



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Pray & Never Lose Heart

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
20 Oct 2019

Ex 17:8-13
2 Tim 3:14-4:2
Lk 18:1-8

Luke's gospel is sometimes called the Gospel of Prayer. More than in all the other three gospels combined, Luke often directs the readers' attention to Jesus being at prayer – being in intimate communion with God the Father.

There are nine episodes of Jesus at prayer recorded by Luke. He is the only writer to tell us that Jesus was praying after his baptism when the heavens opened and the Father's voice confirmed him as "beloved Son" (Lk 3:21). Luke is also the only one to tell us that Jesus prayed from the cross for those who had sought his crucifixion, asking God to forgive them, "...for they know not what they do." (Lk 23:34) Today's gospel is also found only in Luke. Jesus is presented as teaching his disciples about prayer and the need to persevere – "pray continually and never lose heart", "cry to [God] day and night" (Lk 18:1; 7).

Through the parable of an "unjust judge" who eventually yields to the "pestering" of a widow for justice, Jesus tells his disciples to have strong faith that God hears the prayers of his chosen ones: "...will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night, even when he delays to help them?" (Lk 18:7)

As God's adopted sons and daughters through our baptism, we are called to hold this unstinting faith that our prayers are always heard. This faith and perseverance demands determined effort on our

part as the devil will do all he can to turn us away from prayer. We may also have "erroneous notions of prayer" seeing it as "concentration to reach a mental void" or simply "ritual words and postures" (CCC 2726).

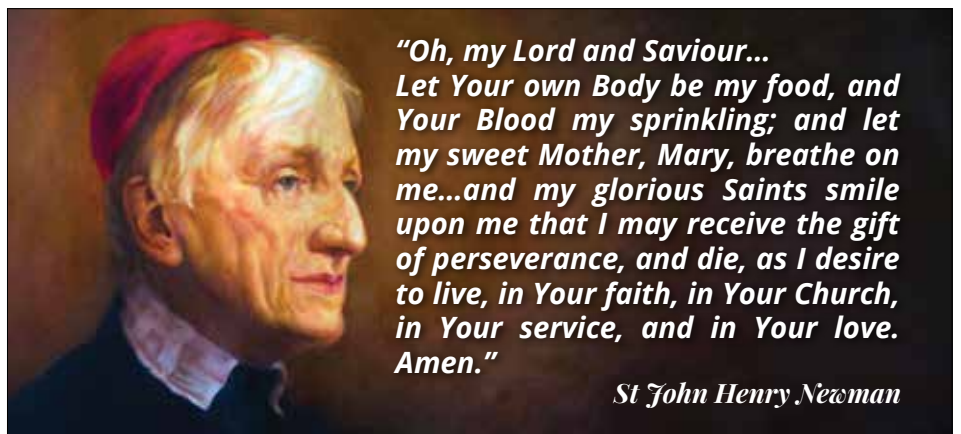
What then, is the "correct notion" of prayer? Today's rubric calls us to fix our gaze on the crucifix. Jesus has "opened his arms on the cross" for us so that we can be victorious over sin – just as Moses raised his arms in prayer for the Israelites and they were victorious over their enemies (cf Ex 17:11). Correct prayer should lead us into deeper gratitude and love for Christ who, by his sacrifice on the cross, has opened the way to heaven for us.

Last Sunday, five new Saints were canonised and therefore recognised as being in heaven with Christ our Lord – the Anglican-to-Catholic convert St John Henry Newman; stigmatists St Mariam Theresia and St Marguerite Bays; St Dulce Lopes and St Guiseppe Vannini. Our Saints in heaven are our "cloud of witnesses." (Heb 12:1) They are witnesses of God's salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (cf 2 Tim 3:15). Now in heaven, these "masters of prayer" continue to intercede for us that we may one day be where they now are: "Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan." (CCC2683)

So let us today reflect on how we pray and whether our prayers draw us into Christ's life-giving sacrifice on the cross. In heartfelt gratitude for the channels of grace through the Sacraments, Mother Mary as Mediatrix and the communion of saints, St John Henry Newman composed this deeply Catholic Prayer for a Happy Death:

"Oh, my Lord and Saviour, support me in that hour in the strong arms of Your Sacraments, and by the fresh fragrance of Your consolations. Let the absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal me, and Your own Body be my food, and Your Blood my sprinkling; and let my sweet Mother, Mary, breathe on me, and my Angel whisper peace to me, and my glorious Saints smile upon me; that in them all, and through them all, I may receive the gift of perseverance, and die, as I desire to live, in Your faith, in Your Church, in Your service, and in Your love. Amen."

May our Father who led St John Henry Newman to so deeply cherish and acknowledge the fruits of his Son's crucifixion also grant us strength to seek and persevere in the Truth.



*"Oh, my Lord and Saviour...
Let Your own Body be my food, and
Your Blood my sprinkling; and let
my sweet Mother, Mary, breathe on
me...and my glorious Saints smile
upon me that I may receive the gift
of perseverance, and die, as I desire
to live, in Your faith, in Your Church,
in Your service, and in Your love.
Amen."*

St John Henry Newman

Announcements

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

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

First collection from Masses **this weekend** will be for the spread of the Gospel, in the Universal Fund of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

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, evangelising and missionary Church. GIFT funds the Office for Young People (OYP), which seeks to raise up a generation for Christ. Watch the video on youtu.be/t0SdKJr83tw to see how they create opportunities for young people to encounter the Lord. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese.

MISSION SUNDAY: CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

We are in the extraordinary missionary month as declared by Pope Francis. Do come and join us on **Sun 20 Oct, 6.45pm** at the Grotto as we pray for the work of mission and our call to be missionaries.

OCT - MONTH OF MARY

Do join us for rosary at the Grotto:

- **7.15pm** after mass on weekdays
- **6.45pm** after mass on weekends
- **8am** before mass on public holidays

** Prayers will be held indoors during wet weather. Please note that there is no ministry-led rosary on 31 Oct.*

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 28 OCT (MON) - DEEPAVALI

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

ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAY MASSES

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)
31 Oct (Thu) - 8pm (No 6.30pm Mass)
1 Nov (Fri) - 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

All Souls' Day
2 Nov (Sat) - 6.30am, 9am

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our parish feast day, we invite the elderly and sick to this special Mass with Sacrament of Anointing to experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC, 1527). **Mass will be on Sun 24 Nov from 2 - 4pm, Confessions from 1.15pm.** Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. A registration booth will be set up during all weekend masses on **26 - 27 Oct** and **2 - 3 Nov**. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2019

Volunteers Needed!

Help is needed to provide transportation to and from Church, ushering and serving refreshments after mass. Please return completed forms to the Parish Office by **10 Nov**. Register at tinyurl.com/MFTSvolunteers2019

SSVP: NEW THRIFT SHOP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) has opened a new thrift shop! It offers a wide range of cool and affordable merchandise! All profits will go to SSVP's charitable programmes and outreach initiatives for their Friends in Need (FINs).

Venue: 501, Geylang Rd
Opening Hours: 10am - 6pm (Tue - Sun)

THE CHANCERY ARCHIVES + CANA: OF MARTYRS, MIGRANTS & MYSTERIES

Have you ever been curious about your Catholic ancestors who left their homeland and came here to plant roots in the settlements of Mandai, Aukang and elsewhere? Join us for a thrilling journey with Cyprian Lim as he unravels his ancestral roots where ordinary heroes fight for their faith and home is no less than the Teochew Catholic Village of Bethlehem.

Date: Sat 26 Oct
Venue: Seminary/CTIS building (618 Upper Bukit Timah Road)
Time: 10am
Register: Sign up at tinyurl.com/y3ehuukj. For more info, email to canaevents2019@gmail.com or call 9176 8909

LOURDES EXPERIENCE 2019 - TICKETS COLLECTION

This experience will take place on **Sat 7 Dec** from **2pm to 9.30pm** at the **Singapore Indoor Stadium**. Admission is by ticket only. For those who are interested, please collect tickets from the parish office on these 2 days only: **Sat 2 Nov from 10am to 5pm** and **Sun 3 Nov from 9am to 12 noon**. **Each adult is entitled to 2 tickets and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.** Please make your own transport arrangements. Due to limited tickets, no reservation of tickets are allowed. For wheelchair-bound parishioners who wish to attend, please download the form via www.sfxchurch.sg/lourdes-experience-2019/ and email directly to lourdesexperiencesg@gmail.com. For more information, please visit orderofmaltasingapore.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: OCT - DEC WEEKENDS

More than 4,000 happily married couples have attended the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend because they know a good marriage requires work and constant renewal of their commitment. When was the last time you and your spouse devoted time for just each other?

Enrol for the coming Weekends:
(English) **1 - 3 Nov, 6 - 8 Dec, 3 - 5 Jan 2020, 6 - 8 Mar 2020**, and
(Mandarin) **20 - 22 Mar 2020**.

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$13,532.20** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities

ACMI: 2020 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS

Calling employers and domestic helpers! Sign your helper up for Cooking, Baking, English Language and many more courses! Courses are conducted in English at Agape Village. Registration opens from **Sun 20 Oct - 12 Jan 2020.**

Date: Jan - Jun 2020 (Semester 1)

Venue: Agape Village
(7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh, S319264)

Registration: bit.ly/33hi2Tv or call 6801 7444 (Jan/Theresa) or email sd.acmi@catholic.org.sg

L2s First Reconciliation



We teach our children what's right and what's wrong. But what happens when they have done wrong? They say 'sorry' and all is well again? The lesson has been learnt and life goes on? Well, not really. Our faith has given us a powerful sacrament - the sacrament of reconciliation or confession - to make things right again. Many Catholics treasure this sacrament for the peace of mind and soul which it imparts to us. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God.

Our L2 children received this wonderful treasure for the first time 2 weeks ago. Though many were nervous and uncertain of what to expect, the catechists had been preparing them for many months. The parables, the craft work and also the 'how to' explanations helped in many ways. But as 8 year olds, they will have years ahead to discover the joy and true treasure of a good confession and to hear these words,



"Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 5:20)

We share below Lucas and his son's view of that day.

"When we learnt that the first L2 sacrament of reconciliation would be held on 5th Oct, we were excited but at the same time a little apprehensive. This was because that day happened to be the actual day of Colwyn's birthday. So we didn't know how our boy will react to turning up in church for the whole morning of his birthday instead of having a celebration somewhere else. We had wondered if we should reschedule his reconciliation but we eventually decided to let God lead the way for us. If God had planned for Colwyn's reconciliation to be on his birthday, then who are we to refuse? For we were reminded that God knows the plans He has for Colwyn, a plan to prosper him and not to harm him. Eventually we were glad that we did put God's plans first before any birthday celebrations because we saw how happy Colwyn was when he received this sacrament. He even managed to cut a cake with all of his catechism friends after the sacrament and we were truly grateful for his eighth birthday to be a day when he got closer to God on a higher level."

- Lucas Lee, Dad of Colwyn Lee



"It was perfect that my first reconciliation was also on my birthday. When I went in, the room was very quiet. After that, I felt good as I felt I had a special blessing from God."

- Colwyn

Office for Catechesis: *Bridging Programme for 2020*



The Office for Catechesis (OFC) Bridging Programme is a catechetical programme for children/youth aged 9 to 13 who fall into one of the following categories:

- Baptised children/youth who have never had formal catechesis and wish to start.
- Children/youth who have 'dropped out' and wish to rejoin.
- Unbaptised children/youth who wish to be baptised and will join catechesis thereafter.

It uses the baptismal catechumenate as the inspiration for catechesis (as directed by the General Directory for Catechesis #90-91) which allows for ongoing discernment, and will include sacramental preparation, namely Baptism, first Reconciliation and first Eucharist.

Parents are expected to meet with their child/youth's catechists at the end of every term to review their child/youth's faith journey. In addition, there will be parent formation sessions conducted every term, to allow parents to come together as a community to pray for their children/youth, as well as to experience for themselves, some aspects of the programme that the child/youth would experience. This would enable parents to further dialogue with their child/youth about their own faith experience.

The programme is modular and runs for four terms (corresponding to the same schedule of local school terms). It is currently conducted at 4 centres:

Church of The Risen Christ: 10am - 11.30am (Saturdays)

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (OLPS): 10am - 11.30am (Saturdays)

Blessed Sacrament Church: 7.30pm - 9pm (Fridays)

Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 7pm - 8.30pm (Thursdays)

Please contact the parish catechetical coordinator if you think your child/youth is eligible for this programme at catechism@sfxchurch.sg. You may also email bridging@catechesis.org.sg for further details or call the office at 6911 0400. Registration for 2020 is open and the closing date is 15 Dec 2019.



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 except PH

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOIDTING 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 check with the Parish Office.



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 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 and Church. 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