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**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

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**“Christ Walks with us”**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
26 Apr 2020

Ac 2:14, 22-33  
1 Pt 1:17-21  
Lk 24:13-35

How did Easter feel this year? Was it one of joy and new hope? Or perhaps, given the current global situation, Easter 2020 was perhaps more muted, less celebratory, and *not as meaningful*. Indeed, the inability to physically receive Christ in the Eucharist, let alone our physical absence from the Easter liturgies might have already contributed to a diminished “mood”. Given this, and the many worries we now have - our jobs, the economy, the safety of our loved ones, and our well-being - perhaps this Easter season more closely approximates Lent; Easter Joy overshadowed by temporal anxiety.

If this is how we feel, the readings this weekend are most apt. Like us, the disciples in today’s gospel have yet to experience the Easter Joy despite Christ’s resurrection. Having lost their Lord and Master and now being “wanted men” themselves, they have not only had their beliefs severely challenged but are now persecuted for them. They still live in fear and find themselves plagued with many concerns, not least their own well-being and safety.

They thus decide to leave this chapter of their life behind and flee Jerusalem, unaware that Christ was very much in their midst, walking with them along the way. Ostensibly dejected, they have yet to comprehend what has taken place, despite being cognisant of the events that have transpired.

Notably the disciples speak of Christ in the past tense – “he was a great prophet...”; “our own hope had been...”. (Lk 24:19,21) This is telling as it signifies the despair in which they find themselves: we believed, we followed, we hoped... but now everything is over. (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Regina Cæli* 6 Apr 2008).

Luke most notably omits mentioning the names of the disciples, inviting us to more closely identify with them. Today we may find ourselves in a similar predicament as these two disciples. We know what Easter is but we may not comprehend what it signifies. Yes – Christ is risen, yes – he has conquered death, yet his resurrection and salvific victory over death has not yet “sunk in”; perhaps muddled by the many worries, troubles and hardships we continue to endure. What meaning does Christ’s resurrection have if we are still plagued by this terrible pandemic? What does

his resurrection mean if we still experience existential hardships?

To these questions, Christ reminds us that suffering, and hardships are necessary for one to enter into Glory (Lk 24:26). Indeed, Christ’s victory over death whilst removing the sting of death and sin (cf CCC 402; 1 Cor 15:55), should not be misconstrued as the magic bullet which would liberate us from hardship or bring prosperity to our lives – God is not a “magician with magic wand.” (Pope Francis, Pontifical Academy of Sciences 2014) Importantly Christ’s presence with his “suffering” disciples en route to Emmaus reminds us that *he continues to walk with us in times of trouble and despair*.

Do hardships thus lead us to recognise Christ walking with us or do they cause us to forget his presence? (St John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris*) Emmaus reminds us that we must not allow temporal worries to cause us to lose sight of the spiritual realities in which we dwell. Namely that Christ has won the ultimate battle over sin and death through his passion, death and resurrection and he continues to walk with us in our own daily passions, adjoining our temporal crosses with his own (Pope Francis, Extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi*, March 2020).

“By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive passion.” (CCC 1505; 1502) Mindful of this, let us not be like the disciples at Emmaus who at first failed to recognise Christ’s presence in our despair. Instead let us remember that our hardships are a “participation in the saving work of Jesus” (CCC 1521), and rejoice that His resurrection - his victory over death - means that he continues to walk with us always.



*Christ’s presence with His “suffering” disciples en route to Emmaus reminds us that he continues to walk with us in times of trouble and despair.*

## Announcements

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

### TEMPORARY MASS OFFERINGS VIA PAYNOW

During this period of the "Circuit Breaker", we will continue to accept Mass Offerings (for souls, God's Blessing, Special Intention, etc) from our Parishioners online and payment is via PayNow only. **Please submit your intention 1 WEEK in advance.** The information will be kept for 6 months after your intention is offered. Our Finance Department will contact you to provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Please indicate the referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**). These will be offered up during our priests' private masses. You may submit your mass offering via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOffering>. For further enquiries, please contact our Finance Department at 6285 2062 during Office Hours (9am - 6pm).

### FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: SHARING SEXUALITY WITH YOUR CHILD

Parents can and must be the primary sexuality educator of their children! Join us via Zoom on learning values-based tips on communicating with your child about sexuality both progressively and in an age-appropriate manner.

**Date:** Thu 30 Apr  
**Time:** 7.30pm - 8.30pm  
**Register:** [bit.ly/ss\\_zoom](https://bit.ly/ss_zoom)

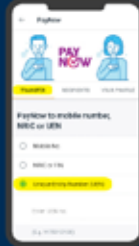
### ONE: RISE ABOVE - AN ONLINE FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Join ONE's online Catholic Faith Formation series 'Rise Above'. A four-part study is designed to provide you with insights and inspiration on how we can draw on our faith to see through the challenges brought by the Covid-19 outbreak. Study session will take place every Thursday at 8pm starting on **Thu 16 Apr** over four Thursdays. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/riseabovestudy>.

# MASS COLLECTION

## CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

*With the indefinite suspension of Masses, income collection has greatly decreased. On top of utilities, staff salaries, etc. our church has the renovation to finance. As such, we would like to appeal to parishioners for your continued support. Mass collections can be made via the following options:*



### PAYNOW

1. Launch **PayNow** Service in your bank's app OR online banking website
2. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**"
3. Key in Parish UEN - **T08CC4033J**
4. Check Name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**
5. Key in Amount
6. Key in Ref - **Mass Collection**



### CHEQUE

1. Payable to **Church of St. Francis Xavier**
2. Mail the cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive Singapore 558758**



### GIRO

1. Download Mass Collection Giro Form via [sfxchurch.sg/donate](http://sfxchurch.sg/donate)
2. Mail the completed form to **63A Chartwell Drive Singapore 558758**

For more information, visit [www.catholic.sg/offertory/](http://www.catholic.sg/offertory/)  
Step-by-step guide: [www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/](http://www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/)

## Online Prayer Request

Feeling overwhelmed/stressed/restless or anxious while coping with uncertainty during this period?

Fret not! The SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will be standing in the gap to intercede and offer up your prayer petitions at their weekly prayer sessions! You may submit your prayer request online at

[www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer)

Rest assured that all prayer requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.



SCAN ME



# "Listening to God's Voice"

THEA REZEL, 19

Before attending the School of Witness (SOW), I harboured self-hatred and felt emptiness and loneliness. This began when I was separated from my close friends, having to go to Junior College alone. I felt abandoned and feared missing out. A friend who I treasured also left me and I felt unwanted. Not being able to do anything about it caused me to build walls around my heart. I tried praying but my prayers didn't seem to be answered. I was angry and frustrated at God and felt like he too had abandoned me. I lost all motivation to do anything with my life and it felt like I was just going through the motions every day with no purpose or goal.

To distract myself, I ensured that I was always there for my friends. I started to brush off all my emotions and hurts, telling myself, "Your issues are nothing compared to whatever they are facing, just keep it to yourself, don't be a burden". I started drinking frequently and engaging in other activities that drew me further from God. Nearing my A level period, I stopped going for mass regularly. However, after much reflection, I realized that God still reached out to me through the friends I knew in church. They would ask me how I was doing, reminding me that they were praying for me and that I wasn't alone. A few of them also encouraged me to sign up for SOW.

Thinking back, I'm honestly not sure why I signed up. At that point, God felt distant and my relationship with God was unstable. All I knew was that I desired to have Him in my life. The first week of SOW was a struggle as my heart was still closed. During the para-liturgy on coming home, I couldn't feel God and convinced myself that God didn't care. I approached a prayer team member who asked me in prayer, "Are you waiting for validation from the Lord that you are meant to be here?" Those words hit me and it dawned on me that there were many reasons to not come for SOW, but the fact that I was there meant that HE wanted me there. I felt the outer layer of the wall around my heart being removed and I was reassured that I truly belonged there.



Thea (in brown top) with her sowers.



The following days, I tried my best to be open but somehow, that inner wall was still there. In a conversation, I was reminded that I was like a baby, learning to listen to God's voice again since I had been listening to so many negative voices that I couldn't distinguish which was His.

***He showed me that I am loved and that I am good. I realized that all along I had been relying on my own strength, that I couldn't see the little things that God had done in my life.***

During the charism session, my heart beat really hard as we prayed. I felt this immense joy from the simple act of praying for others. It felt like God had finally broken down the walls surrounding my heart. He showed me that I am loved and that I am good. I realized that all along I had been relying on my own strength, that I couldn't see the little things that God had done in my life. The whole time, I thought that God was away from me but in reality, I was away from him. He had always been working and pursuing me. He also

showed me that in my emptiness and loneliness, He was holding me and crying with me as I cried.

Even though I may still be doubtful and hesitant at times, I know that He is always present, waiting for me to turn to Him whenever I'm ready. I continue to pray that I will grow deeper in love with Christ, and to one day not only believe that He is here for me but to proclaim with conviction that He will save me from the darkness in my life. I am hopeful and expectant that even though I have not fully encountered the Lord, I remain open that He will continue to reveal His love and plans for me.

***"The Lord will fight your battles for you, you only have to keep still."***

Will you take this leap of faith and trust that He is working in your life?

# With All Our Love to Our Shepherds!

Next week, we celebrate Good Shepherd / Vocations Sunday. Let us pray for all our priests, for their vocation in spreading the Gospel. To show your appreciation for a priest here in Singapore, you may wish to offer a spiritual bouquet of rosary prayers, colour the doodle and write a message of blessing to them in the provided space below.

You may email the card out to our fellow priests or tag them on social media #SFXGoodShepherdMail to let him know that someone appreciates and is praying for him by **Good Shepherd Sunday (2/3 May)**! Our priests' contact addresses can be found on the front page of the manna.

## Thank You, Father!

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9



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

### Mass Timings

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Suspended until further notice

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Suspended until further notice

#### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

#### HOLY HOUR

Suspended until further notice

### Opening Hours

#### PARISH OFFICE

Closed until further notice

#### ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

#### LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

#### COLUMBARIUM

Closed until further notice

#### CANTEEN

Closed until further notice

### 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



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

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