



Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Our Divine Mission

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 Jan 2023

Is 49:3, 5-6
1Cor 1:1-3
Jn 1: 29-34

Today's Gospel reading contains a short account of John the Baptist's encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. But in those six succinct verses, we find everything there is to know about our faith and what we must do. You could almost say that the entire New Testament was summarised in them.

"Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

"This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water." (Jn: 1:29-31)

For Jews at the time, offering a sacrificial lamb to God was part of their religious practice, especially during the Passover feast to celebrate their freedom from bondage in Egypt.

When John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, he immediately identified our Lord as the Messiah who would make the ultimate sacrifice for us.

As explained by the Church, John's act in baptising Jesus is of profound significance because it not only informs our Lord's mission but also our own.

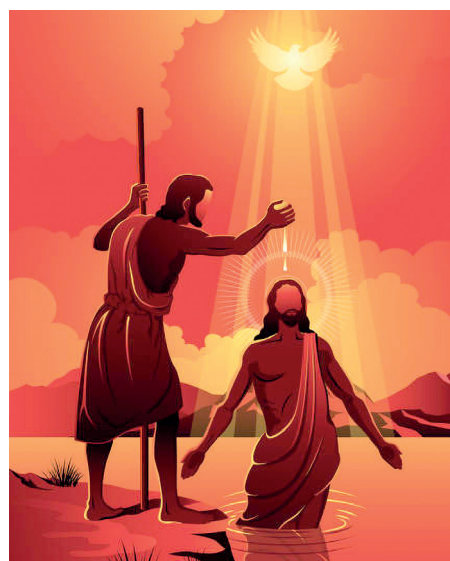
"The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already "the Lamb of God, who takes

away the sin of the world... Already he is anticipating the 'baptism' of his bloody death...that is, he is submitting himself entirely to his Father's will: out of love he consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins." (CCC 536)

The imagery of the lamb also conveys what sort of sovereign he is. Not the usual king clothed in splendour and detached from the people but a creature known for its gentleness.

John's baptismal act was the fulfilment of his mission which was to prepare the world for Christ's coming.

Even though, as he said, he did not know Jesus, this holy task was given to him before birth. As an unborn child, he knew the future Messiah was close by and he leapt in Elizabeth's womb when her cousin Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, came visiting.



"Truly, the love and friendship of God was given to us so that it might also be shared with others. We have received the faith to give it to others."

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger,
April 2005

Like John, we do not know Jesus personally, but we too have a divine mission which is to be witness to our Lord and prepare for his second coming.

Without us doing our part, Jesus' sacrifice would have been in vain.

God's perfect plan requires the fulfilment of all three missions. Two have already been successfully accomplished.

How can we fail to do ours?

As we contemplate how to do this, the words of our recently departed Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI are especially relevant.

In a homily in 2005, when he referred to Jesus' teaching on bearing fruit in Jn 15:16 ("It was I who chose you to go forward and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure."), our Holy Father said:

"It is here that appears the dynamism of the life of a Christian, an apostle: I chose you to go forth."

We must be enlivened by a holy restlessness: a restlessness to bring to everyone the gift of faith, of friendship with Christ.

Truly, the love and friendship of God was given to us so that it might also be shared with others. We have received the faith to give it to others...

All people desire to leave a lasting mark. But what endures? Money does not. Even buildings do not, nor books.

After a certain time, longer or shorter, all these things disappear. The only thing that lasts forever is the human soul, the human person created by God for eternity.

The fruit that endures is therefore all that we have sown in human souls: love, knowledge, a gesture capable of touching hearts, words that open the soul to joy in the Lord.

So let us go and pray to the Lord to help us bear fruit that endures. Only in this way will the earth be changed from a valley of tears to a garden of God."

Our mission could not have been more clearly stated.

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



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours:

- **Sat 21 Jan:** 9.30am – 1.30pm
- **Sun 22 Jan - Tue 24 Jan:** Closed

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. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the Archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 16 Jan 2023

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 16 Jan**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Serving God, Serving Others With Love So That The Sower And Reaper Can Rejoice Together'. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

SALE OF CNY COOKIES

The Altar Servers will be selling Chinese New Year cookies on **14 - 15 Jan**. Please come and support them outside JP11 Hall and the front porch of church!



CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Sat 21 Jan (CNY Eve): 6.30am, 4pm

Sun 22 Jan (CNY Day 1): 7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm

Mon 23 Jan & Tue 24 Jan (Public Holidays): 9am only

There will be distribution of pre-packed oranges and blessings of oranges.



COMMENCEMENT OF 2023 CATECHISM CLASSES

Catechism classes for 2023 will start on **Sun 29 Jan 2023**. The exact venue and timing will be communicated by the Level Coordinators to the respective parents, children and teens. To all parents, we thank you for entrusting your children to our ministry for faith formation and we will try our best to supplement what you will be inculcating in your daily lives as their primary catechists. May the Lord continue to bless and protect all families and help us to form our faith in this community. For any questions, comments and feedback, please reach out to Dan Lai at 9749 1635.

FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - FOLLOW THE SUNDAY GOSPELS TOGETHER!

The Gospels over these few Sundays until end January are about Jesus as the Lamb of God, Jesus' call to repentance, his first disciples and also Jesus' teaching about the Beatitudes. You can read these stories with your children before coming for Mass! Our parish librarians have selected some books and marked out these gospels for you to read and pray over with your children. Come and check out the selection of books today!

St Jerome Library is open **every Sunday 8am - 1pm**. Please note that we will be **closed on Sun 22 Jan (Chinese New Year)**.

CARITAS SINGAPORE: MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS (MODULE 1) BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, O.P.

How do we know what is right and what is wrong? Why does this matter?

Join us in person as we explore what moral truths are and why they matter for our happiness. For enquiries, please email Caritas at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org.

Dates & Time: (Thursdays) 26 Jan - 9 Mar 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: CANA at Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo St, Level 3)

Fee: \$70

Register: <http://bit.ly/MPMC-1>



RISE & LIVE BY GRACE FUNDRAISING CHARITY DINNER BY HOPE HOUSE & LASALLE HOUSE

The La Salle Brothers are hoping to raise \$9.7 million for La Salle House to support their ministry for young men with family difficulties and disadvantaged circumstances as well as to support the wider community especially in the areas of faith formation and spiritual direction. As part of the fundraising efforts, they will be selling charity dinner tickets and umbrellas outside JP11 Hall. Please come and support them. For more enquiries, please contact 9739 9668 (Doris)/ 9111 3228 (Linda)/ 9730 6825 (Charlotte).

ACMI MIGRANT FUND CHARITY GOLF

Putt for a good cause at the ACMI Migrant Fund Charity Golf on **10 Feb 2023** at Tanah Merah Country Club, Tampines Course! There are more than 1.2 million low-wage migrant workers and migrant domestic workers in Singapore. Many are single mothers or have courageously left their families to come to Singapore to work. Others are struggling to make ends meet in a rising cost environment whilst facing hardship and prejudice. Your support can feed 500 migrant workers, give 76 migrant domestic workers upskilling opportunities through training courses and much more. \$5000 per flight with lunch and dinner included.





The Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The Holy See releases the Spiritual Testament of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, dated 29 August 2006.

My spiritual testament

When, at this late hour of my life, I look back on the decades I have wandered through, I see first of all how much reason I have to give thanks. Above all, I thank God Himself, the giver of all good gifts, who has given me life and guided me through all kinds of confusion; who has always picked me up when I began to slip, who has always given me anew the light of his countenance. In retrospect, I see and understand that even the dark and arduous stretches of this path were for my salvation and that He guided me well in those very stretches.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in difficult times and prepared a wonderful home for me with their love, which shines through all my days as a bright light until today. My father's clear-sighted faith taught us brothers and sisters to believe and stood firm as a guide in the midst of all my scientific knowledge; my mother's heartfelt piety and great kindness remain a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough. My sister has served me selflessly and full of kind concern for decades; my brother has always paved the way for me with the clear-sightedness of his judgements, with his powerful determination, and with the cheerfulness of his heart; without this ever-new going ahead and going along, I would not have been able to find the right path.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the co-workers at all stages of my path; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I would like to thank the Lord for my beautiful home in the Bavarian foothills of the Alps, in which I was able to see the splendour of the Creator Himself shining through time and again. I thank the people of my homeland for allowing me to experience the beauty of faith time and again. I pray that our country will remain a country of faith and I ask you, dear compatriots, not to let your faith be distracted. Finally, I thank God for all the beauty I was able to experience

during the various stages of my journey, but especially in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second home.

I ask for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart from all those whom I have wronged in some way.

What I said earlier of my compatriots, I now say to all who were entrusted to my service in the Church: Stand firm in the faith! Do not be confused! Often it seems as if science - on the one hand, the natural sciences; on the other, historical research (especially the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures) - has irrefutable insights to offer that are contrary to the Catholic faith. I have witnessed from times long past the changes in natural science and have seen how apparent certainties against the faith vanished, proving themselves not to be science but philosophical interpretations only apparently belonging to science - just as, moreover, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith has learned to understand the limits of the scope of its affirmations and thus its own specificity. For 60 years now, I have accompanied the path of theology, especially biblical studies, and have seen seemingly unshakeable theses collapse with the changing generations, which turned out to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann, etc.), the Marxist generation. I have seen, and see, how, out of the tangle of hypotheses, the reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging anew. Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life - and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body.

Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord may admit me to the eternal dwellings, despite all my sins and shortcomings. For all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes out day after day.

Benedictus PP XVI.

Source: www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-12/the-spiritual-testament-of-pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi.html

Rest in Peace, Pope Benedict XVI



The funeral for Pope Benedict XVI on Jan. 5, 2023, at the Vatican. (Photo: Vatican Media)



Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re sprinkles holy water on the casket of Pope Benedict XVI as Pope Francis looks on during the late pope's funeral Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Jan. 5, 2023. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)



Archbishop Georg Ganswein (left), longtime personal secretary of Pope Benedict XVI, kisses the coffin of friend and mentor at his funeral on Jan. 5, 2023, at the Vatican. (Photo: Vatican Media)

Pope Benedict has been laid to rest in the Vatican Grottoes. The tomb is beneath St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and is now open to the public.
© Antoine Mekary



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2023

All Christians are most welcome to join any of the four "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) 2023" services for prayer and reflection. WPCU is commemorated annually from **18 to 25 Jan 2023** worldwide! No registration required.

18 Jan (Wednesday) - 8pm
Sembawang Presbyterian Church
10B Jalan Jeruju S768443

19 Jan (Thursday) - 8pm
Church of St Teresa
510 Kampong Bahru Rd S099446

21 Jan (Saturday) - 2pm
Network of Filipino Churches Singapore (NetFil)
Living Word Fellowship, 37 Jalan Pemimpin #05-08 MAPEX Building S577177

25 Jan (Wednesday) - 8pm
Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Singapore
29 Jalan Keli S577933

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2023

**DO GOOD;
SEEK JUSTICE.**
(ISAIAH 1: 17)



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)

**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.

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/second 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 and outside JPPII Hall. 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