



Disciples Making Disciples



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The Cleansing of the Temple

3rd Sunday of Lent
7 Mar 2021

Ex 20:1-17
1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25

The cleansing of the Temple, as described in this Sunday's gospel, is a key inciting incident in the leadup to Jesus' trial and his eventual crucifixion. Let us first examine the historical context during which the events took place, which will then inform the significance of these events.

In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI points out that trading in the Temple was legitimate according to the rules in force at that time. First, as the central place of sacrifice, it was practical for sacrificial animals to be sold in the same venue.

Second, while Roman coins were widely used, they were considered idolatrous since they bore Caesar's image. It was thus convenient for moneychangers to set up shop so that worshippers could exchange Roman coins for Temple currency.

Third, and critically, these traders were licensed by the Jewish authorities, who profited from their activities.

Seen from this context, Jesus was attacking the self-serving abuse of sacred space. Rather than violating the Law, he was implementing the true law. Pope Emeritus thus suggests, "Only this can explain the failure to intervene on the part of either the Temple police or the Roman cohort that stood ready in the Antonia fortress."

But beyond cleansing the corruption that had taken root in existing



"Jesus fights there, on the one hand, as we saw, against self-serving abuse of the sacred space, but his prophetic gesture and the interpretation he gave to it go much deeper: the old cult of the stone Temple has come to an end... The Temple of stone must be destroyed, so that the new one, the New Covenant with its new style of worship, can come."

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

practices, Jesus' actions and words revealed a deeper theological significance. In Mark's account, Jesus had taught: "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

Jesus' question combined two prophecies. First, Isaiah foresaw a time when foreigners would "join themselves to the Lord... for [his] house would be a house of prayer for all peoples" (Is 56:6-7). In the Court of the Gentiles where this whole incident took place, Jesus was thus reaffirming Isaiah's universalist vision of a future where people of all nations could worship together.

Second, Jeremiah spoke of a time when people "made [the Lord's] house into a den of robbers" (Jer 7:11). In denouncing the combination of worship and trade in the Temple, Jesus echoed Jeremiah's rebuke of how faith was also politicised in his time.

Taken together in their full context, Jesus' words thus reveal what is essential and yet utterly new in his message: the separation of religion from politics. Such a message undermined the Jewish authorities – not only in their greed for power and riches, but also in their identity

derived from a nation centred around the Temple. As Jewish law professor Joseph Weiler wrote in his article *The Trial of Jesus*, "This fear [that the Jewish nation would disappear] should not surprise us, given that, in the message of Jesus, religion becomes both individual and universal, the two opposites of national."

Jesus' response to the Jewish authorities in this Sunday's gospel – "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" – fortified such a reading. The sign of authority that Jesus gave to the Jews was the Resurrection, but before that, the Cross too. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says, only through crucifixion, through the total loss of all external power, can the separation of faith and politics be achieved. The Cross and Resurrection thus ends the old cult of the stone Temple and inaugurates the new worship and the new Temple in Jesus.

In this Lenten season, let us then turn from power to prayer. Let us cleanse ourselves from worldly desires by worshipping our Lord as we prepare to partake in his Passion and Death.

Announcements

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

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **ONE WEEK in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you.** They will provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at its weekly prayer sessions. Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Join us online **every Fri, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are joining us for the first time, please email intercessory@sfxchurch.sg for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFX12MAR



LENTEN JOURNEY 2021 WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Calling all parents with young children! Scan the QR Code to join us as we share the Word of God with you for this Third Sunday of Lent. Don't want to miss the series? Stay updated with us by subscribing to our SFX Youtube channel.



PRAY FOR OUR RCIA AND RCY PARTICIPANTS

Our RCIA and RCY catechumens and candidates are inching closer to the waters of baptism. We continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord.

As a community, let this be one of our commitments this Lent as they journey towards Baptism this Easter!

CATHOLIC200SG
SINCE 1821

Scan the QR Code to access the
Catholic200SG Prayer



Church of St Francis Xavier celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Singapore

SFX Parish Lent Activity 2021

Do you know of anyone who may not be tech-savvy enough to register and book for Mass, or attend Mass online? This Lent, let us Rise Up and Reach Out to our fellow parishioners and friends, by inviting them back for Mass! Assure them of the safety protocols that are already in place and go the extra mile by helping them register/book for a Mass slot. Alternatively, you may want to invite them to your home, inviting no more than 8 persons, to attend Mass online, together.

Let us be a Church to one another in this time of need. Let us Ignite and Shine with Faith, remembering the words of Our Saviour, "Where two or three are gathered in My Name, there I will be." Matthew 18:20.

March Mass Bookings

[HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)

MARS Booking Schedule

TUE 9 MAR, 12PM

Booking for a 3rd weekend Mass*.

TUE 16 MAR, 12PM

Booking for a 4th weekend Mass*.

* Weekday Mass bookings for the whole of March are open throughout the month and subject to availability.

Stations of the Cross

All weekday masses during Lent will begin with the Stations of the Cross. You may access the readings for the Stations of the Cross at the bottom of your entry ticket or download via tinyurl.com/SFXStations.



Please note that you are required to attend both Stations of the Cross and Mass together. No late arrivals will be entertained once Stations has started.

Things to note:

- To enter our Church premises, check in must be done via the TraceTogether token or the mobile app.
- Entry is via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPPI Hall).
- Please come at least 30 minutes before Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Stations/Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking one days in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.



MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

- PayNow** - Launch the 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 the reference - Mass Collection.
- Cheque** - Payable to Church of St Francis Xavier and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 8 Mar, 8pm via Zoom**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'St Joseph: Living the virtues & gifts of the Holy Spirit' by Adrian Lim. All are welcome. (Entry to Zoom session starts at 7.30pm SGT)

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPIRIT



CARITAS SINGAPORE – CHARITIES WEEK 2021

The season of Lent is the time when the Caritas Singapore conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign – Charities Week 2021. Your donation will provide much-needed funding to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family to journey with the vulnerable and marginalised in our community such as low income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and people with mental health issues.

Please pick up an appeal envelope and give generously. It will enable our Catholic charities to further their cause and do more to help our brothers and sisters in need. All donations are eligible for 250% Tax Deduction.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

EVANGELISATION: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

IN THE MONTH OF FEB 2021

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Jeffrey Yeo & Constance Sou Yuan Shan Janice

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Goh To Hwa
2. Mary (Monica) Tan Siam Hiang
3. Josephine Gomez

INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Elizabeth Ling Ke En
2. Tan Yun Ning Penelope
3. Noelle Emma Wong Wei Ning



12 Ways to Honour St. Joseph in March



March is the month devoted to St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, families, homes, and a happy death. In the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, "Some saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking." Here are 12 ways you can align your family to St. Joseph.



HONOUR YOUR FATHER(S)

What better day to do something nice for the St. Josephs in our lives? Whatever man in your life has guided you, deepened your faith, or helped you — whether it's a biological father, adoptive father, foster father, grandfather, father-in-law, spiritual father, beloved uncle, or priest ... St. Joseph's Day is a perfect day to honour them! Send a card describing your gratitude, call them up, make them dinner, offer a Mass in their honour!



PLACE AN ICON, STATUE, OR IMAGE OF ST. JOSEPH ON YOUR TABLE

Put a treasured picture of your own family beside it, as a way of seeking blessing and intercession for your family from St. Joseph, Pillar of Families.



ADORN YOUR HOME WITH FLOWERS

On your St. Joseph's Day altar, or anywhere in your home, place a St. Joseph's Lily (a kind of Amaryllis), or something that looks similar such as Easter lilies or a Peace Lily Plant.



MAKE WEDNESDAYS SPECIAL

In the Catholic tradition, Wednesday is the day of the week devoted to St. Joseph. Make your Wednesdays in March extra special by going to Mass or asking for St. Joseph to pray for your intentions.



PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING, SICK AND DYING

Since St. Joseph is the "Comfort to the Afflicted, Hope of the Sick and the Patron of the Dying," add those people to your daily prayers this month.



RESOLVE TO WORK SMARTER THIS MONTH

Work in a way befitting the patron saint of work. Offer up your labour out of love and gratitude for St. Joseph. Remember that keeping holy the Sabbath and abstaining from work on Sunday honours St. Joseph, too!



MAKE A ST. JOSEPH'S DAY ALTAR

The St. Joseph's altar is a fun and meaningful tradition that kids will enjoy helping with. You can place a statue or picture of St. Joseph. Then lavish the altar itself with traditional foods like figs and olives, so it becomes a blessed buffet in praise of and gratitude for St. Joseph.



INCLUDE ST. JOSEPH IN YOUR HOME DÉCOR

Purchase a statue of St. Joseph for your garden. Frame a work of religious art featuring St. Joseph. Include fleur-de-lis (the Joseph lily) pattern somewhere in your house. Or simply print out a black and white image of St. Joseph and colour it and then frame it.



THE "CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH," BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY

Listen to the podcast of Fr. Calloway speaking about the wonders of St. Joseph on the podcast "Destination: Sainthood". www.spreaker.com/user/wcatradio/destination-sainthood-ep07



FIND WAYS TO GIVE

Since St. Joseph is the patron saint of families, find ways to give to families in need through Catholic organisations, in St. Joseph's honour and following his loving example.



AT THE END OF THE DAY, GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO THE SLEEPING ST. JOSEPH

It is said that St. Joseph, the "Terror of Demons," even frightens demons in his sleep. Ask St. Joseph, who communicates with God even in his dreams, to pray for your intentions and take your worries so you can get some rest! Or, do as Pope Francis advises, and place a note with your special intentions under a statue of the sleeping St. Joseph. www.romereports.com/en/2015/03/19/the-statue-of-st-joseph-that-pope-francis-keeps-in-his-room

FOR YOUR SPECIAL INTENTIONS, PRAY THIS POWERFUL PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

*Oh, St. Joseph,
whose protection is so great, so prompt, so strong,
before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.*

*Oh, St. Joseph,
do assist me by your powerful intercession,
and obtain for me from your Divine Son
all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power,
I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers.*

*Oh, St. Joseph,
I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms;
I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.
Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me and
Ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath.
St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - pray for me.
Amen*

**May St. Joseph, Pillar of Families,
bless you and your family!**

Article adapted from: <https://aletea.org/2020/03/01/12-ways-to-honor-st-joseph-this-march/>



Preparing for Easter with my family

Lent is a season of reflection. Even as children, we can prepare for Lent in our own small ways. Here are 5 simple ways that you can start. Check the boxes once you have completed them!

1. Get moving physically.
A healthy body leads to a healthy mind.

DONE!
☐

2. Activate your creative juices.
Dedicate more time to learn more about Jesus through the bible.

DONE!
☐



3. Think about what you want to change for the better. Learning about the faults we have will help us grow to become better Catholics.

DONE!
☐

4. Get your parents to sign you up for mass. Attending mass is one way to grow closer to Jesus. If you are able to, go for confession as well.

DONE!
☐



5. Pray daily. Talking to God allows us to be closer to Him. You don't need to use big words, just pray with your heart.



DONE!
☐



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

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thur:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm
(During Lent only,
includes Stations)

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm

(There is currently
no Novena at
4.45pm)

Sun: 9am, 11am,
1pm, 5.30pm
(There is currently
no Confession
before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until
further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended until
further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until
further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until
further notice

COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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.

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