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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

**The Light of the
World is the Light
of Christ**

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9 Feb 2020

Is 58:7-10
1 Cor 2:1-5
Mt 5:13-16

In the film *Coach Carter* (2005), there is a poignant scene when the most disrespectful basketball player in the team states what their deepest fear is. Adapting an extract from Marianne Williamson's *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*, the athlete tells his coach:

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

2,000 years ago, Jesus told his disciples something similar. "You are the light of the world" he says in this Sunday's gospel. "No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house."

These words are so empowering because they reframe the way we see our fears and inadequacies. If we fear

our light more than our darkness, it presupposes that there is light within us in the first place. It suggests that our light is stronger than our darkness.

But what is this light?

New age philosophies and films like *Coach Carter* suggest that this light resides inherently within us, and if we allow it to, it will empower us to be popular and successful in the world. These narratives suggest that the solution to our darkness is self-knowledge, self-help, self-empowerment. It is a light of the self, and if we allow it to shine, our selves will be glorified.

This stands in stark contrast to our first reading. "Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor; clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kind," says Isaiah. "Then will your light shine like the dawn." (Is 58:8)

Our light—the light of the world—is

then the light of charity, of kindness, of compassion. It is the light of Christ. If there is light within us at all, it is because Christ resides in us and he is our light and our salvation.

This is the story of Christianity. We are saved, we are powerful, we are glorious—but not by our own doing. Only by grace. Only through Christ's death and resurrection. As CCC 460 puts it, "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God" or "...be united to God" as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says (General Audience, 20 Jun, 2007).

In this regard, it is the line from Williamson's quote that *Coach Carter* omitted that holds the deepest truth: "We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us."

And properly understood, the glory of God looks a lot more like feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless, and a lot less like winning basketball games.



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Announcements

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

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, 15/16 Feb, 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. More info and sign up is available at catholicfoundation.sg.

TOTAL COLLECTED FOR SSVF SECOND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **SGD\$6,869.00** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of the Kindergarten from **1 - 16 Feb**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Do join us for intercessory prayer session on Fri 14 Feb, 7.15pm at the New Community Hall (John Paul II Hall), Parsonage Level 1.

FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: UNPLANNED MOVIE SCREENING (M18)

Family Life Society (FLS) invites you to our private screening of the movie, 'Unplanned'. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to a drastic turnaround, becoming a champion of women AND life. The question is, what did Abby see?

Date: Sat 15 Feb
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Salt Media @ Capital Tower (Level 9, 168 Robinson Road, S068912)
Price: \$16 per ticket/\$70 for 5 tickets

OFFICE RELOCATION TO MAIN CHURCH BASEMENT

Please kindly note that the Parish Office will be closed on **24 - 25 Feb** to facilitate relocation to the basement of the Main Church.

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MYANMAR MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organising their next mission trip to Myanmar **in the third week of March** (exact dates - TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation. If you are keen to join in this upcoming mission trip, or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Come join us on **Fri 13 Mar - Sun 15 Mar** for our stay-in Catechetical L10 retreat 2020! We are looking for young adults and youths to help facilitate, be in the logistics team or help to intercede for the participants.

In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds on **Sat 15 Feb, Thu 27 Feb and Thu 5 Mar**. If you are interested and feel a stirring in your heart, don't hesitate and join us today! Contact Renae at 9060 4326 to find out more or sign up at www.tinyurl.com/L10Retreat2020

URGENT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS

The Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) urgently needs help in the live streaming of masses that will be held in our new Community Hall to the Columbarium. This is in the interim while our Main Church is undergoing renovation. If you are able to spare some time for the next few months (15mins before and after each mass), please email mmm@sfxchurch.sg or contact Daryle at 9662 2267. Training will be provided for this task.

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, WE NEED YOU!

Do you have an eye for design? Are you creative and proficient in Adobe InDesign? If the answer is YES, we want you! SFX's Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is looking for graphic designers to help with the design of parish collaterals. If you would love to exercise your artistic talents, look no further! Contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg for more information.

BRAVE - CATHOLIC YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2020

For youths aged 16-35, this conference aims to bring to some of the mental health issues or challenges that you may have to face and encourage dialogue among participants to share their experiences about their role in mental health recovery.

Date: Sat 22 Feb
Time: 9am - 6pm (Registration opens at 8am)
Venue: Caritas Singapore - Agape Village (7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, S319264)
Tickets: \$20 (\$10 for students)
Register: tinyurl.com/clarityBRAVE or find out more at tinyurl.com/BRAVEconf

SOLEMN MASS OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

There will be a Solemn mass for the 3rd Anniversary of the re-Dedication of the Cathedral presided by His Grace, Archbishop William Goh on Fri **14 Feb at 7.30pm**. Please kindly register at forms.gle/q7kdUTijnhjzjLb6 or scan the QR code if you are interested to attend the Mass.



Parish Renovation - We Are Moving Back!

We have received the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) for our Parsonage except for the lift. In light of this, we will be moving our weekday and weekend masses to back to our Church premises. Please take the stairs down to the Columbarium. The lift is currently not operational as we are still awaiting certification.

Phase 2 - Important Relocation Movements

PARSONAGE (28 FEB)

Parish priests and Office staff will be relocated to basement of the Main Church while the Parish Centre is being renovated.

Level 2

SFX Kindergarten is temporarily relocated to the second floor of the parsonage.

PARISH CENTRE, LEVEL 2 (CLOSE ON 28 FEB)

will be handed over on Fri 28 Feb to the Contractors for renovation.

BASEMENT CARPARK

is now accessible via the main staircase and the Parish Centre will be closed except the stairs to the basement carpark.

JOHN PAUL II HALL

Weekday and weekend Masses will be conducted at the new Community Hall, and the mass will be live-stream into multi-purpose rooms (St Mary) beside the Community Hall, the Columbarium and the Plaza.

MAIN CHURCH & FRONT PORCH

It is currently closed for interior refurbishing and extension of the Front Porch with non-slip ramp for drop-off.

CHANGE OF MASS VENUE

Weekday Masses starting from **12 Feb, 6.30pm** will begins at the **New Community Hall (John Paul II Hall)**, Parsonage Level 1

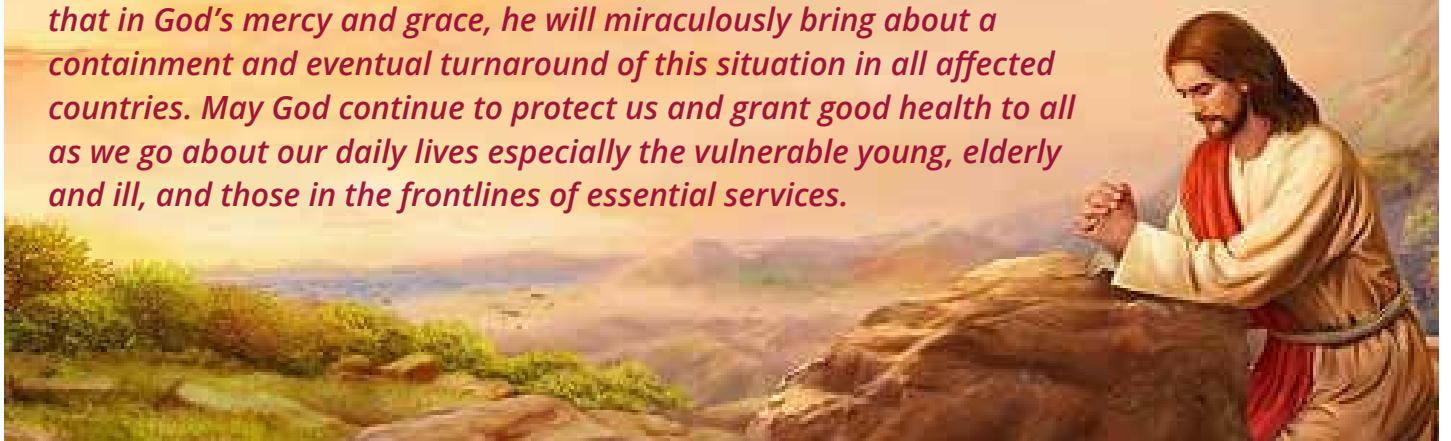
WEEKEND MASSES (starting from Sat 15 Feb 2020)

Venue: New Community Hall (John Paul II Hall), with live-streaming into St Mary, the Columbarium and the Plaza

Time: Sat: 5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm) **Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm

Let us pray for the Wuhan virus outbreak..

that in God's mercy and grace, he will miraculously bring about a containment and eventual turnaround of this situation in all affected countries. May God continue to protect us and grant good health to all as we go about our daily lives especially the vulnerable young, elderly and ill, and those in the frontlines of essential services.



Dealing With The Novel Coronavirus



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

General Precautionary Measures



Observe good personal hygiene.



Practise frequent hand-washing with soap

(e.g. before handling food or eating, after using the toilet or when your hands are soiled by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing).



Wear a surgical mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough, sneezing, shortness of breath or runny nose.



Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately.



Seek **medical attention** promptly if you are feeling **unwell**.

For the General Congregation



Be socially responsible. Stay at home if you are sick.



Alcohol hand rubs are available for your use near the entrances of churches and confessionals.



Holy Communion is to be **received by hand only** till further notice.



No holy water in the fonts at the entrance of churches as this could be a vehicle for infection.



Comply with health advisories and control measures issued by the authorities.

Catechism Classes

To protect the interests of our children, all Catechism Classes (including parish and home catechism, CGS and RCIY) have been suspended until 1st March 2020. When Catechism classes resume, they should follow the prevailing guidelines from The Ministry of Education (MOE) which include these:



- Catechists and students returning from mainland China are to go on 14 days' leave of absence (LOA), starting from the day after arrival in Singapore.
- Persons who have been put on a leave of absence should stay at home and minimise close contact with others. They should monitor their health closely and seek medical attention if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.
- Catechists and students should have their temperatures taken before classes commence.
- Catechists are to look out for anyone who has fever or respiratory symptoms e.g. cough, running nose. They are to put a surgical mask on such children/teens, sit them separately and call their parents to bring them to see a doctor.

Attending Mass For Persons Returning From Mainland China

Please go on **14 days' leave of absence (LOA)**, starting from day 0 (day of arrival) up till and including day 14. You are to be excused from attending Mass or any other communal event during this period of time.

For further updates on the situation as it relates to our church, please refer to the "Guidelines for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore in Tackling the Wuhan Virus Outbreak" which can be found on www.catholic.sg/jan-2020-wuhan-virus/

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

7am - 7pm

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