




**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

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**I Come to do  
your Will**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
19 Jan 2020

Is 49:3, 5-6  
1 Cor 1:1-3  
Jn 1:29-34

Chronologically, this Sunday's Gospel narrative seems to proceed from last Sunday's which recounts the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist (Mt 3:13-17). Having witnessed the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ and God the Father's affirmation of Christ's divinity (i.e. a theophany - CCC 697), John the Baptist in turn gives testimony to Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Despite being a great prophet and the elder cousin of Jesus, John does not in any way allude to his own achievements but instead emphasises his humility and lowliness in relation to Jesus - He who John testifies as both God Incarnate and the Sacrificial Lamb to be ransomed for our sins (Jn 1:29-34).

Although many had come to believe that John was the prophesied Messiah (Jn 1:19-28), John was not threatened by Jesus' arrival. Even when his own disciples left him for Jesus, John did not protest but instead had the "profound humility to hold up Jesus as the One sent by God, drawing back so that he might take the lead, and be heard and followed" (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, General Audience 29 Aug 2012). John discerningly recognised God's plan for him and understood that his role in God's salvific plan was to "Prepare the way for the Lord" (Mt 3:3); baptising with water so that Christ may come to baptise with fire.

He therefore did not feel insecure about his position in relation to Jesus because he was certain of his life's vocation, simultaneously recognising of his own limitations.

In a world fixated on vainglorious personal accomplishments, the egocentric pursuit of success and selfish quest for independence, recognising one's own limitations, let alone having the humility to let God take over, can often be a struggle. The liberating truth is, that we as the "many parts" of the "One body" (1 Cor:12:12) each have been bestowed with a unique set of skills and talents by God to be a "light to the nations" (Is 49:5-6). Thus, we also have our limitations and if we wilfully ignore them, pridefully believing in our own ability and selfishly wanting to walk our own path, contentment and happiness will seem like a Sisyphean undertaking.

We thus see in John the Baptist a prime example of divine wisdom (Pope Leo XIII *Aeterni Patris*), a disposition which arise as a result of a deep spiritual union with God. Such wisdom born out of a deep union with God (CCC 471-475) helps us to recognise our own limitations and endows us with the courage to "let go and let God" takeover (St Josemaría Escriva, *Furrow*, 860). Because John was attuned to the will of God, he understood this and willingly accepted his vocation as the harbinger of Jesus.

Understanding God's will for us, (i.e. our vocation in life) is not a simple act of our own will, nor is it an exercise of self-discovery. Instead it requires us to align our will to that of God through



*"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will" - Ps 39*

prayer and contemplation that we may better perceive and understand the voice of God. St Teresa of Avila tells us that prayer is a "intimate sharing between friends" and requires us to "take time to frequently be alone with Him who loves us" (Teresa of Ávila, *Life*). Prayer however is nothing without humility which St Teresa notes as "being satisfied with what is given." Humility not only aids the efficacy of prayer through the acknowledgement of our need for God, but also helps us to accept our own limitations and shortcomings.

God has a plan for us, he has sanctified us in Christ and called us to be holy (1 Cor 1:2) and he desires for us to be happy. Happiness therefore is not found in the pursuit of our own selfish desires but in following the example of John the Baptist; who was humble enough to acknowledge his limitations, united with God as to know his vocation, and in love with Christ so as to bravely testify to his Truth (Jn 1:14), even until death.

Following his example, in everything we do, let us always endeavour to say "Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will." (Ps 39)

## Announcements

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

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the opening hours of the Parish Office during the CNY holidays:

**24 Jan (Fri):** 9am - 12pm  
**25 - 27 Jan (Sat - Mon):** Closed

### 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. Parishioners may wish to include their GIRO forms, cheques or cash into the GIFT envelopes, and dropped into the collection bags. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the Parish Office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg)



### SECOND COLLECTION FOR POOR AND NEEDY

This weekend, SSVP is having the second collection for the poor and needy, Friends-In-Need (FINs). Please donate generously for SSVP to continue to aid the FINs with your donations. We thank you for your generosity.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please note that there will be no intercessory prayer on **Fri 24 Jan** due to Chinese New Year celebration. The next intercessory prayer session will resume on **Fri 31 Jan, 7.15pm - 8.15pm** at **St Matthew's Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. All are welcome.

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 10 Feb, 8pm** at **SFX Room**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk given by Gerard Francisco on 'A Communion for Abundant GRACE'. All are welcome.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS



**Fri 24 Jan**  
**Masses at Parish Centre, Level 2:**  
**6.30am and 4pm**  
*\*There will be no 6.30pm mass*

**Sat 25 Jan**  
**Masses at OLG:**  
(2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)  
**8.30am and 10.30am**

**Usual Weekend Masses at OLG:**  
(2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)

**Sat 25 Jan: 5.30pm**  
*\*There will be no novena*

**Sun 26 Jan:**  
**7am, 9am, 11.30am**

### SAFETY NOTICE

The Church would like to thank all parishioners for their patience and understanding after the move to the OLG school hall for all weekend masses. The whole process was relatively smooth largely due to the vigilance, care and concern shown by many. Do please continue to pay extra care when walking to and from the school due to the unfamiliarity of the terrain. For the safety of all, please note that in the event of rain, all wet umbrellas will have to be left on the ground floor and outside the school hall in the umbrella stands provided.

### SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers and the Sacristan Ministry will be selling Chinese New Year cookies outside the **Parish Centre** this weekend. All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund. Come and give your support!

### ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT 2020

The Altar Servers is having their annual recruitment for boys aged 8 to 12 to serve the Lord. Interested parties and their parents can sign up for information sessions held after each mass this weekend outside the OLG hall. For further details, please contact Reuel at 9842 8344 or Ivan at 9476 9559.

### ACCED: 4 PRAYER SERVICES OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2020

Organised by the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) and Host Churches. All Christians are invited to prayer, reflection, song and fellowship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 at **8pm**:

**20 Jan** - Toa Payoh Methodist Church (480 Lorong 2 Toa Payoh)  
**21 Jan** - Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer (30 Duke's Road)  
**22 Jan** - Mar Thoma Syrian Church (29 Jalan Keli)  
**23 Jan** - **Church of the Holy Cross (450 Clementi Avenue 1)**

### ACMI: SUNDAY EUCHARIST WITH INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALING OF THOSE AFFECTED BY THE LUCKY PLAZA ACCIDENT

**Date:** Sun 19 Jan  
**Time:** 3pm  
**Location:** Agape Village, Level 1 Hall (7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh, S319264)  
**Enquire:** For more information, email [acmi@catholic.org.sg](mailto:acmi@catholic.org.sg)



# RCIY Retreat: Living in Abundance of Life



RCIY held our second retreat on 10-12 Jan for 19 participants at The Church of the Transfiguration. Themed on John 10:10 "I came so that they might have life and have it abundantly", the retreat aimed for the catechumens and candidates to encounter Jesus as the Good Shepherd and prepare them for their baptism and confirmation at the Easter Vigil mass on 11 April.

The retreat led the participants to recognise the Voice of the Good Shepherd, understand the fullness of life and things that rob us of it and make a commitment to the Faith by surrendering to Jesus as their Lord and saviour. They were also taught ways to stay and remain close to Jesus. At the close of the retreat, it was heartening to hear the testimonies from the young people. The Holy Spirit brought about conversion of hearts, and a deepening of friendships.

## RCIY Retreat Testimonies:

*"The retreat gave me an opportunity to renew my faith in the Lord and experience his love for me. I also got the chance to form new relationships." - Eric*

*"This retreat was a particularly introspective one which allowed us to quiet down and listen to God's voice. One of my greatest takeaways is knowing that God is a good shepherd who is complete and wants to give his all for us to live a full life!" - Gwyneth*

*"While I'm still trying to find what God was trying to tell me during the retreat, it has allowed me to surrender past memories that hurt Jesus. I was reminded of God's love and grace for all of us and it delighted me to know how God was moving in everybody's life." - Jerald*

*"I tried my best to stay focused by blocking out all "noises" such as social media and talking to my peers. I especially appreciated a session on self-reflection. It allowed me to slowly feel vulnerable and through the silence, embrace God. I am usually an anxious person. Yet, this retreat made me feel very peaceful, despite a number of commitment deadlines I had. I felt God carrying my cross, giving me the strength and courage to let go and walk forward.*

*Overall, I come out of this retreat with the courage to say that I am, and will always be, a child of God. If one day, I am lost, my shepherd will never fail me, for his love is greater than anything. I have also learnt to appreciate the importance of a community, which allows you to love, just like God loves you. Through doing so, I believe we are best living a Christian life. I thank the amazing instruments of love from God - the service and music teams and everyone involved." - Celine Joy Gan*



RCIY retreatants encountering God and building community.



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

## FORMED: PICK OF THE WEEK

# Symbolon: Living the Faith

Protecting the Dignity of the Human Person



January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. In an age when life itself seems disposable, how can we follow God's call to protect and promote the dignity of the human person in all places and circumstances?

**WATCH ON FORMED.ORG**

### 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 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

### 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 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 (Parish Centre, Level 2). Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.



### The Lord's Prayer

T A R D S Y D K H D  
E E O E R I I X A K  
V T M O H N M E L R  
I E L P G T R S L E  
L G J D T B A X O W  
B Q O O Y A V F W O  
R M Q L Q I T M E P  
E V I G R O F I D Q  
X A X W I L L K O G  
D L J G F H B A J N

**FATHER  
HALLOWED  
KINGDOM  
WILL**

**DAILY BREAD  
FORGIVE  
SINS  
TEMPTATION**

**EVIL  
GLORY  
POWER**

### VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)