



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Called to be faithful

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Oct 2022

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4
2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14
Lk 17:5-10

In today's gospel, the disciples asked the Lord Jesus to give them more faith, and yet were rebuked. To understand more deeply what may be transpiring in the exchange, we first look to the verses preceding it. Luke chapter 17 begins by Jesus warning the disciples of the terrible fate that awaits those who lead others astray. Following that, Jesus tells them to forgive anyone who wrongs them but returns to reconcile, even if it happens multiple times.

Upon hearing the high demands of living out the gospel, the disciples must be feeling discouraged. Recognising the difficulty of meeting such a tall order, they instinctively replied "Increase our faith!" At first glance, asking for more faith seems to be a good thing. Surely, a little more would not hurt especially in dicey situations. Yet, it is also possible to justify our disobedience or omissions due to a lack of faith; if we fail, it is because God did not give us enough faith. One could interpret the disciples' reaction as a subtle attempt to put the moral responsibility back onto God.

It is also possible that as Jesus' inner circle, the disciples expect to be given more so that they can do spectacular things as a show of their deep faith for vain glory. Jesus' retort with an unbelievable reality lays bare the disciples' secret intentions. He says, even if you only had a little faith the size of a mustard seed, if you command, the tree will uproot itself, fly



*"God has not called me to be successful;
He has called me to be faithful."*

- St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

through the sky and plant itself right into the sea. This implies that when it comes to great works, it is not the amount of faith that matters since just a little bit can accomplish so much. However, we should ask ourselves, what exactly are we trying to accomplish? Are we acting out of love for God and for others? Or are we concerned with how it will make us look?

Jesus continues his rebuke. A servant who remains committed to do his job well is doing what is within expectations. He does not deserve additional praise or reward. In the same way, we as disciples should remain committed to do our best whatever the situation demands without expecting our good works to gain reputation or favour with others.

This is not to dismiss some of the real difficulties we face in everyday life. The Second Reading is a letter of encouragement in acknowledgement of our struggles. In his letter to Timothy, St Paul instructs us to "bear [our] share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God... For God did not give us a spirit of

cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." God gives us these so that we can be consistent and faithful in our response to Him for better or for worse. As St Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful."

Similarly, we see this in the First Reading where the prophet Habakkuk finds himself in a terrible situation. In his anguish, he cries out to God about the injustice he is witnessing in Israel and prays for God's intervention. God assures Habakkuk by giving a vision of the future in which He allows the reign of the Babylonian empire to make right the destruction and violence that is happening within Israel. Once again, we receive encouragement in the last verse: the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

Despite the sternness of today's gospel message, God does want to steer us away from ulterior motives and encourage us towards authentic fidelity. May we have open hearts and minds to reflect more deeply on Jesus' words of rebuke, so that our faith is further purified.

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



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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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

DAILY CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSIONS

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. There will be nightly processions within the church grounds in honour of Our Blessed Mother. You may bring your own waxless candles.

PROCESSION SCHEDULE

Mon, Wed, Thu: 8pm @ JPIL Hall
Tue: 8pm @ Grotto
Fri: 6pm @ JPIL Hall
Sat, Sun: 8pm @ JPIL Hall

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 3 Oct**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 3 Oct 2022
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

FOR A CHURCH OPEN TO EVERYONE

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

Safe Management Measures Update

Current check-in procedures for Vaccination-Differentiated (VDS) Masses remain 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

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

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 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**.

1COR12: EXAM MASS

Calling all students taking the major exams (O-levels, A-levels, IB, etc) this year! Come join us for a time of prayer, mass and lunch fellowship to pray for each other! Do invite your friends who may be taking their major exams this year too, or who simply want to come and spend some time with Jesus and each other. Sign up at bit.ly/1cor12exammass by **2 Oct 2022**.

Date: Sat 8 Oct 2022
Time: 11am - 2pm
Venue: Hosea Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)



CHARIS: HUMANITARIAN MONTH

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making its annual appeal for their Humanitarian Aid Fund which supports the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts. By sharing our blessings, we can unite as the helping hand of the Church by responding in love to our brothers and sisters in need. Donation envelopes are available in the Main Church or outside JPIL Hall. Alternatively, you may scan the QR code to make a donation or to find out more. Please support generously.



FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: SAVE THE DATES

Sat 26 Nov: Pilgrimage Walk | **Sun 27 Nov:** Mass for the Sick | **Tue 29 Nov:** Abide
Wed 30 Nov – Fri 2 Dec: Triduum + Fellowship | **Fri 2 Dec:** Overnight Adoration
Sat 3 Dec: Feast Day Mass + Fellowship + Petra Concert
Sun 4 Dec: Feast Day Mass + Fellowship + Treasure Hunt

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE (CTIS):
REGISTRATION FOR FIRST SEMESTER 2023**

The Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore caters to students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith in the context of the Church and the world of today. For more information on application, visit our website at ctis.sg or contact Janice Ng at 6902 8705.

**INFORMATION NIGHT**

Date and Time: Fri 4 Nov 2022, 8pm

Venue: St Cornelius Room (SFX Seminary Building, Level B)
 (618 Upper Bukit Timah Rd #01-01, S678214)

IN THE MONTH OF SEP**WEDDINGS**

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Luc Bernard Angove & Jacinda Choo Min Rui

CONDOLENCES

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

1. William Ng Wee Kiang
2. Koh Ah Bah John
3. Harris Ross Gerard

BAPTISMS

We welcome:

1. Matthew Luke Yi Sin

**PPC EXCO
RETREAT**

Last weekend, the PPC Exco members participated in a three-day retreat in Johor Bahru. On Friday morning, after the morning mass in the Main Church, they headed to the retreat destination where they engaged in some fun bonding activities upon arrival. During the retreat, Edwyn de Souza, retreat master, gave a series of formation sessions where the members got to share and pray for one another. Let us pray for all our leaders as they respond courageously to God's invitation to seek Him and be disciples making disciples. Here are some highlights and testimonies from the participants.



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"The retreat was amazing and spirit-filled. I had not been to confession since my last retreat which was pre-covid. Jesus brought this to me through this retreat. He is a merciful God and ever-loving. I am undeserving of this love and yet he continues to shower me with his love and blessings abundantly."

"Learning the divine office and chanting was something different to take back. It was an opportunity to meet other ppc members, grow spiritually and to open our hearts and soul to God."

"Great time to get away from daily life, able to feel the calm and be embraced by the Lord once again. Rejuvenated. Community is great and everyone is nice."

"Felt recharged and rejuvenated. The intimacy that comes with small group sharing and ministering to one other. Good mix of para-liturgy and talks. In addition, really like Edwyn's bible and scripture-based talks."

"The activities, the talks, the experiences formed and how we were nudged to grow closer to God. I have grown in deeper faith to love, trust and belong to God."

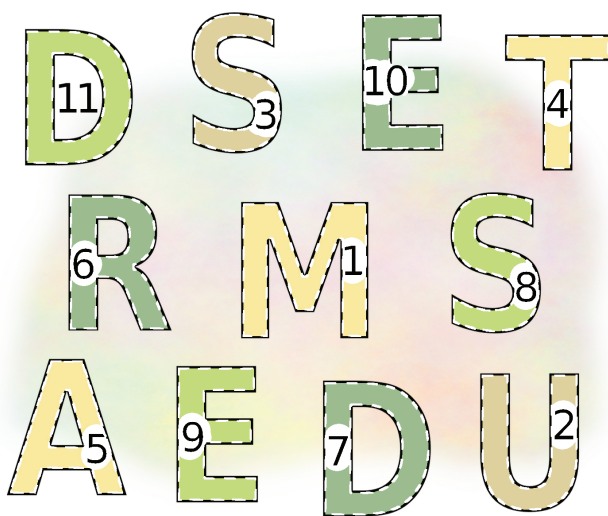
"The retreat provided me a time for personal encounter with the Lord. There were practical formation sessions on leadership and had a wonderful time building bonds with one another. It was spirit-led and spirit-filled. Praise God!"

"I felt like this is a retreat that I did not want to go for but God told me this retreat is what I need."



What did Jesus say in today's Gospel reading when the apostles asked Him to give them more faith?

Sort out the letters by number and put them in the spaces below.



"If you have faith the size of a

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'
and it would obey you. Luke 17:5-10



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sun:
8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

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

CANTEEN

Sun:
7am - 12pm

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/second Sunday of the following even 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