

Date: Wed 1 May 2019
Time: 8.30am - 12.30pm (Light snacks will be provided)
Venue: SFX Main Church
Registration: tinyurl.com/DMDPrayerRetreat



SFX BAT BIBLE STUDY: ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Renowned biblical scholar, Fr Raymond Brown said "Among the Pauline writings only Romans can match Ephesians as a candidate for exercising the most influence on Christian thought and spirituality." Join us to discover how Ephesians develops the theology of the universal Church more than any of the other Pauline writings. ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen.

Date: 28 Apr, 5 May, 12 May, 19 May, 26 May 2019 (5 Sundays)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Registration: Helen Chong at 9757 4853

CALL TO SERVE: L8 & L9 RETREAT

Are you a youth/young adult with a heart to serve the young people? Come join us in journeying with our younger brothers and sisters from L8 and L9 in their upcoming retreats happening on **1- 3 Jun (L8)**, and **20 - 23 Jun (L9)** respectively! We are looking for individuals who could help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. Worried about not having the experience? Don't fret! We'll have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds! It will be on **18 May and 25 May for L8, 18 May and 12 June for L9**. Come share the gifts God has given you with the community!

Feeling an excitement in your heart? If you're interested in serving L8 camp, please contact Gabriella at 9826 5910 or sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXSBCL82019. If you're interested in serving L9 camp, contact Daniel at 9028 0135 or sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXSBCL92019. We look forward to serving with you!

GRIEVING: A WAY TO HEALING BY CENACLE SISTERS

This retreat will offer ways of dealing with unfinished business of the past, to discover the grace coming from past hurts. Participants learn how healing comes through grieving and saying goodbye to these experiences of the past by Sr Mel Benedictos & team.

Date & Time: 17 May 8pm - 19 May 1 pm
Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42
Contribution: \$250
Registration: www.cenaclemission.com

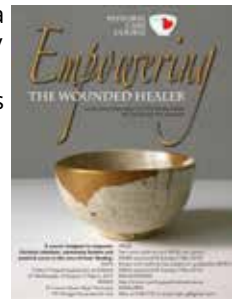
ABBA: ABUNDANT AND BETTER LIFE ABROAD PROGRAMME BY ACMI AND CFC

AbBA: Abundant and Better Life Abroad is a 4-part values formation series organised by the Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants and Itinerants (ACMI) and Couples for Christ (CFC), for Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) to discover their true self-worth, and hopefully lead to personal development and better work performance.

Date: 5, 12, 26 May and 2 Jun
Time: 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Venue: Agape Village (7A Toa Payoh Lorong 8)
Registration: <http://bit.ly/AbBA2019> or call Daniel Yeo at 8600 3584

ICPE: EMPOWERING THE WOUNDED HEALER: 'FULLNESS OF LIFE. INNER HEALING. FREEDOM.'

If you are currently a Ministry/Community Leader or an active member who yearns to be empowered to journey with others in their woundedness and in the area of inner healing, come join this retreat that provides a space for participants to discover wholeness in Christ and be empowered to accompany others.



Date: 9 - 14 Aug 2019
Venue: SFX Major Seminary
Register: www.tinyurl.com/icpepastoralcarecourse or enquire at icpe.sg@gmail.com or 9186 1737

Holy Week & Easter Celebration

Some thoughts from our fellow parishioners:



MAUNDY THURSDAY

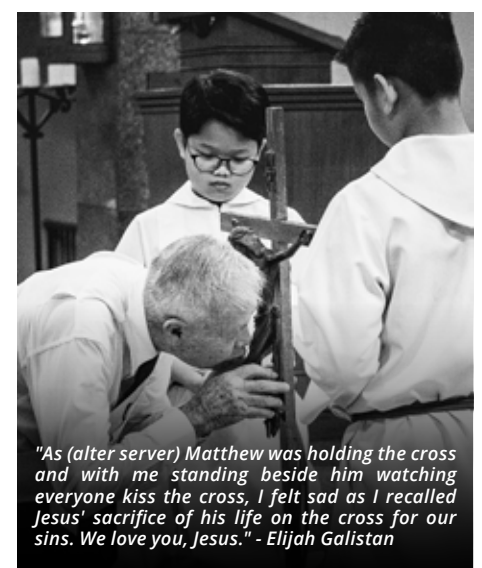
"The washing of feet is both a humbling experience and an honour. I am proud to be Catholic." - Marcus Wong



"To me, the veiled Altar of Repose, bathed in blue light, has to be special, to set the tone for Jesus' abandonment in the Garden of Gethsemane. It had to exude beauty and at the same time speak of sadness and silence. It also had to be conducive for prayer and meditation, such that anyone who adores Jesus would gently be led into his sorrow in his final hours." - Vincent Choo, Designer



GOOD FRIDAY



"As (alter server) Matthew was holding the cross and with me standing beside him watching everyone kiss the cross, I felt sad as I recalled Jesus' sacrifice of his life on the cross for our sins. We love you, Jesus." - Elijah Galistan



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

EASTER VIGIL



"I was stationed near the baptismal font, helping our Elect up the stairs into the waters of baptism. I saw a mix of expressions - from anxiety and anticipation to calm and excitement, but everyone who emerged was really joyful!" - Mark Tay



Do check out SFX Facebook page for more pictures

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