



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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**Sharing in Jesus'**  
**Perfect Righteousness**

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord  
12 Jan 2020

Is 42:1-4, 6-7  
Ac 10:34-38  
Mt 3:13-17

The Christmas season concludes with this week's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas celebrates God's self-revelation to Israel as the Incarnate Word who came down in the person of Jesus. This revelation of God's love and saving action is extended to all gentiles symbolised by the three wise men in the Solemnity of the Epiphany last week. The celebration continues today as the Trinity is revealed for the first time, giving us a glimpse of the intimate relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Historically, baptism was practised by the Jews as a sign of repentance, a spiritual cleansing to remove impurity and sin, and as preparation to enter the kingdom of heaven. Indeed it is necessary to leave behind our old, sinful, and unhealthy ways of being to enter into a new relationship with God. This begs the question: if Jesus was sinless, why did he insist on being baptised? We see that in the gospel of Matthew even St John the Baptist tried to prevent him. And yet Jesus replies: "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands." (Mt 3:15) Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says that Jesus' response is "an expression of unrestricted Yes to God's will, as an obedient acceptance of his yoke...this Yes also expresses solidarity with men, who have incurred



*"Just as the Father announces to the peoples, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him' (Mt 3:17), he does the same for us, his adopted sons and daughters, at our baptism."*

guilt and yearn for righteousness." (*Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration, p17*)

There is a long duration unrecorded in scripture where Jesus' teenage and growing up years are largely left to our imagination. While we can be certain that he fulfilled his duties perfectly during those years, his baptism in the River Jordan initiated him into a new season of his life. A new season directed to saving us and giving us a share in the life of the Trinity as the Catechism explains, "The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'... Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At his baptism 'the heavens were opened' - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed." (CCC536)

The event not only marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but also revealed the Father's affirmation of his Chosen One. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Christ was "a prelude of the new creation" in the same way that the Spirit hovered over the waters at the first creation (CCC1224).

Just as the Father announces to the peoples "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him" (Mt 3:17), he does the same for us, his adopted sons and daughters, at our baptism. He names us, through our parents and godparents we thus receive a new name at our baptism; he claims us, from henceforth we receive his supernatural protection and we find our place among those he saves; and he sends us, we are each called to do the will of God in different ways in our own unique lives.

In CCC1213, it says "Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: 'Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.'"

As we dip our fingers into the holy water font today, and we bless ourselves with the sign of the cross, may we keep our own baptism at the forefront of our minds. Even as we fulfill all our duties as responsible men and women of society, may we be aware that we have been baptised into Christ and his perfect righteousness. May we keep questioning and discovering who we are as God sees us, and seek to do his will in our lives.

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, **18/19 Jan**, 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 for the vision of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a monthly pledge to continue supporting the organisations and projects of the Church. Find out more at [gift.catholicfoundation.sg](http://gift.catholicfoundation.sg).

### ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT 2020

The Altar Servers will be having their annual recruitment for aspiring Altar Servers for the parish. Boys between the ages of 8 to 12, wishing to serve the Lord at the altar are invited to discern with their parents and can sign up next week, **18/19 Jan** after each weekend mass outside the OLGC hall. For further details, please contact Reuel at 9842 8344 or Ivan at 9476 9559.

### SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

**This weekend, 11/12 Jan**, the Altar Servers and the Sacristan Ministry will be selling Chinese New Year cookies outside the Kindergarten (Parish Centre). All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund.

### ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION OPEN HOUSE

We welcome all GCE 'O' Level graduates who are considering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to join us at this open house on **Tue 14 Jan**. Visit [www.sji.edu.sg](http://www.sji.edu.sg) for details and registration.

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY:** Due to the limited parking spaces available within the school, the SJI carpark will be closed to the public. The nearest public carpark is at Toa Payoh HDB Hub. All visitors are encouraged to commute to SJI for this event via public transport, to experience the ease of commuting to SJI in future.

### LANDINGS: WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

The Landings programme at Church of the Holy Spirit and at Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will commence on **Mon 10 Feb 2020**. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. **Registration closes on 27 Jan 2020**. Please email [returning@landings.org.sg](mailto:returning@landings.org.sg) or find out more at [www.landings.org.sg](http://www.landings.org.sg).

### RENOVATION UPDATE: CHANGE IN MASS VENUE AND TIMING (6 JAN - 1 MAR)

The Main Church will be handed over to the contractors for renovation work on **Mon 6 Jan 2020**. In the interim, from **6 Jan - 1 Mar**, weekday masses will be held on the second level of the Parish Centre, while weekend masses will be held at CHIJ - Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) school hall.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES (CHANGE IN VENUE)

**Venue:** St Matthew, St Mark and St Luke rooms (Parish Centre, Level 2)  
**Time:** 6.30am, 6.30pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES (CHANGES IN TIMINGS AND VENUE)

**Venue:** OLGC School Hall (2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)  
**Time: Sat:** 5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)  
**Sun:** 7am, 9am, **11.30am (instead of 11am)**

There will be **no 5.30pm mass on Sunday** to facilitate timely hand over of the school hall.

#### Parking

Drop-offs are allowed but **there will be no parking within the school premises except for self-driven handicapped drivers and cars with handicapped labels**. All cars should be parked in SFX Church car park only.

### CJC OPEN HOUSE 2020

Calling all students who have sat for their 2019 O-Level exams! Visit CJC during the Open House 2020 in mid Jan, the day after the release of the O-Level results. This is an opportunity for students to find out more about the college and the programmes and activities offered. CJC's holistic education is to develop Thinkers with a Mission, Leaders with a Heart (TMLH) and encourage students to continue their post-secondary education in a Catholic mission junior college.

**Date:** The date after the release of the O-Level Results

**Time:** 10am - 4pm

**Venue:** 129 Whitley Road S297822

### CBN: MY JOURNEY SERIES - AN EVENING WITH WINIFRED LOH

Winifred will be sharing about her journey in work and life in the light of her Catholic faith, and how the Lord has guided her through the highs and lows. This talk aims to inspire and empower working Catholics to live their faith more meaningfully at work and to put Jesus at the centre of what they do.

**Date:** Thu 13 Feb

**Time:** 7pm - 9pm (Light Dinner at 7pm, Talk begins at 7.30pm)

**Venue:** The Catholic Centre, Level 3 (55 Waterloo Street, S187854)

**Cost:** Free Admission (Love Offering welcome)

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/MJSWinifred> (First-come-first-served basis) or enquire at [errol@cbn.sg](mailto:errol@cbn.sg) / 6801 7491

### 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. **Contribution:** \$250.00

#### MORNINGS:

**Date:** 20 Feb - 23 Apr (Thurs)

**Time:** 9.30am - 11.30am

**Venue:** LaSalle Centre - St. Patrick School (490 East Coast Road)  
or

#### EVENINGS:

**Date:** 20 Feb - 23 Apr (Thurs)

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Cana - the Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo St)

# 10 Simple Ways To Be A “Steward Of The Earth” In 2020

The bushfires raging in Australia are a frightening reminder of how climate change can intensify natural disasters and its devastating effects on nature, wildlife and our environment. This is a timely reminder that God gave human beings the task “to cultivate and care for” our world (Gen 2:15). We are called to be “stewards of creation” — gratefully making use of the abundant natural resources God has created, but treating God’s creation with respectful care.

The start of a new year is an ideal time to adopt some new habits of care and concern for our planet, or expand on what you’re already doing. And to sweeten the deal, most of these habits will save you money, too!

## HOW TO BE A “STEWARD OF THE EARTH”

### 1. EAT LESS MEAT



Did you know that the global livestock industry produces more greenhouse gas emissions than all cars, planes, trains and ships combined?

### 2. GROW A PLANT (OR EVEN A GARDEN!)



As you grow your own fruit or vegetables, you are not only reducing your carbon footprint but also ensuring that you know what goes into them (no nasty chemicals).

### 3. CONSERVE WATER



The little things can make a big difference. Every time you turn off the water while you’re brushing your teeth, you are doing something good. Got a leaky tap? You might be dripping as much as 340 litres of water down the drain every day.

### 4. SWITCH OFF LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ROOM



It turns out that what’s good for your energy bill is also good for the earth.

### 6. USE REUSABLE BAGS WHEN SHOPPING ALWAYS KEEP ONE HANDY



Store reusable bags wherever it’s most convenient for errands — in the trunk of your car, or in your briefcase, backpack, purse or even diaper bag. That way you can access a reusable bag whenever you need it.

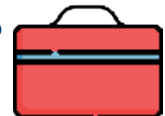
### 7. GREEN YOUR BEAUTY ROUTINE WITH REUSABLE PRODUCTS



Rid your beauty routine of disposable items. Replace them with eco-friendly ones. Examples include plastic-free shampoo bars and reusable make-up sponges.

### 5. START RELYING ON REUSABLE CONTAINERS

Be it when packing food to eat in school or at the office; or when storing items at home.



### 8. BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS

Use your own durable water bottle, coffee thermos and reusable containers when you’re ordering “take-away” food and drinks.



### 9. DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Walking and biking are obvious ways to reduce greenhouse gases. Plus you’ll get some good cardio and burn some calories while you do it. If you live in an area that’s not walkable, take advantage of public transportation if you can. Or carpool. Even one car off on the road makes a difference.

### 10. START COMPOSTING

Every day, a large amount of what you throw into the trash could be composted and returned to the earth. If you have a bin and some extra space, you can easily start a compost that could feed back into your garden. Your excess food won’t go to waste, your garden will be full of nutrients and you can feel better about your impact on the planet.



2020 is the perfect time to embrace our Catholic mission of caring for our planet. When in doubt, you can’t go wrong by reducing waste and replacing single-use items with reusable ones. Hopefully these tips will inspire and assist you in being a great steward of the earth in this new year!



*A reflection from  
serving the retreat  
for the 2019 batch  
of confirmants  
(aka "the 03s")*

My community of BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) is now in its thirteenth year since our inception in 2007. Under 1 Cor 12's directive, we were tasked to mentor our younger brothers and sisters along this formidable road called discipleship.

There is no discipleship without encounter, and no encounter without first a desire to know and be known: these were the first steps taken in approaching the retreat.

Jesus' love fell on all of us like a torrential rainfall of hope and grace. Watching him paint and mould the hearts of the 03s was a marvellous sight to behold: from the movements made in yearning to lift up prayer, to vulnerability in the form of exposing the raw wounds of struggles to others and as an offering to Jesus, and finally to boldly stating dreams for where they hoped this communal journey might lead.



*"I know nothing has been wasted  
No failure or mistake  
You're an artist and a potter  
I'm the canvas and the clay"*

- Pat Barrett, Song "Canvas and Clay"

For us who were serving, the work of our wearied hands was blessed with much lightness and the sessions progressed with great smoothness. For the retreatants, Jesus was ever present in conversations and movements. Acquaintances became the start of kingdom friendships.

The Spirit moved powerfully between the spaces of our hearts in those three days, affirming us that we were made for more.

In a deeply personal way, I was also reminded of my own purpose in BASIC. In my own struggles along this daunting path towards the kingdom of heaven, the lies of my loneliness were dispelled by the truth that others walk by me.

I am thankful that this retreat gave us all a glimpse of what community could be; and hence, a tiny glimpse of what heaven – in oneness with the Saints and with God – will be like. - **Mary Ann, BASIC**

### Mass Timings

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)  
**Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11.30am  
*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

Temporarily closed

#### LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

#### COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

#### 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 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 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)