



Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Mary before Martha: The Precedence of Silence

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
17 Jul 2022

Gen 18:1-10
Col 1:24-28
Lk 10:38-42

In this Sunday's gospel, we are presented with two classic figures in the Church: Mary and Martha.

Martha represents the quintessential active 'do-gooder'. She is "serving" the Lord, busy with her myriad chores, worrying over feeding her guest. She is "distracted". She is like many of us "busy" Christians whom Pope Francis described: "There are so many Christians, yes, they go to Mass on Sundays, but they are always busy. They have no time for their children, they don't play with their children... And in the end they become worshippers of that religion which is busy-ness: they belong to the group of the busy, who are always doing things."

Mary, on the other hand, represents the contemplative life. She is "listen[ing]" to the Lord, present to him, and "entirely occupied in being fed by him", as German theologian Justus Knecht put it. In Jesus' words, she had chosen "the better part".

The crucial point of this text is thus the precedence of silence, prayer, and contemplation. In *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*, Cardinal Robert Sarah writes, "All activity must be preceded by an intense life of prayer, contemplation, seeking, and listening to God's will." Drawing on the examples of Mary and Martha, Sarah argues that

"Jesus seems to sketch the outlines of a spiritual pedagogy: we should always make sure to be Mary before Martha. Otherwise, we run the risk of becoming literally bogged down in activism and agitation."

It is only by adopting Mary's posture of sitting at Jesus' feet that we learn the most important truth: that God loves us. As Pope Francis tweets, "It is much more important to realize how much God loves us, than how much we ourselves love Him." Elsewhere, he fortifies the point, "What is most important is not seeking [the Lord], but rather allowing Him to seek me, find me, and caress me with tenderness." We do that by being Mary, not Martha.

But the analysis should not stop here. Recall also that this Sunday's gospel text follows immediately after the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which we just read last Sunday. The

parable is striking for several reasons, one of which is that it transforms the lawyer's self-centred question (i.e. Who is my neighbour?) to one of love and mercy (i.e. To whom should I be a neighbour to?). The parable is in turn preceded by the reminder of the two Great Commands: to love God, and to love neighbour.

The story of Mary and Martha must therefore be seen also in this broader context. Father Henry Wansbrough, an English biblical scholar, therefore rejects an extremist caricature of either Mary (contemplation without action) or Martha (action without contemplation). He writes, "No active apostolate can thrive unless it grows out of a life of prayer, for we cannot draw others to the knowledge and love of a God whom we do not ourselves know and love. Nor can a life of prayer be genuine unless it leads to care for others and concern for the salvation of all those whom the Lord loves." Or in the words of St Benedict, "Ora et Labora" i.e. "prayer and work".

Upon closer examination of this Sunday's gospel, we note also that Martha was the one who "welcomed" Jesus into their house. Jesus' comment to Martha was therefore less of a rebuke than an invitation for her to join Mary at his feet and be with him.

For us, even while we welcome the Lord into our daily lives, we too succumb to the cult of busyness, especially in our capitalist, results-oriented, and profit-driven workplaces. And in our parishes, we scurry around, "worry[ing] and fret[ting] about so many things". These are important things, duties that we should not neglect, responsibilities that we should own.

But let us remember: we should be Mary before Martha, for Mary has the "better part" which will not "be taken from her".



"Martha spent herself in her efforts to prepare food for our Lord, while Mary was entirely occupied in being fed by Him"

- Bishop Friedrich Justus Knecht

Announcements

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

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS**
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Mon 18 Jul**.

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). More info at catholicfoundation.sg

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 18 Jul, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Bible Sharing. All are welcome!

Venue: SFX Parish Hall (Parish Centre, Level 3)
Time: 8pm - 10pm

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date & Time: Mon 18 Jul, 8pm
Venue: Micah (Parish Centre, Level 2)

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: PARKING ALONG COOLING CLOSE



Vehicle owners are reminded to be considerate towards the neighbouring residents, especially during weekends and ensure your vehicle is not indiscriminately parked. Traffic law enforcement will be carried out against errant motorists.

JULY MASSES

Online Mass bookings are no longer required. Seating capacity for Weekend Masses has been increased to 700 for VDS* Masses and 500 for Non-VDS* Masses.

NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

- Weekday Masses (EXCEPT SPECIFIED SOLEMNITY MASSES)
- Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm

VDS MASSES (700 PAX):

- Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am

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

* Vaccination-Differentiated

MASS TIMES

Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before the weekday Masses.

Tue - Sat 6.30am

Mon - Thu 6.30pm; Fri 8pm

THINGS TO NOTE

- Trace-Together App/token and ID **NOT REQUIRED** for Weekday & Sat AM Masses except specified Solemnity Masses
- Trace-Together App/token and ID **REQUIRED** for VDS Masses for Vaccination status verification and headcount
- ID **REQUIRED** for Sunday non-VDS Masses for headcount
- Mass Entry: Weekday & Sat AM Masses - all doors; Sun 7am Mass - Choir Entrance only; all other Weekend Masses - Choir Entrance and Foyer

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**.

RCIA/RCIY 2022/2023 - THE 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.

New RCIA Journey (24 years old and above)

Date: Tue 5 Jul 2022

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPII Hall (Parsonage, Level 1)

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup

For enquires: 9827 6893 (Lloyd)/
8112 8041 (Grace)



New RCIY Journey (13 - 23 years old)

Date: Sun 3 Jul 2022

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Jeremiah
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFX-RCIY-2022-23

For enquires: 9002 9977 (Angela)/
9675 5698 (Corinne)



For 2022 RCIA/Y Journey testimonials, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sfxrciy22testimonials>

SFX 1COR12 ABIDE - NIGHT OF ADORATION & PRAYER

Come and spend some time with Jesus for a night of worship, preaching and adoration, as well as with fellow young people seeking the Lord! We are blessed to have Edwyn De Souza as our speaker for the night. Bring a friend and sign up now!

Date: Fri 22 Jul 2022

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: bit.ly/1cor12abide



MONFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT: A HEART THAT FORGIVES

Homecoming to God. Is it possible?

A stay-in weekend for those who truly hunger for God's healing forgiveness.

Dates & Time:

29 Jul, 7am - 31 Jul, 1pm

Venue: Montfort Centre

(624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, S678212)

Register: [www.montfortcentre.org/
events/1/a-heart-that-forgives-2022](https://www.montfortcentre.org/events/1/a-heart-that-forgives-2022)



OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION: NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2022

If you desire to be part of the mission to call others back to our parish, then join us as we draw inspiration from the early Christian community, and gain insights from our Conference speakers on how we can recover the original magnetism of the church, and attract people back to our parish. For more info, visit one.org.sg/event/2022-new-wine-conference/

Dates & Time:

Fri 12 Aug, 7.30pm - 10pm and

Sat 13 Aug, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: SFX Seminary Building
(618 Upper Bukit Timah S678214)

Cost: \$20 (lunch included)

Register: bit.ly/newwine22



NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2022

MAGNETIC

ATTRACTING PEOPLE BACK TO THE PARISH

Even as our churches reopen, many of our Catholics are slow to return to parish life. If the message of Jesus Christ isn't the passion, then what is leading people to keep coming to church? What do we need to truly convert to revive the dynamism and attractiveness of our faith?

Join us as we draw inspiration from the early Christian community, and gain insights from our Conference speakers on how we can recover the original magnetism of the church, and attract people back to our parishes.

MAIN SESSIONS & BREAKOUT LABS

FR. TONY TAN Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore	FR. ANDY LIM Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore	FR. ANDY LIM Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore	FR. ANDY LIM Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore	FR. ANDY LIM Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore	FR. ANDY LIM Parish Priest St. Andrew's Church, Singapore
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IN PERSON
\$20 - LUNCH INCLUDED

12 AUG. FRI | 7.30PM - 10PM
13 AUG. SAT | 9.30AM - 4.30PM

618 UPPER BUKIT TIMAH S678214 SFX SEMINARY BUILDING

REGISTER HERE
bit.ly/newwine22

REGISTRATION CLOSING 7 AUGUST

LANDINGS SINGAPORE: WELCOMING CATHOLICS SEEKING A RECONNECTION

A new 10 week programme which runs from **5 Sep through 14 Nov**, every Monday from **8pm - 10pm**. A weekend retreat takes place near the end of this programme on the 12 and 13 Nov. All sessions will be held in person at Church of the Holy Spirit or Church of Queen of Peace. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register at bit.ly/3AbeUMB. For more information on Landings, please email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg

Returned!

This event, which includes testimonies, will give you an understanding of Landings, and an opportunity to clarify any questions you may have.

Date & Time:

5 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue:

Church of the Holy Spirit

Register:

bit.ly/39ZVEHb



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION DINNER 2022

Book your seat and be inspired by Cardinal-elect William Goh, Archbishop of Singapore as he shares about the archdiocese's pastoral vision and plans. As the event is fully sponsored, all proceeds from table sales will go to the Catholic Hub building project, a spiritual oasis that will include retreat facilities, a home for retired priests and a heritage centre. To support this event, visit catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner or scan the QR code. Or, call 6338 0348 or email cfdinner@catholic.org.sg

Date:

Thu 29 Sep

Venue:

The Barracks Hotel Sentosa & The Village Hotel Sentosa

Register:

<https://www.catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner/>



L9 Camp: Road to Emmaus

Between 23rd June and 26th June, 50 of our L9 teens participated in their annual L9 catechetical retreat. The retreat's theme "Road to Emmaus" saw the teens journeying with and meeting Christ, recognising Him as Lord and Saviour in the breaking of the bread. During the retreat, Jesus's healing was truly present as the teens experienced a tender healing session with their parents during the parents' night.

We thank the youth of our parish and the 1 Cor 12 members, who came together to run such a spirit-filled retreat. As a Parish, we continue to pray for our L9 teens as they journey towards Confirmation, when they will be sealed with the Spirit and enter fully into the richness of our faith.



> Testimonials on next page



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

During the retreat, I was initially distracted with many thoughts as I was not very open. However, I felt more refreshed and excited towards the end, looking forward to more. I felt that this was a sign. And that sparked me to really take in everything in the retreat and enjoy it to the fullest.

Isaac Chan, L9 Faith

Although I felt like Jesus was always around me during this retreat, the most unforgettable moment that I encountered him was during confession. I saw Jesus next to the priest, listening and caring like a true father. The activities during the confession also made me feel the presence of Jesus, our God who helps and guides us in our spiritual life. Jesus has helped me throw away my fears and worries not only in the camp, but in my life as well. Initially, I was hesitant to sing and lift my hands up during praise and worship. As the days went by, I noticed that I started to participate with all my heart and soul. I don't know what changed in me but it was probably God's doing. During the one-on-one sessions, I was inspired to join a community with friends so as to follow Jesus and also have some sort of fun while at it.

Ian Tan, L9 Faith



After the prayer session with my facilitators, I felt "renewed" and like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I felt God's presence. Jesus granted me the courage to open up to my group during the sharing sessions and it made me feel loved and accepted because I wasn't judged for anything I said. I want to continue following Jesus by regularly attending Mass every week and praying every day.

Dante Tan, L9 Love

One thing Jesus did for me was to reveal his great love for me! I had always been a sceptic when it came to believing in Jesus' love. I always wondered why a loving God would let our world suffer from so much pain. Through this retreat, I realised that Jesus went through the worst suffering—dying on the cross for us sinners. His greatest suffering is what gives us the chance to have eternal life with him in paradise and end our sufferings on earth! I feel very touched by this merciful and unconditional love that he had for us!

Jenevieve Yeo, L9 Hope



MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - 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

CONFESSION

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

OPENING HOURS

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

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

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