



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Pope Benedict XVI on the Beatitudes

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
29 Jan 2023

Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13
1 Cor 1:26-31
Mt 5:1-12

Today's gospel reading, known as the Beatitudes also begins Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount". This sermon of Jesus, narrated by St Matthew over chapters five, six and seven of his gospel, is commonly held to contain the "Law of the New Covenant" that Jesus institutes with his incarnation, death and resurrection. Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) devoted the longest chapter of his trilogy "Jesus of Nazareth" to the Sermon on the Mount, and we do well to follow him in his meditations on this important teaching of Jesus.

Ratzinger first observes that the opening verse, casual as it may seem, paints the portrait of Jesus being the new Moses. Just as Moses ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, Jesus preaches from "the mountain" - the new Sinai, a place where he would frequently be face-to-face with the Father in prayer. Jesus also sits down to teach - "the expression of the plenary authority of the teacher", sitting down on the cathedra of the mountain (the chair of Moses; cf Mt 23:2) from which teachings "must be listened to and accepted". From there, Jesus speaks to his disciples. Here, Ratzinger also observes that Matthew uses the word disciple "not in order to restrict the intended audience but to enlarge it. Everyone who hears and accepts the word can become a 'disciple'". We who hear this word today are called to discipleship.

And the Beatitudes express the

meaning of discipleship. Whilst the Beatitudes are frequently referred to as "the New Testament counterpart to the Ten Commandments, as an example of Christian ethics", Ratzinger sees them as painting a portrait of Jesus himself, and a calling for his disciples to accompany him along the path to union with God. Ratzinger writes - "the Beatitudes present a sort of veiled interior biography of Jesus...He who has no place to lay his head (Mt 8:20) is truly poor; he who can say, 'Come to me...for I am meek and lowly in heart' (Mt 11:28-29) is truly meek; he is the one who is pure of heart and so unceasingly beholds God. He is the peacemaker, he is the one who suffers for God's sake." The Beatitudes display the mystery of Christ himself, where discipleship "always passes through the way of the Cross, the way of self-denial."

The meaning of the Beatitudes



**"The one true cause of
sorrow and unhappiness
for men and women is to
live far away from God."
- Pope Benedict XVI**

"cannot be expressed in purely theoretical terms" nor interpreted in a purely academic or historical way; it must be lived out in the disciple "who gives himself over completely to following the Lord". According to Ratzinger "the Saints are the true interpreters of Holy Scripture"; they make the Beatitudes intelligible for us by living out the sacred text. Ratzinger points to St Francis of Assisi as one example, who having been "gripped in an utterly radical way by the promise of the first Beatitude", gave away his garments in order to be clothed anew by the bishop thus living out the promises of God's fatherly goodness in cladding the lilies of the field in robes finer than Solomon's (cf Mt 6:28-29). The biographies, Pope Benedict writes, of the saints describe "men and women who, docile to the divine plan, sometimes faced with unspeakable trials and suffering, persecution and martyrdom... persevered in their commitment... [and] their names are written in the book of life (cf Rev 20:12) and Heaven is their eternal dwelling place." (Pope Benedict XVI Homily 1 Nov 2006)

Lastly, Ratzinger notes that "the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and yet it demands discipleship and can be understood and lived out only by following Jesus and accompanying him on his journey." By allowing the Beatitudes to influence our will and guide our action, life becomes a journey out of oneself into the path of self-giving love of God and neighbour; it is the "real high road of life". It is only on this way of love, made possible by Jesus and animated by the Holy Spirit, that we experience the richness of joy in trusting God and the greatness of man's calling, for the one true cause of sorrow and unhappiness for men and women is to live far from him.

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



COLUMBARIUM

Please note the new operating hours for the Columbarium:

- **Mon - Fri:** 10am – 6pm
- **Sat - Sun:** 8.30am – 6pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

- **Fri:** 4pm - 6pm
- **Sat:** 10am - 12pm

BLESSING OF CANDLES

There will be blessing of candles at both Masses for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on **Thu 2 Feb**. Please bring your candles as the Mass will begin with a procession starting from the Main entrance.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 30 Jan
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 30 Jan**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass. All are welcome!

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

RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed in front of JPll Hall by **Sun 19 Feb**. Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.



LIFE: METANOIA - A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST INTO CONVERSION

METANOIA – to repent, to change, to be converted. Come join Living the Faith Everyday (LiFE) through this 11-part series filmed on location in the Holy Land, to explore areas of our lives where conversion is so often necessary. Examine topics such as who Jesus is, what we must do to inherit eternal life, and many others. Be inspired to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life he is constantly inviting us to.

Dates: 24 Feb - 12 May (Every Fri)
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: JPll Hall
Enquiries: Contact Desmond (9011 5076)

Please register via the QR code or link:
<http://tinyurl.com/metanoia2023>



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY CENTRE: JESUS ENCOUNTER RETREAT #2

Do you need to be refreshed, restored and recharged? Come and see (Jn 1:39) and experience the awesome love of the Father through a personal encounter with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit as he leads, guides, heals and restores.

Dates: Wed 8 Feb – Sun 12 Feb (Five-day stay-in retreat)
Fee: \$400 inclusive of GST (Financial assistance is available)
Register: <https://bit.ly/cscjer2>



LANDINGS: WELCOMING HOME CATHOLICS SEEKING A RECONNECTION

A 10-week programme which runs weekly **from 23/24 Feb though 18/19 May 2023**. The in-person programme will run at two venues concurrently:

- **Church of St Ignatius:** (every Thu) 23 Feb - 18 May, 8pm - 10pm
 - **Cathedral of the Good Shepherd:** (every Fri) 24 Feb - 19 May, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
- A weekend retreat takes place near the end of this programme on **6 & 7 May**.

We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register at <https://landings.typeform.com/comehome> by **Thu 16 Feb**. For more information on Landings, please email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg

LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD RETREAT

The Labourers in the Vineyard Retreat is an invitation to discover who we are in the eyes of God our Father, and to experience a renewal in the way we respond to that identity. Organised by the Office for the New Evangelisation, this retreat is for anyone who desires to deepen their relationship with God or is interested in discovering more about their faith. Sign up today!

Dates: Thu 9 Mar - Mon 13 Mar (Five-day stay-in retreat)
Venue: Majodi Centre, Johor, Malaysia
Fees: \$400 (inclusive of accommodation, transport and daily meals)
Register: <https://one.org.sg/event/2023-labourers-in-the-vineyard-retreat/>

GO TO JOSEPH – 33-DAY CONSECRATION TO ST JOSEPH

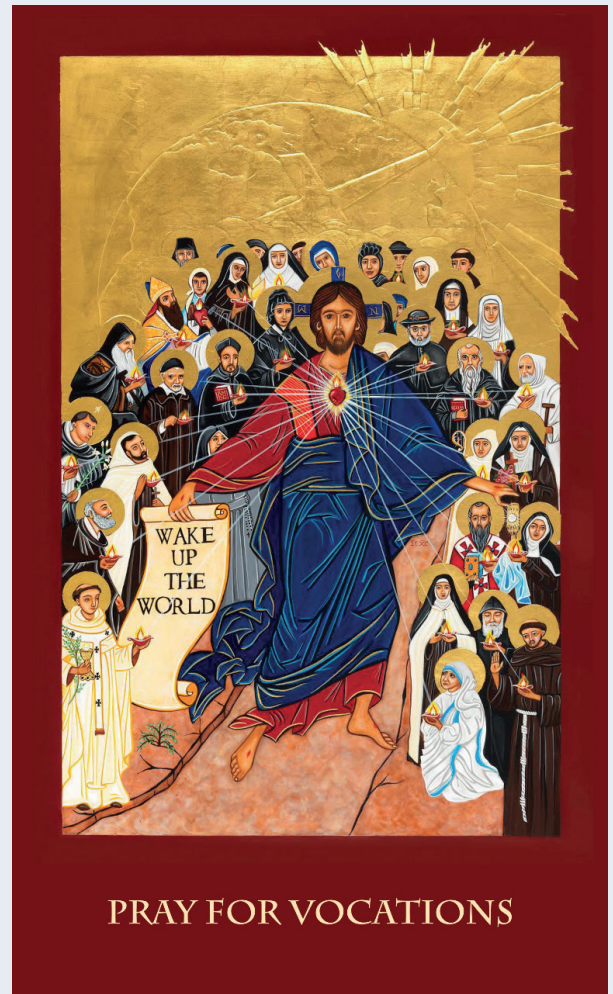
Come join us for a 33-day consecration to St Joseph from **Wed 15 Feb to Sun 19 Mar**, and know more about him. St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is mentioned very sparingly in the gospels. Yet, we can learn so much from him in terms of virtue and holiness. Find out how each of us, especially men and fathers, can imitate St Joseph on the following Telegram channel - <https://t.me/consecrationtostjosephsfx>. All readings and videos will be provided via this channel.

World Day for Consecrated Life

Instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997, the World Day for Consecrated Life is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of consecrated life and pray for men and women discerning a consecrated vocation with the global Catholic Church.

While all the baptised are called to share a common relationship with God: to be “religious” or holy in the broad sense of the word, those choosing to live consecrated lives elect to follow a specific tradition or spirituality often patterned after the life and teaching of the founder of their community. This special day, celebrated on 2 February, draws attention to the contributions that consecrated men and women make to the Church and society at-large.

The celebration is also attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day - the day on which candles are blessed symbolising Christ who is the Light of the world. Similarly, consecrated men and women are called to spread the light and love of Jesus Christ through their unique witness of selfless service, such as caring for the poor, the contemplative work of prayer, or through their professional careers.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Let us continue to pray for consecrated men and women with the Prayer for Consecrated Persons:



The Presentation at the Temple
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Prayer for Consecrated Persons

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

L9 Covenant Ritual

Over 50 L9 (Secondary 3) teens and their parents participated in a Covenant Ritual on Sun 15 Jan. This paraliturgy allowed our teens and their families to re-examine their baptismal promises that were made, as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This first Covenant Ritual involves the use of water. Our L9 teens were able to re-experience what it was like at their baptism as they had their hands washed and were read the words of their baptism. The teens also made a commitment to God and to themselves to continue on this journey towards Confirmation next year.



"It was a beautiful and meaningful ritual. Thank you for putting this together for us. So much love and dedication from all coordinators and catechists. We are indeed so blessed."
- Yvonne, mum of Elijah Galistan

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 - Fri:
10am - 6pm
Sat - Sun:
8.30am - 6pm
Closed on 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/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 JP11 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