



Disciples
Making Disciples



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The Wise Contemplate on the Crucified Christ

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
12 Feb 2023

Sir 15:15 – 20
1 Cor 2:6 – 10
Mt 5:17 – 37

Jesus was clear of his mission and communicated this to us, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10). Two Sundays ago, he provided the guidelines on how we can live life to the full with joy through the Beatitudes. Once we have processed, internalised and become convicted on how to live life to the full through the Beatitudes, we will desire not to keep it to ourselves, but rather we will want to share our joy by being the "salt and light" to the world. In today's Gospel, Jesus points out that he did not come "to abolish the law but to fulfil it" (Mt 5:17). In fulfilling the law by his total obedience to God the Father, even to his crucifixion, Jesus has given strength to his followers to continue to be his "salt and light" by their persevering obedience to his teachings on anger, adultery, divorce, and oaths (Mt 5:27 – 37).

This strength to remain obedient to God the Father has come to us in our baptism and is explained in today's second reading. St Paul says God desires that we share in his life, in the "eternal exchange of love, between Father, Son and Holy Spirit" and this is "[t]he hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries...the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory

before the ages began...a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory" (1 Cor 2:7 – 8, CCC 221).

Knowing that we have been predestined to share in God's life in baptism compels us to redirect our lives here on earth. In Ecclesiastes, the author begins by asking what man "gain[s] by all the toil at which he toil[s] under the sun" and he rightly concludes, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Ecc 1:2). Our earthly accomplishments can seem pointless because "for wise man or for fool...both will be forgotten... [both] must die" (Ecc 2:16). At the end of his reflection, the author of Ecclesiastes concludes that the best way to live life is to "...fear God and keep his commandments; since this is the whole duty of man" (Ecc 12:13). The Catechism points out that obeying God is not a burdensome task but the way to our happiness, "The moral law is the work of divine Wisdom. Its biblical meaning can be defined as fatherly instruction, God's pedagogy. It prescribes for man the ways, the rules of conduct that lead to the promised beatitude..." (CCC 1950)

We have a God who is generous, and he desires that each of us live life to the full in the Spirit he has given to us at baptism. The Spirit prompts us to be mindful of God's presence for "to fear [or be in awe of] the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Sir 1:14). Proverbs and Sirach present wisdom to us under the figure of a woman who entreats us to seek her and promises she will come, "If you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding... then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom... he stores up sound wisdom for the upright" (Prov. 2:3-6; Sir. 4:16-18).

So, what is this true wisdom that St Paul is leading us to? He is inviting us to contemplate on the Crucified Christ, who in dying on the cross, has given us eternal life in himself, "[W]e preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:23-24). What a wonder — that the great and mighty wisdom of God should be found in two words: "Christ crucified." Christ accepted his crucifixion to give us the Holy Spirit who helps us "reform the heart... choose between the pure and impure...[imitate] the perfection of the heavenly Father [and his] divine generosity" (CCC 1968). This is how we persevere in living life to the full with joy through the Beatitudes.



"[W]e preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"
1 Cor. 1:23-24

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

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$59,397.10** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Come join us on **Mon 13 Feb, 8pm** at JPIL Hall for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 13 Feb**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Why Do You Call Me Lord, Lord And Not Do What I Say?' All are welcome!

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 13 Feb
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

WORD OF GOD FOR CHILDREN

The Children's Liturgy Ministry invites all children to join us as we celebrate the Word of God for Children on **Sundays** at the **11am Mass**. We also welcome anyone age 16 and above to join the Ministry, to make this weekly spiritual endeavour happen for our kids! For more enquiries, please contact Lynnette (9690 0750).

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE Holy Day of Fast & Abstinence

22 February 2023
6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

LENTEN FRIDAYS

We want Lent to be meaningful. Let's make a personal journey together to come back to God. We can do this as a Parish community, we need each other for encouragement. We would like to offer additional times for prayer especially Sacred Silence incorporated in the Mass and 20 mins of lenten reflections before Stations and Mass.

Reflection: 7.40pm, **Stations of the Cross:** 8pm, **Mass:** 8.30pm



MT HOREB ORATORY

Mt Horeb Oratory is available for booking for holding wakes for departed baptised Catholics. Contact the Parish Office for more information on procedures and booking.



LITTLE SHEPHERDS' SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN HOUSE 2023

Inviting interested parents with children aged **18 months - 6 years** looking for childcare or a kindergarten, to visit our Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse (LSS) Open House 2023 happening over **11 & 18 Feb 2023**. Come and learn more about the LSS curriculum, mission, vision and values. If you know of someone looking for a preschool, do spread the word! For more information, visit <https://littleshepherdsschoolhouse.edu.sg/openhouse2023/>

BAT: A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION

Join SFX Bible Apostolate Team (SFXBAT) on a Lenten Journey as we take a biblical walk through Christ's Passion. Please register so that we can provide a safe and orderly session and print sufficient materials for all participants.

Dates: 19 Feb - 19 Mar (Every Sunday)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Register: <https://bit.ly/BWTCP2023Register>



CPS LUNCHTIME TALK - THE EUCHARIST EXPLAINED

We attend Mass every Sunday and often on weekdays too. Do we really understand some of the body gestures that we do and the words that we say? Why do we have to say "Amen" before receiving Holy Communion?

Fr Terence Pereira will be conducting a talk "THE EUCHARIST EXPLAINED" and he will share with us some of the historical and theological reasons for what we and the priest will do and say during the Mass. Come and bring your questions!

Dates: (Mondays) 13, 20, 27 Feb and 6 Mar
Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Venue: TPI Building, 62 Cecil Street 6th Floor (in-person only)
Register: <http://forms.gle/oUPzbv7DVK2gBZA77>



MOVIE DATES ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

All are welcome for movie screenings on Sunday afternoons, especially all parents of children attending catechetical sessions. Come spend quality family time together while being entertained by movies that are truly meaningful.

Heaven is For Real

Based on a true story of a young boy who saw Jesus and Heaven, and witness his father's courage and conviction, which will uplift us in our daily encounters with Christ.



Date & Time: 5 Mar, 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JPIL Hall

Courageous

In this movie, 4 men arrive at a better understanding of their role as fathers.

Date & Time: 26 Mar, 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JPIL Hall



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.

OYP: SCHOOL OF WITNESS 2023 OUTREACH

Come and join us for a night of worship, input and prayer! Feel free to invite your friends to come join!

Date: Thu 23 Feb
Time: 8pm - 10.30pm
Venue: SFX Parish Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)
Register: <http://bit.ly/sow-sfx-2023>



ST JEROME LIBRARY - THE GOSPELS IN ART; KIDDIE SPACE

Come by St Jerome Library and see how contemporary and 15th century artists have interpreted the gospels we are reading in February.

On display are works by an unknown Dutch artist on being Christ's "salt and light" through the Corporal Works of Mercy (Mt 5:13-14 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time); Il Garofalo on Christ as the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets (Mt 5:17 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time), a contemporary illustrator's impression on Jesus' command to "love your enemies" (Mt 5:44 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time) and the 11th century mosaics from St Mark's Basilica in Venice on Jesus' three temptations in the desert (Mt 4:1-11 - First Sunday of Lent).

St Jerome Library has a Kiddie Space!

There is now a Kiddie Space for parents and tots to sit together and enjoy our collection of board books and other children's books. Come by and hang out here!



RCIA RETREAT

3-5 FEBRUARY, 2023

Thanks to the easing of Covid-19 measures, we could resume face-to-face activities, and the RCIA Retreat took place at the former Major Seminary in Punggol from 3-5 Feb. The 3-day-2-night programme was spread out over six sessions which included one paralyrurgy led by our youth community from 1Cor12. The 10 Retreatants spent the weekend with the Lord, away from distractions, so that they can fully encounter the Lord, through praise and worship, listening to talks, participating in Mass, community sharing, prayers and Eucharistic adoration. Most importantly, they kept the door to their hearts open and unlocked, and by surrendering their worries and fears, they allowed God to come and touch each Retreatant.

It is certainly not by chance how each Retreatant said "Yes" to RCIA, so that they can learn about the Catholic faith and answer God's call to a new life with Him. All 10 retreatants left the retreat a different person after having an encounter with the Lord. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord". (Jeremiah 29:11-14)



*"I have called you by name, and
you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1)*



Now let's hear from our participants.

"The flow of the sessions was perfect. The image of the door without handles impressed upon me the need to open up and take the initiative. The second night's activity was a time for us to contemplate, to be still and appreciate God's presence. The final session by Grace showed how our faith journey, like her Camino de Santiago walk, can be an arduous and uncertain one but it can also include pleasant surprises and joys. This is why we need to stay the course and remain committed and faithful. During praise and worship, I experienced this constant tingling sensation and especially more so, when certain phrases resonate with me." - Tan Yuh Cherng

"This retreat is only possible because God loves each and everyone of us. Through a holy encounter, I know that God is real. He will never forsake us unless we choose to. The decision to come and follow Jesus is very clear, and the peace that follows thereafter, is a sign of God's affirmation of our alignment with His big plan. I know it is not easy, but I want to be a better person – not just for myself, but for my family and everyone in the community. I cannot even begin to say how thankful I am to be a part of God's family." - Annie Lee

"The retreat was beyond my expectations. The sessions were well planned with interesting and relevant topics. In one of the sessions, I did a life map where I recounted the ups and downs of my life, only to discover how my life's journey relates back to God. Grace's sharing on the last day on her Camino de Santiago walk was a good reminder to keep the faith strong as we move forward. There will be plenty of distractions, so we must always make time for God." - Raymond Moi



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

"What struck me is the realisation that Jesus saves everyone, regardless of what we have done in the past. His doors are open to all. During the prayer walk, I was able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. It was really nice to be able to converse with the Lord, and to pour out my soul to him. I know now that I can always trust the Lord and commit my cares and worries unto him." - Ian Lou

"I was deeply and emotionally touched by all the speakers' sharing. I was particularly in awe of Grace's experiences and her total trust in God. This RCIA journey has been meaningful and I feel so blessed by Jesus's love for me." - Janice Ng

"I came to the retreat not knowing what to expect and I am indeed touched by Jesus and the people who helped make this retreat possible. Upon reflection, I have come to realise how God has answered my prayers when he gifted me with a daughter 33 years ago. The scripture verse on the journal I received, 'You did not choose me but I chose you' (John 15:16) reaffirmed my decision in coming here." - Iris Lee

"This journey has not been easy as there are many obstacles and challenges. It was not easy coming to this retreat as well, but I am glad that he always makes sure I come through. Sometimes we think that we have moved on from our past, but drafting out my timeline brought back a lot of painful memories that made me recognise how broken I am deep down. Through this retreat, I learnt that I needed healing and to have closure, while at the same time, to be thankful for what I have, rather than praying for what I want." - Alvina Tan



"I enjoyed the praise and worship. The retreat was an emotional one and it was fascinating to be able to walk with Jesus". - Ronnie Tan

"I will describe what God means to me: He is my one true comfort. During the retreat, there was this constant internal tug of war between feeling thankful to be at the retreat while all I wanted was to go home as I was so tired as I didn't have proper sleep and my back was hurting a lot. I am glad I persisted as I enjoyed taking the time to reflect on my spiritual journey and appreciate the role God has played in my life. When the Retreat Team prayed over me, I definitely felt something because for no reason, my tears were rolling down non-stop. I used to wonder what inner peace meant. I now understand it better after experiencing this peace myself." - Deanne Conceicao

"For the first two days, I didn't feel any spiritual movement or change. It was only upon opening my eyes on the last day of the Retreat, that looking up in the sky, I saw a white figure in the blue sky, and then it disappeared. That is the first sign that Jesus showed me that he is real, and that he is here for me, watching over me. I truly believe that when Jesus touches you, you will really see him." - Ng Dong An



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

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 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