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Disciples
Making Disciples

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The Farewell Discourses

6th Sunday of Easter
17 May 2020

Ac 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Pt 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21

Four days after this Sunday, we will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Three themes in this Sunday's gospel — an extract from Jesus' farewell discourses — prepare us for Jesus' physical departure.

First, Jesus instructs us how to live: by loving him. And we love him by keeping his commandments. As CS Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, "I may repeat 'Do as you would be done by' till I am black in the face, but I cannot really carry it out till I love my neighbour as myself; and I cannot learn to love my neighbour as myself till I learn to love God; and I cannot learn to love God except by learning to obey Him."

In Jesus, law and love thus comes together. We are neither sentimentalists nor legalists, we are Christians.

Second, Jesus tells us that we will "live" because he lives. This is a recurring motif throughout John's gospel — Jesus tells his disciples that he came so that they "may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10), he raises Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:25), and later on in his high-priestly prayer, he begins with the theme of "eternal life" (Jn 17:2). Jesus reveals that the distinguishing feature of a disciple is that he "lives".

In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, Pope Emeritus



"The departing Jesus does not make his way to some distant star. He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God's dominion over space. Hence he has not "gone away", but now and forever by God's own power he is present with us and for us."

– Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*

Benedict XVI points out that this "life" is "life itself, real life, which can also be lived in the present age and is no longer challenged by physical death." It is thus *not* life after death; it is instead something to be seized here and now through relationship with the one who is himself life. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI concludes: "eternal life" is thus a relational event.

But how do we have a relationship with one who is not physically present?

This is the third theme: God will send "another Advocate, to be with [us] forever." Only in John's gospel is the Holy Spirit called the "Advocate", which refers to someone who fights on another's behalf. Throughout the farewell discourses, Jesus interplays the presences of himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. This is the beginnings of the theology of the Trinity.

We can trace the development of this theology in this week's First Reading, when the apostles distinguish between "baptis[m] in the name of the Lord Jesus" and "rece[ption] of the Holy Spirit". Similarly, the Church today distinguishes between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The Holy Spirit, then, is Jesus' promise to us in this Sunday's gospel - "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." (Jn 14:18) In particular, during the Eucharistic Prayer in the Mass, the priest invokes the Holy Spirit, that by his power, the bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ. This moment, known as the *epiclesis*, is at the heart of each sacramental celebration (CCC 1106). In other words, the Holy Spirit will make Jesus present when he has physically departed.

In this sense, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI writes: "The departing Jesus does not make his way to some distant star. He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God's dominion over space. Hence he has not "gone away", but now and forever by God's own power he is present with us and for us... Now he is no longer in one particular place in the world as he had been before the Ascension: now, through his power over space, he is present and accessible to all — throughout history and in every place." *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*.

Announcements

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

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

During this period of the "Circuit Breaker", we will continue to accept mass offerings (for souls, God's blessings, special intentions etc.) online. Mass offering contributions are via PayNow only. **Please submit your intention one WEEK in advance.** The Finance Department will contact you and provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Please indicate the reference number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**). These mass offerings will be offered up during our priests' private masses. You may submit your mass offering via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOffering>.

SFX ONLINE ROSARY PRAYER

Come join our priests Fr Ben and Fr Vinu as we pray the rosary together online via Zoom. This online rosary prayer will be held on weekdays from **Mon 11 May - Fri 29 May at 3pm** - we encourage you to log in by 2.45pm. Please note that recording of the prayer session is not allowed.

Scan the QR code to join
Meeting ID: 845-8298-0708
Password: 621310



NEED SOME PRAYERS?

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

Fret not! Our 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 to

www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer

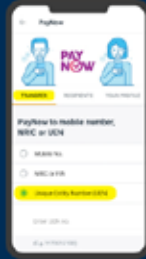
Rest assured that all prayer requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.



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
2. Mail the completed form to **63A Chartwell Drive Singapore 558758**

SSVP: DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS IN NEED(FINS)

The poor and needy are still in need of financial assistance during this period of Covid-19. Please do offer your generous support so that the SSVP can continue to aid their Friends in Need (FINS) with your donations. We thank you for your generosity. To find out more, visit ssvpsingapore.org.

CHARISMATIC (ONLINE): PRAYING THE ANGELUS

The next Charismatic service via Zoom is on **Mon 18 May, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk by Helen Chong on 'Praying the Angelus'. Scan the QR code to join. All are welcome.

Date: Mon 18 May 2020
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Meeting ID: 890 0190 8420
Password: 013372



OYP: GRADUATING UNI STUDENTS' RETREAT 2020

Are you graduating from a local or overseas university this year? Do you wonder what God is calling you to be and do in this new season of change? We invite you to spend the weekend immersing yourself in the Lord, recollecting your journey and discovering in prayer the life you are called to live.

Date: 3 Jul Fri, 8pm to 5 Jul Sun, 6pm
Venue: Office for Young People
Cost: \$40 (stay-in)
Register: tinyurl.com/oypgur2020

Reflections on the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Ascension Day falls on Thursday, 21 May, the 40th day after Easter, and commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven. It is a day of obligation.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he did not die a second time. Instead, 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus left earth and was taken up, body and soul, to be with God the Father in heaven. This event is called the Ascension, and it was witnessed by Jesus' eleven remaining apostles.

Why is the Ascension so important to us Catholics?



Here are some reasons:



It shows that Jesus really had overcome death – he wasn't just resurrected to die again, but to live forever. In fact, when Jesus' followers witnessed him ascending into the clouds, any doubts they may have had that he was alive and with God the Father would have been removed. As such, after witnessing the Ascension, his followers "returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God."



The Ascension marked the success of Jesus' earthly mission. He completed all that the Father had designed for him to accomplish. His birth, miracles, teachings, death, resurrection and appearances proved his divine nature and fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies as regards the Messiah.



He ascended into heaven with the promise that another helper would be sent to us. The Ascension paved the way for God to manifest in us through the Holy Spirit.



After the Ascension, a noticeable change occurred in the disciples. After the Resurrection, they were confused and still harboured reservations. However, after witnessing the Ascension, Luke 24:52 tells us that they "worshipped" Jesus. He wasn't just a beloved teacher or a prophet. He is God.



JOY, HOPE AND MISSION are the three consistent responses of the disciples to Christ's resurrection and Ascension. We see them transformed and mobilized to follow Jesus on his mission.

Bearing in mind Jesus' promise that he will never leave or forsake us, let's go forward to follow him with that same sense of JOY, HOPE AND MISSION.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

FORMED: Recommendation for the Week

VIDEO: Is Jesus Really Divine?

According to author C.S. Lewis, the notion that Jesus was simply a "good teacher" isn't sustainable. Lewis explains that he was either a liar, intentionally deceiving everyone; a lunatic, because he wasn't who he claimed to be but believed it anyway; or truly who he claimed to be: God in the flesh. This study will explore the claims of Jesus in the Bible and push to a decisive answer. Was he a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord? Presented by Julianne Miles.



SCAN ME TO WATCH

FORMED is an online platform that offers access to thousands of studies, films, audio and e-books including from over 40 of the best Catholic content producers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, the USCCB, Catholic Answers, among others.

To get the free access for SFX parishioners:

For new viewers, go to <https://sfxchurch.formed.org>. Click on 'Register Now' and complete the registration process. Once the registration is completed, you will be logged into FORMED automatically.

You can also login via <https://formed.org/> when you already have an account.

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

Mini MANNA

When he had said this,
as they were looking
on, he was lifted up,
and a cloud took
him from their sight.



★
Lord
Time
Israel
Father
Spirit
Jerusalem
Galilee
Men
Heaven
Garments
Cloud



Find the
hidden
words

O P E R A D N
A D F A T H E R E S L I N
U L N Z N I O R U M B T I O N
O E A E E L I L A G E N J C R A
S A D F V G B U O M I E I L V D
J E R U S A L E M I G P M D O M N
V S F G E H T T E K S R A U S C
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Created by Nunzio Rubino 20-05-2014