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**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

## Participating in the Redemptive Suffering of Christ

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
12 September 2021

Is 50: 5-9a  
Jm 2: 14-18  
Mk 8:27-35

The contrast between the *Confessio* of St. Peter and his immediate rebuke by Jesus epitomises the tension we face each day, as Children of God negotiating a secular world. While St Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ (i.e. Messiah) was divinely revealed, his quick return to 'reality' saw him unable to accept Jesus' desire to redeem mankind through His suffering and death (Mk 8: 31-35).

St Peter's remonstrance with Christ, might seem to be a humanly rational and sensible act. What leader would exchange his large room for the smallest cubicle in the office? How then, could Jesus - the long-awaited messiah - allow himself to suffer grievously in the hands of his own subjects? In this light, we may be inclined to St Peter's position, a pragmatically logical one. Yet this is not the way of Jesus. Unlike the worldly ways of man, the Cross was the way of Christ, the way of *suffering for our redemption - Redemptive Suffering* (St John Paul II - *Salvifici Doloris*).

The aversion to pain and suffering is primordially ingrained in the human condition. Given the choice between two paths leading to the same goal, one with hardship the other without, *ceteris paribus*, the latter would be the obvious choice. Thus, if we are unwilling to suffer for personal gain, what of suffering for the benefit of others?

Christ resolves this dilemma by showing how *love overcomes the human aversion to suffering*. For love gives meaning and flavour to the Christian notion of redemptive suffering; and is the very reason why Christ sacrificed himself for us. *God, for love of us deigned to sacrifice himself to save us: the Source and Creator of all things was incarnate as the created that He may suffer at the hands of His creation for their redemption*. This great revelation is the central Christological mission; and contemplating this stupendous act of love must likewise draw us closer to God. Such was God's love for us that He was willing to forgo His divinity for our humanity, with little regard for his own earthly life. *Love must therefore motivate us to give ourselves entirely to others, just as Christ did for us, even if it means suffering grievously*.

St John of the Cross OCD poignantly notes: "Love consists not in feeling great things but in having great detachment and in suffering for the Beloved". As disciples of Christ, we are called to live out our *confessio* daily: taking up our crosses to follow Him. This is no easy task. Often, like Peter, though cognisant of our Christological vocation to walk with Christ, we are tempted by the pervasive worldliness that surrounds us. We thus choose logic over love, pragmatism over faith;

disavowing this call and shunning hardship in place of self-preservation and aggrandisement.

Cultivating Christian discipleship upon sacrifice therefore requires practice, for faith is not something merely lived within the mind or exercised within the heart. Renouncing oneself and taking up our cross is as much a corporal act as it is an act of faith (James 2: 14-18). Practicing self-mortification is thus a simple act that trains our bodies in order that our souls may be better disposed to the divine (St Paul VI, *Paenitemini*).

Simple acts of self-denial need not be constrained to Lent but can be practiced daily when we choose to endure some form of discomfort for love of Christ and the desire to carry our crosses more closely with Him. This can take the form of abstinence from sugar in our coffee, watching less TV, not employing the snooze button in the morning, or can even be practiced when we order something we least prefer on the restaurant menu.

Indeed, the graces obtained by such sufferings in turn help us to better endure greater hardships for Christ (Is 50:5-9a), better disposing us to live out our Christian vocation through the participation of redemptive suffering - the complete giving of ourselves for others motivated by Love.



**God, for love of us deigned to sacrifice himself to save us: the Source and Creator of all things was incarnate as the created that He may suffer at the hands of His creation for their redemption.**

## 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 ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **1 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).

### 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

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please submit your prayer request to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 17 Sep, 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: SFX17SEP



### NEXT MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 2021 (OCT)

Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do register your interest for a Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled on the dates above by contacting David & Clara @ 96705390 or email at [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com).

Register or learn more at <https://www.mesg.org/me-weekend-selector/>

## SEPTEMBER - 4th MASS BOOKING

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

### Tue 14 Sep, 12pm

All Mass slots are fully booked. Please be gracious to cancel your bookings if you are unable to attend and look out for any released slots.

#### Things to note:

- All Masses will be held in the Main Church. Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.
- Mass bookings/cancellation will be **1 hour** before Mass.

### SATURDAY 5.30PM MASS

#### Admission Criteria:

✓ **Fully Vaccinated**  
14 days after 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna/WHO EUL vaccines.

✓ **TraceTogether**  
Check in via TraceTogether token/app.

✓ **Pre-Event Testing**  
Taken from MOH-approved test provider. No earlier than 23 hours before Mass. Only local vaccination certificates or Health Hub vaccination proof are accepted.

✓ **Children aged 12 years and below**  
can participate in Vaccinated/PET Masses. The total number of children allowed is no more than **20 percent** of worshippers present for the Mass.

✗ **Other Vaccines**  
- Self-test Kit

For more information on the MOH guidelines, visit [www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet](http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet)



### SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **S\$4,627.20** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities. Please note that if you wish to make a payment via PayNow (**S61SS0149B**) or cheque payment, it should be payable to:

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)**  
OCBC Bank Account No: 686 596 768 001



### 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**.

### CPS LUNCHTIME ZOOM TALKS: 'COMING HOME TO OUR FATHER' BY NICK JARVIS TAN

Walk with our children and understand why our youths and youth adults children are turning away from their faith. Come join Nick Jarvis, an evangelisation strategist at the Office for the New Evangelisation as he shares why and how to invite them back.

**Dates:** Mondays 13, 20, 27 Sep and 4 Oct 2021  
**Time:** 12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Registration is required.**

Register by scanning the QR code or use this link: <https://bit.ly/3mFhNOY>



### WELCOMING HOME RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings Singapore presents a new 10 week programme which runs from **14 Sep to 16 Nov, every Tuesday** from **8pm to 9.30pm**. A weekend of virtual retreat takes place near the end of this programme on the **6 and 7 Nov**. All sessions will be held over Zoom. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register at <https://bit.ly/3gFDObF> or scan the QR code. For more information on Landings, please email [singapore@landings.org.sg](mailto:singapore@landings.org.sg) or visit [www.landings.org.sg](http://www.landings.org.sg)

#### What to expect

- Check-in time and opening prayer
- Faith story-telling
- Response to story
- Fellowship
- Reflection on Catholic themes (*the themes centre around our relationship with God as well as the Sacraments*)
- Closing Prayer





# First Holy Communion

25 children celebrated their First Holy Communion (FHC) Masses over the last two Saturdays (**21 and 28 Aug**) while another 24 children will receive this Sacrament on **4 & 11 Sep**. The children's hearts burned with joy at receiving Jesus in such an intimate way for the first time! Let us continue to pray that their faith will ignite even stronger henceforth.



From left, clockwise - Patricia Carmel, Niigel, Lucas, Alexander, Elliot, Jarod, Jenson, Timothy, Hailey, Kean, Caiden, Jace



From left, clockwise - Julian, Sydney, Raphael, Louise Ann, Clara, Francesca, Eli, Keira, Isabel, Aiden, Jotham, Dylan, Phil





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

## Blessings on Your First Holy Communion

21 AUGUST 2021

1. Alexander Ee Jun Xian
2. Caiden John Tan
3. Ee Rui Jie Elliot Noah
4. Hailey Larissa Chew
5. Jace Tey Xu Xi Xavier
6. Jenson Lim Jie Le
7. Jarod Noel Chow Cheng Jin
8. Kean Aiden Lim Kai Kiat
9. Lucas Riley Lam
10. Niegel Loh
11. Patricia Carmel Valencia Lusman
12. Timothy Lee Jun Rui

28 AUGUST 2021

13. Aiden J De Silva
14. Clara Lee Li Ting
15. Dylan Dexter Tan Rui Zhe
16. Eli Kuan Yong Qi
17. Francesca Lye Kai Xuan
18. Isabel Lee Jen Hwi
19. Jotham Quek Yong Liang
20. Julian Charles Goh You Yi
21. Keira Michelle Chan Lai Woon
22. Louise Ann Fernandez
23. Lo Chai Chi Phil
24. Raphael Cheong Min Rhern
25. Sydney Angelica Lie



### Mass Timings

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tue & Thu:**  
6.30pm

**Fri:**  
8pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset  
(VACCINATED/  
PET ONLY):**  
5.30pm

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

#### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

#### 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

**Mon to Sat:**  
10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm  
**Booking via**  
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>

### 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. Submit your envelopes at least one week 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)