



Disciples
Making Disciples



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All or nothing: the cost of discipleship

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 Sep 2022

Wis 9:13-18
Phm 9-10, 12-17
Lk 14:25-33

In this Sunday's gospel reading, we are confronted with the cost of discipleship and what saying yes to the Lord truly means. Jesus very soberly commands that anyone who does not hate their loved ones and themselves, cannot be his disciple. When we hear this, what feelings stir up within us? Does it seem unreasonable for Jesus to ask this of us? This certainly is one of Jesus' most challenging commands to grapple with. Just as we hear in the first reading, "who can divine the will of the Lord?", how do we reconcile these words with what Jesus says earlier in Luke 10:27, telling us to love our neighbour as ourselves?

In trying to understand Jesus' words, it may be tempting to assume, that perhaps the Greek word for "hate" (the language of Luke's gospel) was mistranslated. Perhaps Jesus meant something else and that "hate" is different to our contemporary understanding? While promising, scholarship reveals that the word that Jesus uses in the gospel, *miseō*, is the same as what we would use now to mean hate, a preferential type of response. Therefore, Jesus' words are as serious as they sound. If so, how then do we understand Jesus' command?

Biblical scholarship has examined Jesus as a teacher. He often used hyperbole as a tool for teaching.

This method of exaggeration may at times, shock and cause discomfort in students, however, it also stimulates creativity, aiding students' memory of what is taught. In using hyperbole, Jesus therefore does not contradict himself. Instead, he expresses his desire that we belong completely to him and simultaneously reveals his identity as God. How do we know this? At pride of place in every Jew's mind is the *Shema* - the key prayer in Judaism prayed throughout the day. The opening of this prayer are the words from Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." This command given by Moses to the Israelites presents to us that we have to love God with our entire being and effort.

It is impossible to love the Lord with all of our being if we place others above him. Therefore, we have to intentionally choose to put the Lord first in our lives if we wish to follow him. Jesus is not telling us to stop caring for our families and those whom we love. Instead, he commands that our hearts must first belong to him. Jesus is God, and in this command, he reminds his disciples of his true identity while also cautioning them that this is what they choose, when they say yes to becoming his disciple. Before

we say yes, Jesus reminds us that we have to count the cost. Can we say yes to this command?

God has given himself completely to us. We receive the Father, Son and Spirit as gifts and the Lord invites us to give of ourselves too, in love. How do we respond to this invitation? Every time we partake of the Eucharist, the priest offers up the sacrifice of Christ's body on our behalf. However, we are also invited to offer up our own offering - that of ourselves, united with Christ. Therefore, every time we receive the Holy Eucharist, we should remember that we are saying yes to giving of ourselves to the Lord. This disposition helps us to receive the body of Christ with an open heart, preparing us to give of ourselves to him again and again.

We must also reflect on how we use our time. Do we spend time listening to the Lord in prayer? Or do we skip prayer time because we are busy pampering or indulging our loved ones? Do we act in ways which glorify the Lord? The Lord must come first in all things. Just as we love the people around us, our love for the Lord must be the centre of every word, thought and deed that comes forth from us. This is the cost of discipleship, our entire lives freely given up to the Lord.



"The Lord must come first in all things. Just as we love the people around us, our love for the Lord must be the centre of every word, thought and deed that comes forth from us."

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



**FAULTY/DAMAGED
CHURCH PEWS?**

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR Code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilitiesReport



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for Sunday fellowship at JPII Hall. Please use the hand sanitizers provided and mask up when not eating or drinking. The canteen is now also open for unvaccinated congregants. If anyone has a cough or cold, you are highly encouraged to continue with mask wearing indoors. Let us do our part to help keep our parish community safe!

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 5 Sep 2022

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 5 Sep**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

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

DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL: '365 DAYS WITH THE LORD' BIBLE DIARY SALE

This weekend, the Daughters of St Paul will be promoting the ever popular Bible Diary - '365 Days with the Lord' outside JPII Hall after each weekend Mass. Get a copy at \$20, while stocks last.

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Come meet us in JP2 Hall at 7.45pm and join us for a Rosary Procession at **8pm** on **Thu 8 Sep** to celebrate our Blessed Mother's birthday and stay for refreshments after that.

BEGINNING 29 AUGUST 2022

Safe Management Measures Update

Current check-in procedures for Vaccination-Differentiated (VDS) Masses remains unchanged. The mask-wearing requirement for indoor religious activities has been removed. If you are coughing/sneezing or not feeling well, kindly put on your mask or stay home.

NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

- Weekday Masses (**EXCEPT SPECIFIED SOLEMNITY MASSES**)
- Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm
- Trace-Together App/token and ID **NOT REQUIRED**

VDS MASSES (700 PAX):

- Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am
- Trace-Together App/token and ID **REQUIRED FOR CHECK-IN**

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

** Vaccination-Differentiated*

THINGS TO NOTE

- Mass Entrance: Weekday & Sat AM Masses - all doors; Sun 7am Mass - Choir Entrance only; all other Weekend Masses - Choir Entrance and Foyer.

The Rosary will be prayed 30 mins before all weekday Masses.

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**.

SSVP 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. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously. If you wish to make a cheque payment or PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

- **OCBC Bank Account No:**
686 596 768 001
- **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

**FOR THE ABOLITION
OF THE DEATH
PENALTY**

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

IN THE MONTH OF AUG 2022

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Ling Ming Chuan Nelson
2. Mrs Hyder nee Ong Saw
Tuan Angelina Mimi

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Samuel Avery Seow Kai Jie
2. Oliver Evan Wan Rui Zhe
3. Tessa Joy Elizabeth
Hamilton
4. Faith Lee Xun

Receiving Jesus for the First Time!

Congratulations to the forty children from our parish who received their First Holy Communion on the 27th and 28th August. May they always feel the warmth and comfort of our Lord's love!

Here are the reflections by a few of the children and some photographs of the children receiving their First Holy Communion during the mass on 27 August.*

*The photographs of the event on 28th August will be published next week.

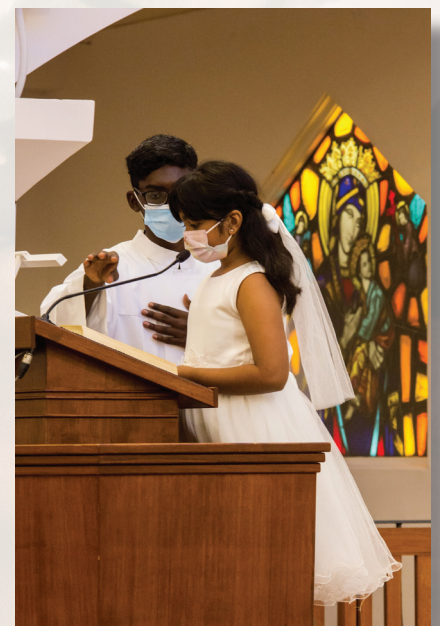


I was super excited during the preparation to receive Holy Communion. I loved the retreat. I have been asking my Mummy for years how the Body of Christ tastes like and I was looking forward to finding out myself.

I was really nervous on the actual day. I was worried I would forget the steps or not like the taste of the Blood of Christ. Being with my friends and having my mummy seated behind me, calmed me down. I am really grateful and so happy to finally be able to be part of the Eucharist and take the body of Christ. I am going to feel really special next week at mass when I line up with my parents to receive it!

I also did the second reading for the mass. It was my first time reading in front of such a large audience but I am very proud of myself for trying and giving it my best.

- Aanya Ranjan





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



I felt that I was more holy when I ate the holy communion, and when I drank the 'wine', I felt that the wine, the blood of Jesus was washing down/filling the holy communion, body of Jesus, filling the body of Jesus and God in my body. I also felt scared as I was scared if God would find out about the sins he doesn't know yet when he enters my body. I also felt scared because I thought that I would not like the taste of the holy communion and that the wine would be actual wine, but the holy communion was still okay and the wine was not real/actual wine. (I did not really need to tell this but I did) :P

- Sage Quah

I could not wait to receive Jesus in the body and blood of Christ. I felt happy, scared and excited all at the same time.

- Sarah Chin

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)

***For Vaccinated Only**

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to make an appointment.

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.

ANOIDING 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