



Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Salvation & Discipleship

5th Sunday of Easter
2 May 2021

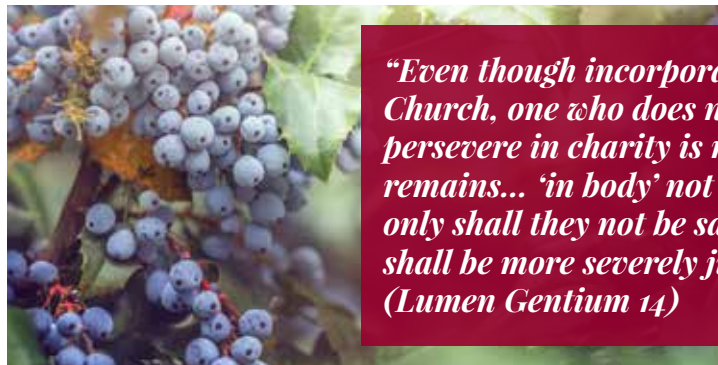
Ac 9:26-31
1 Jn 3:18-24
Jn 15: 1-8

The 5th Sunday of Easter recalls Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. The metaphor of the "vine" underscores union with his disciples and their absolute dependency on him for life and discipleship. Because the vinedresser (the Father) seeks an abundant harvest, fruitless branches (apostates) are cut-off, fruitful ones (disciples) are pruned for greater fruitfulness.

The "vine" depicts Christ's divinity and messianic role in the new covenant, the nature of salvation and authentic discipleship.

"**I am the true vine**" (Jn 15:1), affirms Jesus' divinity, recalling the name of Yahweh revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Ex 3:14). The "true vine" contrasts the "defective vineyard" personified by Israel (Isa 5:1-7) and fulfils her prayer for restoration (Ps 80). The same imagery emphasises the new Messianic and Eucharistic Covenant that supersedes the Old Covenant.

Spiritual death befalls disbelievers of Christ's divinity; "for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he" (Jn 8:24). The "vine" reveals another condition for salvation; God demands fruitfulness. Judas represents the fruitless branch, a false disciple. Though attached to Christ, he lacked genuine inner conversion. "Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; [is] thrown on the fire, and [is] burnt." (Jn 15:6) Corroborating damnation is another warning; "not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter



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the kingdom of Heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father" (Mt 7:21). This debunks the pernicious doctrine "once saved always saved". Fruitfulness comes from "disciples making disciples" (The Great Commission; Mt 28:19). St Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1Cor 9:16) The Laity can be equally fruitful by bearing witness through Christian living. "People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers, in experience than in teaching, and in life and action than in theories." (Redemptoris Missio, 42, Pope St John Paul II)

Authentic discipleship comes from abiding in Christ; "Cut-off from me, you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5) It is obedience to his commandments and doing his work (cf Jn 14:12-15). Like the humble donkey, pressed into service, do not draw attention to self; the vine produces the fruit, not the branches. Building the kingdom of God is supernatural work. Without God, we are no match for the devil; "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities..." (Eph 6:12)

The "Word of God" is essential in apostolic work. "You are pruned already, by means of the Word that I have spoken to you." (Jn 15:3) The Father prunes through trials and fatherly discipline (cf Heb 12:6, Pro 3:11-12). The "Word of God" is the "knife" (Heb 4:12), pruning disordered human nature laid bare by trials.

It brings meaning to suffering, transforming divine discipline into "peaceful fruits of righteousness" (Heb 12:11). Equally important, we abide in Christ through a sacramental life. The imagery of the "vine" and the invitation to "abide" in Christ picks up a theme from the bread of life discourse; "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." (Jn 6:56) The 3 Synoptic Gospels explicitly link the "fruit of the vine" and the eucharistic meal (Mt 26:29; Mk 14:25; Lk 22:18).

Salvation comes from fruitful Christ-centred radical discipleship, anchored on the "Word of God" and sacramental life. If engaged in evangelisation or Church ministry, are you abiding in Christ? What are your motives for serving? Which areas need to be pruned?

A nominal, passive disciple? Take heed; "Even though incorporated into the Church, one who does not however persevere in charity is not saved. He remains... 'in body' not 'in heart'... not only shall they not be saved, but they shall be more severely judged." (Lumen Gentium 14)

In the salvific economy, the Holy Trinity is in control; the Father (vinedresser) prunes the vineyard, the Son (vine) nurtures life and the Holy Spirit (sap) produces fruits through us (branches). Take heart, God assures success; "if you abide in me...you may ask what you will and you shall get it" (Jn 15:7).

Announcements

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

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Please give generously.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

Tuesdays & Fridays: 4pm - 6pm
Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

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?

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. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFX7MAY



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 3 May, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'How to Pray Like Mary' by Helen Chong. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Parish Office will be closed on **Sat 1 May** and **Mon 3 May**.

CLOSED

CHURCH MAIN ENTRANCE UPGRADE NOTICE

Please note that the Church main gate is undergoing upgrading. Drivers, please exercise caution and navigate carefully when entering the Church premises. **Kindly exit via the Church back gate (Cooling Close).**

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

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



All weekday Masses will begin with the Rosary.

TUE 4 MAY, 12PM

Booking for a 2nd weekend Mass*

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

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 JPll Hall).
- Please come at least **30 minutes before** Rosary/Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Rosary/Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 24 hours in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

RCIA AND RCIY 2021/2022: 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.

RCIY journey (13 - 23 years old)

'Come and See' Session

Date: Sun 20 June 2021

Time: 10.15am - 12.30pm

Sessions start: Sun 27 June 2021
Every Sunday, 10.15am - 12.30pm

Venue: JPll hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup
or enquire at rciy@sfxchurch.sg

RCIA journey (24 years old and above)

Sessions start: Tue 6 Jul 2021

Every Tue, 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPll Hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup
or enquire at rcia@sfxchurch.sg

ONLINE ROSARY

Come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings

WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary

Date & Time: Mon to Fri, 3pm

EVENING ROSARY DEVOTION

tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp

Date & Time: Mon, Wed & Sat - 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 984 7131 7782

Password: 172017

ROSARY BY SALT

tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary

Date & Time: Tuesdays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234

Password: 465481

SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS

bit.ly/SundayRosary

Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379

Password: 305946

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:

1. **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.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to 'Church of St Francis Xavier' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

THE ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT

Come! Boys 8 to 13 years – you are invited to be an altar server. Training will be held weekly beginning on **Sat 5 Jun, 7pm - 9pm**. Register via tinyurl.com/SFXAltarServersRecruit2021. A hard copy of the registration form can be obtained from the Parish Office. Please submit the completed form by **Mon 31 May**.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION THIS MONTH

UNIVERSAL: THE WORLD OF FINANCE

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Sacrament of Confirmation for our L10 teens!

58 of our L10 teens celebrated their Sacrament of Confirmation on the 17th and 24th April.

It was a joyous occasion as the teens were brought to full stature in the body of Christ in our newly renovated main church. We give thanks to God as our teens were united by the same Holy Spirit that the Apostles received in the upper room at Pentecost. It was not an easy journey, with the pandemic disruptions to Catechetical sessions, and constant secular and relativistic challenges to their faith in their daily lives.

Despite these, our 58 teens proudly and publicly professed their faith in Christ as they were strengthened and sealed by the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

BAT: THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR OUR FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS

What are the four Catholic Marian dogmas? Are they unbiblical? Is the Hail Mary prayer in the Bible? How can Mary be the Mother of God – do Catholics claim that Mary gave birth to God? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? Do they think she is divine? How could Mary have stayed a virgin all her life? Did she and Joseph have a real marriage? How can Mary be sinless when the Bible says all have sinned (Rom 3:23)?

Join SFX BAT online for a 4-part series to find the answers to these questions and more!

Date: Sat 8 May
Time: 9am - 10.30am

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497

No password required



IN THE MONTH OF APR 2021

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Tay Yin Han & Kathleen Tan Zi Xuan
2. Dwayne Chan Yu Xuan & Kimberly Chng Wen
3. Amos Chan Xuan Wei & He Huili
4. Xavier Jean-Philippe Capmarti & Samantha Ann Branson

CONDOLENCES

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

1. G N Campos Nee Morais Hilda Margaret
2. Gordon Gerard Lee Keng Ghee
3. Rita Angela Vander Straaten
4. Jessie Gn Luck Jiang

INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Lim Shi Xuan, Sophie Anne
2. Wu Yixi, Sophie
3. Chia Kai Xi Aria

ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Chrystabelle Kiara Tan
2. Chng Wei Sheng, Elliot Zechariah
3. Glenda Elsa Goh
4. Jerlest Josephine Wang Jia Qian
5. Sito Wynice Eunicia
6. Tricia Tan
7. Aiswarya Devi
8. Tan Tsu Minh Ansel
9. Emmanuel Cheng Tee Yeow
10. Ching Siew Yi Celine
11. Daphne Chen Shu Ling
12. Darryl Darius Teo
13. Debra Elizabeth Quek Pei Ling
14. Francis Edmund Tay Seng How
15. Anne Erni Saraswati
16. Ezle Ong Shiyi
17. Janetita Teresa Phukemprayoon
18. Jaslyn Clara Law Wee Wei
19. Jocelyn Camilla Siah Siow Chin
20. Karen Raphaelle Lim Wan Keng
21. Ho Junjie Keith
22. Melissa Elizabeth Sim Xiu Zhi
23. Hana Gertrude Ooi Wan Han
24. Wong Tsun Hei Michael
25. Joseph Siew Weng Cheong



"Even with the Covid-19 restrictions, this mass was very meaningful and it helped me feel like I'm officially a part of the Church, especially since I'm a cradle Catholic. This confirmation gave me the opportunity to acknowledge that believing in God is now my own choice, and this has allowed me to strengthen my relationship with him."

- Charlotte Anne Lim Wan Yi



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

58 of our L10 teens celebrated their Sacrament of Confirmation, despite the disruptions of the pandemic and constant secular and and relativistic challenges to their faith in their daily lives.

"Confirmation was an extremely enlightening experience, being able to be vulnerable with God and to be confirmed in my faith was both empowering and enriching. Moreover being able to be a lector for the first time gave me courage and strength despite feeling nervous during the reading."

- Carey Ann Anne Ng Shi Yin



"I feel blessed to be able to be confirmed even with the restrictions in place. Receiving this sacrament was memorable and special because it gave me a stronger sense of belonging to the Church, as a child of God and sister in Christ. The event was also a wonderful culmination to the many years of catechism classes which I'm most grateful to my catechists for. I am thankful for God's

blessings in my faith journey thus far as well as everyone else who has supported me." - **Darielle Raphaela Alisantoso**

"I would like to affirm our catechists. As my son fondly calls one of them, "Uncle Roderick" has been a relentless driving force in terms of being a pillar of support, and a rock to him and everyone in the group.

As baptised Catholics from birth, some of us sometimes go into a phase. While initially we are kind of 'forced' to attend mass as young kids, later on we then start to understand the meaning of various aspects and events. We (me for sure) then start to go into a comatose mode due to work, family and other commitments.



With my young man now filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit (as what my elderly Dad calls it - as much as he wanted to attend but couldn't due to health issues), Benedict is now the the brightest star in our sky and that's a big thanks to "Uncle" Roderick and everyone who have supported the next generation through their examples of faith and belief. So, a big "thank you", for making this a very significant and memorable event."

- Dad of Benedict Lee

Together, as Church, we encourage these teens and their families to continue to enjoy the fullness of Catholic life in the Sacraments, and to announce the Good News with their lives!

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

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