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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

On Trust and Mercy

Divine Mercy Sunday
24 Apr 2022

Ac 5:12-16
Rev 1:9-13, 17-19
Jn 20:19-31

It is the season for miracles. All three readings for this Sunday testify to the Risen Christ and his power.

The First Reading depicts the growth of the early Christian community in the days just after the Resurrection, with "signs and wonders...worked among the people" and "the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increase[ing] steadily". In the Second Reading, the apostle John describes his vision of "a figure like a Son of man" who declares that he is "the First and the Last" and "the Living One". In the Gospel, our Resurrected Lord appears in the flesh to his disciples in a locked room.

And yet, with these miracles and testimonies, there are those who did not believe. The example of Thomas is striking. Here was one of the Twelve who had lived with Jesus, witnessed his wonders first-hand, and heard his prophecies in person. Yet, when he was told that Jesus was alive, he did not believe, even though Jesus himself had proclaimed that he would rise from the dead in three days.

The problem then, is not that Thomas did not believe *in Jesus*, but he did not believe *Jesus himself*.

As CS Lewis wrote in his essay, *On Obstinacy in Belief*, "Our relation to those who trusted us only after we were proved innocent in court cannot be the same as our relation to those who trusted us all through."

Thomas' conversion is thus accompanied by a fundamental change in his relationship with Jesus. For Thomas, no longer is Jesus merely "Master" or "Rabbi"; Jesus is "my Lord and my God".

In this context, the Gospel reading's famous line – "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe" – is especially addressed to those of us who profess to be Christians but do not live in a way that professes Christ as our Risen Lord. We still place our identity in the things of this world, we hoard our material wealth, and we rely on ourselves. Like Thomas, we know Christ, but we do not trust in him.

St Faustina Kowalska therefore taught us to say, "Jesus, I trust in you." A Polish nun, St Faustina received a vision of Jesus in 1931. He was clothed in white, and two large rays – one red and one pale – emanated from his body. Jesus explained to her that the two rays denoted blood and water, just as how blood and water gushed forth when his side was pierced by the lance of the centurion as he hung on the cross – the same side that Jesus asked Thomas to touch so that he might believe.

This vision would eventually become the image of the Divine Mercy and the icon of our trust in the Lord's unfathomable mercy and grace to save us from our sins. Following the growth of Catholic

devotion to the Divine Mercy, St Faustina was eventually canonized by Pope St John Paul II in April 2000. And a year later in April 2001, Pope St John Paul II established the Feast of the Divine Mercy, emphasizing Jesus' message to St Faustina in the Easter context: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy... This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."

As we continue to celebrate Eastertide, let us renew our relationship with the Risen Lord and trust ever more in his grace and mercy in our lives.



"Jesus said to Sister Faustina one day: 'Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy.' Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SCAN FOR MASS HYMNS

www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Scan the QR code for the video "Echoing and Handing Down the Faith" to see how the Office for Catechesis works to realise this vision. Please give generously and consider signing up for a pledge at catholicfoundation.sg/give.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

You may submit your prayer requests to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us every Monday to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All who are attending have to be fully vaccinated.

Date & Time: Mon 25 Apr, 8pm
Venue: Chapel @ B1 (Columbarium)

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 25 Mar, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The One Who Is In You Is Greater Than The One Who Is In The World'. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Mon 25 Apr, 8pm
Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



May Mass Bookings

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

Tue 26 Apr, 12 noon

Bookings will **NOT** be required for weekday Masses except for days of obligation etc that fall on a weekday. Seating capacity for **all weekend Masses will be increased to 600.**



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

WED 25 MAY (EVE): 8PM

THU 26 MAY*: 6.30AM, 8PM

There will be no 6.30pm Mass on Thursday

THINGS TO NOTE:

- **Mass booking/cancellation** closes **1 hour** before Mass. Please be gracious and cancel your booking if you are unable to attend.
- **Mass registration** starts at least 25 minutes before Mass.
- **Mass Entry:** Friday and Weekend Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance; all other Masses via Choir Entrance only.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SFXCHURCH.SG

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**.

PARISH RETREAT: JOURNEY HOME TO THE HEART OF GOD

LAST CALL!!

Has Covid left you wandering in the wilderness - adrift, alone, dry and disconnected? Say 'yes' to the Lord's invitation for a weekend with Him - for your spirit to be refreshed, restored and renewed. The Parish retreat is run in collaboration with Catholic Spirituality Centre. Sign up now!

Dates: 30 Apr - 2 May
(Non Stay-In)

Time: 9am - 6pm

Cost: \$60

Venue: Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXPR22



THE FATHER'S HOUSE: THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH

The 1Cor12 community invites all youth and young adults to come and spend a morning in the Father's house. We will begin with a youth mass in the Main Church at 9am, followed by talks in the Parish Hall. Our speakers Kirk, Claire and Corinne will share on the joys of service and parenthood. Sign up now!

Date: Sun 8 May

Time: 9am - 12pm

Register: bit.ly/1cor12fathershouse



LIVING THE FAITH EVERYDAY (LIFE): THE SEARCH

Why is life this way? Why are we here? Why are we filled with longing? Come join SFX LiFE in exploring the mystery of our life and what it means for you, through The Search, a beautiful 7-part video programme that explores life's big questions.

Dates: 6 May - 17 Jun
(Fridays)

Time: 8.30pm - 10pm

Venue: Zoom



MODULE 3 OF MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2022 - BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, O.P.

In today's marketplace of ideas, there are many different moralities out there and we are often asked to keep what we believe to ourselves. But is Christian morality meant to be kept private within Christian communities? What is Christian morality anyway? Join us as we explore why Christian morality is the answer to the wounded human nature and the role of God's grace. We will consider why St Paul might have put so much emphasis on faith, hope and love. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

Date:
Thu 5 May - 30 Jun 2022

Time:
7.30pm

To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/qUksxfNMDP>



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MAKE MARRIAGE YOUR PRIORITY

"Marriage is a project to be worked on together and is a process of growth" - Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia, no. 218, 221).

Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen your relationship, sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend on **6 - 8 May**. Please contact **Joe & Reenie** at **9670-5390** or email them at mewkend@gmail.com.

The Great Vigil of Easter

16 April 2022

On this holy night, the high point of the Easter triduum, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ and awaiting his return in glory.





MASS TIMINGS

*WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Wed & Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8pm

*WEEKEND MASSES

Sat:
5.30pm

Sun: 7am, 9am,
11am, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

*MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9am

**All are vaccinated Masses*

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*

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays
**For vaccinated only*

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:
10am - 6pm
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

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 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