



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Origin of Sin

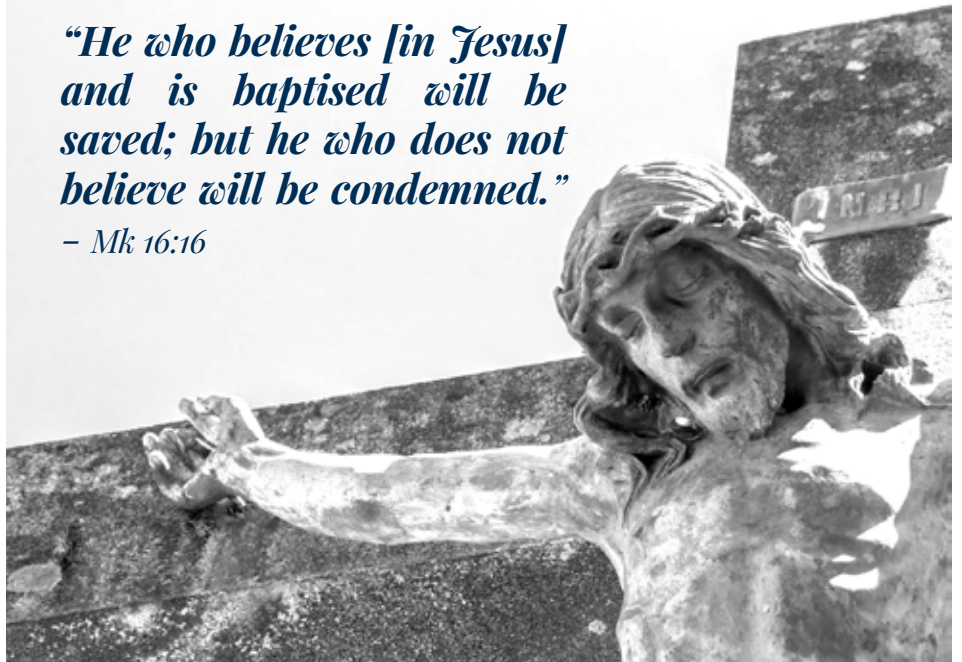
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
21 June 2020

Jer 20:10-13
Rm 5:12-15
Mt 10:26-33

Packed in four short verses of the second reading today, St Paul reveals the origin of humanity's sinfulness, its effects and the cure. The first man, Adam, tempted by the devil, allowed his wife and himself to disobey God's command by eating from the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen 2:17). Adam abused his God-given freedom to spurn God in an attempt to "be like God", but "without God, before God, and not in accordance with God." (CCC 398) As a consequence, Adam and Eve immediately lost the grace of original holiness and shattered the harmony of creation. Explicitly foretold by God (Gen 2:17), the tragic consequence of this first sin is that death became a reality in human history (See CCC 396-400).

From Adam and Eve, God made "every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth" (Ac 17:26) and therefore the human race forms a unity (CCC 360). By this "unity of the human race", all men are implicated in Adam's sin, in the same way as all are implicated in Christ's justice (CCC 404). Whilst Adam and Eve committed a personal sin which wounded their human nature, by propagation they transmitted this "fallen state" to all mankind. In other words, the human nature that we inherited, very much like the DNA we get from our parents, is deprived of original holiness and justice. Therefore, properly understood, the "original sin" that we all carry is a state of being rather than an act committed (CCC 404). But the consequence is still the same - left to our fallen state, we will die

"He who believes [in Jesus] and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
- Mk 16:16



both bodily and spiritually.

Thankfully, God our loving Father, never abandoned us in our fallen state. Throughout salvation history, God calls out to us (Gen 3:9) and heralds the coming victory over evil and the restoration of our fallen human nature through the Messiah and Redeemer who is Jesus Christ (CCC 410). St Paul alludes to Jesus the Messiah as the "New Adam", when he said that "Adam prefigures the One [who is] to come." (Rom 5:14) God the Father sent his own Son, Jesus, "in the form of a slave, in the form of a fallen humanity, on account of sin" and "made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor 5:21, CCC 602). Unlike Adam who disobeyed, Jesus the "New Adam" was "obedient [to God] unto death" (Phil 2:8). Though Jesus had no sin in him and therefore was exempt from death, "he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree" (1 Pt 2:24), accepting his voluntary death in order to redeem our fallen humanity. And now, although our sins are many, the redemptive effects of Jesus' sacrifice

on the cross is freely available to all mankind - anyone who "believes (in Jesus) and is baptised, will be saved." (Mk 16:16)

So why did God not prevent the first man from sinning which unleashed so much evil and suffering in the world today? We might be familiar with the saying that if one truly loves another, one should set them free. In a similar way, God in his utter love, chose to create man with free will - a freedom to choose to love and trust God or not to; a freedom to obey God or not to; a freedom to do good or to do evil. And Man can only be truly happy and complete, when he freely chooses to love God, his Creator, and his fellow man. When we recognise this profound relation of man to God, we begin to understand what sin is and why we so desperately need the grace of Jesus Christ to overcome sin, be redeemed and return to our original state of holiness and justice (see CCC 310, 386, 387, 407-409, 602).

Announcements

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

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.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance. Please kindly wait for the Finance Department to contact you and provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001) before indicating the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**). These will be offered up during our priests' private masses.

MARKETING AND MEDIA MINISTRY (MMM): GRAPHIC DESIGNERS NEEDED

Do you have an eye for design? Are you creative and proficient in Adobe InDesign? If the answer is YES, we need 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.

A CALL TO TEACH IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Attention all MOE educators! If you are interested in answering the call to teach in a Catholic School, or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, join our mailing list. Fill up the form accessible via the QR Code. **MOE Open Posting Exercise:** The Archdiocese Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) has compiled a list of vacancies in our Catholic Schools in 2021.



MASS COLLECTION

Mass collections can be made via:

- 1. PayNow** - Launch Paynow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity Name = **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in Amount. Lastly, key in Ref - **Mass Collection**.
- 2. Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.
- 3. Giro** - Download **Mass Collection Giro Form** via sfxchurch.sg/donate. Mail completed form to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

Step-by-step guide: www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/

RCIA AND RCIY 2020/2021: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles? We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY. Here are some details:

RCIA journey

(24 years and above)

Date: begins every **Fri 26 Jun***

Time: 7.30pm - 10pm

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup

Enquiries: Angela at ast_goh@hotmail.com or call 9626 5960.

**RCIA sessions will be conducted every Friday via Zoom for now. Sessions will be moved to Tuesdays, 8pm - 10pm once Circuit Breaker restrictions are formally lifted.*

RCIY journey (13 - 23 years old)

Date: begins **Sat 4 Jul***

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup

Enquiries: rciy@sfxchurch.sg

"Come and See" session

Date & Time: **Sat 27 Jun, 4.30pm - 6pm**

Contact: Angela (9002 9977)/Mark (9751 3448) with your contact number and email for a Zoom invite to be sent.

**RCIY sessions will be conducted every Saturday via Zoom for now. Sessions will be moved to Sundays, 10.30am - 12.30pm once Circuit Breaker restrictions are formally lifted.*

CALL FOR RCIA SPONSORS

Sponsors are needed to help, guide, support and encourage our inquirers for their entire RCIA journey.

If you are a practising Catholic for at least three years and feel a prompting in wanting to journey alongside someone who is seeking God, please register your interest by emailing secretariat@sfxchurch.sg or contact Angela at 9626 5960 or ast_goh@hotmail.com.

SFX ONLINE DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY PRAYER

In this month of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us come together as a parish community to pray the rosary together online via Zoom with our priest, Fr Ben. This online rosary prayer will be held on weekdays from **Mon 1 Jun - Tue 30 Jun at 3pm** - we encourage you to log in by 2.45pm via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary>. Please note that recording of the prayer session is not allowed.



ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 845-8298-0708 Password: 621310

SFX CHARISMATIC (ONLINE):

LIVING THE PENTECOST IN OUR DAILY LIVES

The next Charismatic service via Zoom is on **Mon 22 Jun, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk given by Friar Joseph Nathan, OFM on 'Living the Pentecost in our daily lives'. All are welcome.



ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 879 2311 1898 Password: CPGMON2206

Perfect models of CATHOLIC FATHERHOOD



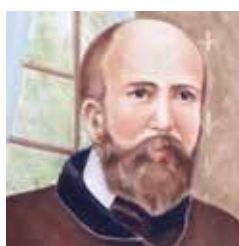
This Sunday we honour all those who are living out the beautiful vocation of fatherhood. Not just our fathers but people who act in the role of a father who have touched all of our lives - our godfathers, grandfathers, uncles. Let us look at how some of our saintly fathers have lived out this vocation and what we may learn from them.

Perhaps the greatest model of all would be **St Joseph**, the man chosen by God to be head of the Holy Family. He was a faithful husband to Mary and a devoted foster father to Jesus Christ. Sacred scripture portrays him as a quiet, unassuming man who listened closely to God and always followed his will.



St Joseph was described as a "righteous man" in St Matthew's gospel (Mt 1:19). We also hear of his obedience because he and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple for consecration in accordance with the Mosaic law (Lk 2:22-24).

St Joseph's chastity and industriousness also makes him the perfect model of Catholic fatherhood. He knew the value of a hard day's work and also understood the challenges of providing for a family. Many modern fathers today who may be struggling in their multi-faceted roles today could do well to look towards St Joseph and ask for this saint's intercession.



St Louis Martin, father of St Thérèse of Lisieux, supported five of his daughters in their vocations. What this saint taught his daughters was "if God is calling you, respond to God." His generosity with which he gave his girls to God showed incredible faith in action.

As a hypersensitive child, St Thérèse often had tantrums

but her father was always patient with her. She learnt that he loved her and never held her tantrums against her. This example became a model of the unconditional love of God for her as she grew out of this phase and into a deep personal faith.



St Louis IX was more than just the king of France — he was also the father of eleven children! St. Louis took his responsibilities as a monarch seriously, and he saw his kingship as an opportunity to serve God. Throughout his reign,

he was an authentically Christian witness to both his own children and the people of France. In a letter he wrote to his eldest son, filled with advice and lessons on faith, he highlighted traits like gratitude to God; frequent confession; tenderness of heart for family and the poor; and devotion to the Church and respect for the pope.

Two saints who were not biological fathers but are still good models to emulate were **St Benedict of Norcia** and **St Francis de Sales**. St Benedict is known as the Father of Western Monasticism and wrote

"The Rule" - a simple set of guidelines for how the life of a monk should be lived. St Benedict talks about being gentle yet not neglecting discipline, correcting 'children' with love, and guiding them with a gentleness, kindness and humility we're supposed to have as fathers: to not lord it over our children, and to really model the holiness that we desire them to have.



Saint Francis de Sales was a Bishop of Geneva and became noted for his deep faith, fatherly presence and his gentle approach to the religious divisions in his land resulting from the Protestant Reformation.

These saints and so many more struggled in ways to live their lives faithfully and to communicate the eternal truth of the gospel. We pray that all fathers will learn from them and ask for the saints' intercession to live out their fatherly vocations so that they may be the loving, compassionate and Christ-centered fathers they have been called to be.



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

How are YOU coping?



Even as we enter into Phase 2, we may still take some time before we can attend mass and resume any other activities in the parish. In these extraordinary times, we will have to adapt to all these changes. In the meantime, how have you been coping with your spiritual life?

Here are some practical tips on how to deal with the current pandemic:



Be sure to reach out to others through video chat or by phone, not just through text or email. Speaking to someone can help reduce feelings of loneliness.



Pay attention to your physical health and try to spend time outdoors. Taking long deep breaths can also help to reduce anxiety.



Be sure to watch Mass and participate in other online devotions. This practice will reinforce your sense of communion with others.



Focus on gratitude as this will help shift your attention away from feelings of sadness, anger and fear.

May we all take comfort in the wise words of St Francis de Sales:



Do not look forward
in fear to the changes in life;
rather, look to them
with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are,
will lead you safely through all things;
and when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in His arms.

SAINT FRANCIS OF SALES

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