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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Embodied Parables

3rd Sunday of Easter
1 May 2022

Ac 5:27-32, 40-41
Rev 5:11-14
Jn 21:1-19

Thomas Aquinas once said that God not only can signify his meaning by words, but the things signified by the words may have themselves a signification. (*Summa Theologiae* 1.1.10) It is in this vein that the readings this third Sunday of Easter invites us to look beyond the words describing events, but transfer our eyes towards heaven to see parables embodied in them.

At the beginning of his ministry, in an event similar to today's gospel, Jesus gets into Peter's boat to preach to the multitudes. After his preaching, Jesus told Peter to cast his net into the deep for a catch. Such a great shoal was caught that the nets were breaking and Peter's partners had to help haul the fish into their boat which filled to sinking point. (Lk 5:1-11) With Jesus in the boat with Peter, this earlier episode represents the existing Church gathering both good and bad souls. In the fishing episode of today's Gospel, Jesus stands on the shore which is the limit of the sea, representing a time at the end of the world. Then, Peter is told to cast his net specifically on the right side of the boat, signifying that only good fish will be caught; and this time Peter does not haul the fish into the boat but drags it ashore without the net tearing, where Jesus stands. Symbolically, all are called in the beginning, both good and bad, into the church. But at the end of

the world, John's Gospel signals that only the good are raised to eternal life. (St Augustine - Tractate 122 on the Gospel of John)

St John records a precise 153 fish caught which is a mystery that many have tried to interpret. St Jerome, claiming that zoologists had identified 153 species of fish in the sea of Galilee, stated that it represents how the Apostles, made fishers of man by Christ, will bring in believers from every nation into the kingdom of God. St Augustine opined that 153 is obtained by adding every number from one to seventeen. Seventeen being the sum of seven (representing the Holy Spirit) and ten (the Ten Commandments).

Continuing with the significance of numbers in the Bible, John's Gospel mentions Tiberias three times (Jn 6:1, 6:23, 21:1), each related to eating. The first was when Jesus fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish to nurture their physical bodies. The second was when Jesus spoke about eating the Bread of Life to nourish souls for eternal life. And the last, in today's gospel, relates how Jesus after feeding the disciples with fish and bread, reestablished Peter with the task of feeding and governing the Church. Furthermore, in this last episode, there were five Apostles (Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John) and two unnamed disciples, harping back to the five loaves and two fish with which Jesus fed the five thousand. Five is the number of grace and two is the number of God the Son. Five and two makes seven which is the number of full, complete spiritual perfection and also the number of the Holy Spirit.

Our second reading from Revelation adds to the rich symbolism of St John's gospel in a heavenly liturgy of worship and praise. In heaven,

the Lamb (Jesus) is proclaimed as worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honour, glory and blessing (Rev 5:12) - the count of seven items indicates the fullness of the Lamb's spiritual perfection. This makes him worthy to inherit and rule over "everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea" (Rev 5:13) which indicates that all creation becomes a part of the cosmic kingdom of God.

The second reading tells us that the goal of history is the recognition of the eternal kingship and glory of Jesus Christ, the Lamb who has conquered. With the resurrection of Jesus, the final age of salvation history has begun and St John tells us that only those found on the right side of Peter's boat (Church) will be dragged onto shore (heaven) where Christ stands waiting to share his heavenly banquet. All that remains for us to do is to obey God rather than worldly precepts. (Ac 5:29)



"God not only can signify his meaning by words, but the things signified by the words may have themselves a signification."

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



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **2 & 3 May**.

COME AND SERVE: L8 & L9 RETREAT 2022

Come join us on **3 to 5 June** and/or **23 to 26 June** in our non stay-in Catechetical L8 & L9 retreat 2022! We're looking for young adults and youths who can help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds! If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! Join us today! More details can be found in the sign up link at <https://bit.ly/L8L9Retreat22>

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 video programme on zoom that explores life's big questions.

Dates: 6 May - 17 Jun (Fridays)
Time: 8.30pm - 10pm



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



REVISED

CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER UPDATE ON MAY MASSES

From May onwards, online Mass bookings will no longer be required. Seating capacity for Weekend Masses will be 600 for VDS* Masses and 500 for Non-VDS* Masses.

VDS MASSES (600 PAX):

• Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am

NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

• Weekday Masses (EXCEPT SOLEMNITY MASS)
• Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm

As per MCCY guidelines, we regret that we may have to refuse entry when the maximum capacity has been reached.

* Vaccination-Differentiated

SOLEMNITY: ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE

• WED 25 MAY (EVE): 8pm (VDS ONLY)
• THU 26 MAY: 6.30am (NON-VDS), 8pm (VDS ONLY)

There will be no 6.30pm evening Mass

THINGS TO NOTE

- Trace-Together App or token required for Vaccination status verification for VDS Masses; and
- ID required for all Masses for head count.
- Mass Entry: Weekday Masses & Sat AM Mass via Choir Entrance only; All other Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance.

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'. Please write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

You may submit your prayer requests to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Come join us **Sat 30 Apr - Mon 2 May** to pray for our fellow retreatants at **Micah Room (Parish Centre Level 2)** for the following timeslots.

	When	Led by
DAY 1: Sat 30 Apr	10.00am - 11.00am 11.15am - 12.15pm 2.15pm - 3.15pm 3.30pm - 5pm	Intercessory Prayer Ministry Cornerstone LIFE Communion Ministry & Intercessory
DAY 2: Sun 1 May	9.30am - 10.30am 10.45am - 11.45am 1.30pm - 2.30pm 3.00pm - 4.00pm 4.00pm - 5.00pm	Anawim FOCUS Legion of Mary/St Pio In One Spirit (IOS) Intercessory Prayer Ministry
DAY 3: Mon 2 May	10.00am - 11.00am 11.15am - 12.15pm 1.15pm - 2.15pm 2.15pm - 3.45pm	Charismatic Prayer Group Charismatic Prayer Group Lector Ministry Charismatic Prayer Group

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 mppmc@caritas-singapore.org.

Date: 5 May - 30 Jun (Thursdays)
Time: 7.30pm
To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/qUksxfNMDP>





HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

FOR FAITH-FILLED YOUNG PEOPLE

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

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 96705390 or email them at mewkend@gmail.com.

Easter Vigil Baptism 2022

16 April 2022 was a night to remember for our 21 newly baptised brothers and sisters as well as three Candidates who came into full communion with the Catholic Church. Here are some of their reflections.



"Baptism is an important milestone in my Catholic faith journey. To be converted at my age, I am like a lost sheep which Jesus found. When Fr Ben poured holy water over my head, I felt relief as the guilt and sorrows were washed away. The amazing atmosphere of everyone cheering and welcoming us into God's kingdom made it even more memorable."

- Victor Chin Wee Keong

"I appreciate being able to share my stories and questions openly which made this journey genuine and fruitful. It is life-changing as I found peace within God's love, and learnt to trust God and his plans for me."

- Abigail Low

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: SEXUAL DESIRE – GOOD OR BAD?

Why were we created male and female? Why sexual desire? Is it good or bad? What is sex for? What about celibacy? What exactly is Love? And lust? Come and check these out (and more!) at this introductory session organised by Apostolate for Catholic Truth. Let us delve a little into the Theology of the Body by Pope St John Paul II and allow it to correct our lenses, giving us a renewed and redemptive vision of the human body.

Date: Sat 18 June
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Venue: SFX Parish Hall
Cost: Love Offering
Register: tinyurl.com/SFXTOB2022

IN THE MONTH OF APR 2022

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Tay Siow Siang, Daryl & Stefanie Kuah Su Ling
2. Arthur Martin & Sun XiaoLu
3. Benjamin Ang Yong Xiang & Tan Yi Mei

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Aiden J. De Silva (March)
2. Vander Straaten Juliana Harriet

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

Infant/Child Baptisms

1. Claire Anne Yang Si Yu
2. Lim Yi Le Kaius
3. Zee Yan En Sophie Anne

Adult Baptisms

4. Lydia Cheung
5. Augustine See Fen Fei
6. Peter Yang Pitt Chern
7. Ashlyn Teresa Aw Sin Hui
8. Barnabas Ryan Ang
9. Vinod Jude Kantilal
10. Mok Ka Yin Raymond Theodore
11. Margaret-Anne Chan Sau Mee
12. Low Jia Min Abigail Elizabeth
13. Andy Solomon Leow
14. Chin Wee Keong Victor
15. Elaine Alexis Tan
16. Kenneth Macarius Ong
17. Elliana Dorothy Hoo Kwi Ji
18. Rose Parvathy
19. Elliana Eileen Wee Siew Khim
20. Deborah Seng
21. Quek Jia Ying Perlyn Josette
22. Natalie Anastasia Imelda Ong Zhi Yi
23. Law Yi Qi Megan Antonia
24. Emmanuel Wong Jun-Mei

"At my Marriage Preparation Course 20 years ago, I committed to convert after marriage. However, I didn't act upon the intent till now. Yet God was constantly in my life. Despite the childhood friendships that fizzled out in adulthood, perhaps because I was not very nice and hurt several people, God remained. I felt the nudge to return to God when I got overwhelmed by worldly woes. The dedication of the RCIA service team and the parish priests strengthened my faith. The prayers and divine intervention brought me here to re-kindle my friendship with Jesus!"

- Vinod Jude K

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"In my search for the purpose of life, I stumbled into RCIA and discovered God's love, which quenched the thirst of my spiritual desert. I found inner peace and alignment of heart and mind, as I understood a greater purpose of giving even when we have nothing to offer. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord' (Job 1:21)."

"My wife and I are very blessed to be in this faith journey as a family. Though we are not worthy, God willed us to follow this path. When our daughter wanted to be baptised too, we knew that it was indeed his plan for us."

"I first learnt about God when I was in Primary 1 and wanted to be close to him. Last Christmas, my parents brought me to SFX for the very first time. The church looked so beautiful and I swayed to the hymns. I felt so happy to be baptised as a family and was so excited to see the candles lit to illuminate the church!"



- The Yang Family: Ashlyn Teresa Aw, Peter Yang and Claire Anne Yang

"I knew Jesus from young due to my family and school. I pray when I am struggling but soon it became transactional - I went to church hoping for my prayers to get answered. Not being baptised made me feel like I was not worthy of Jesus's love."

Last year, Jesus called me back when I attended a friend's confirmation at SFX. That night, I felt a deep longing for his love."

I joined RCIA during my O' Levels, a period of aimlessness and disappointment at not achieving my academic goals. Nothing I did was good enough, which led to self-hatred and spitefulness."

Thankfully Jesus revealed his purpose for me, to not chase after worldly things, but trust in his plans for me. Relying on my own strength only leads to disappointment. I was finally able to let go of my pride, ego, and impatience with his plans for me. Mother Mary's humble trust in Jesus has also inspired me to emulate her through my actions."



- Natalie Anastasia Imelda Ong

"This was my third RCIA - was I truly ready? Weeks before baptism, I wasn't sure if my godparent could be there due to reservist duties. I was also fearful that my family would reject my invitation to witness my baptism. Thankfully they all made it! Then, I suffered terrible gastric pains throughout the Easter Vigil. It was a physical manifestation of my anxieties and self-doubts. My loss of appetite then turned into a hunger for the Eucharist. The Lord showed me the importance in the yearning for the Eucharist which not only brings joy but helps me get through my daily struggles."

- Augustine See Fen Fei, 28

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all."
-Ephesians 4:5-6



Looking for more Information?
 visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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

***For Vaccinated Only**

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

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

Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



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