



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Jesus' Temptations in the Desert

1st Sunday of Lent
26 Feb 2023

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Rom 5:12-19
Mt 4:1-11

As we enter into the season of Lent, this Sunday's gospel reminds us that Jesus, too, fasted for forty days before beginning his public ministry. In turn, these forty days recall Israel's forty years of wandering in the desert, the forty days that Moses spent on Mount Sinai, and the forty days that Elijah went without food or water at Mount Horeb. (cf Jos 5:6; Ex 24:18; 1 Kgs 19:8). In other words, this is a period of prayer, temptation, and wandering, but also a period of journeying closer towards the Lord.

And while Adam faced his temptation in a garden, Jesus – the New Adam – overcame his temptations in the desert. As Pope Benedict XVI points out in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, "The desert – the opposite image of the garden – becomes the place of reconciliation and healing." The Second Reading therefore concludes: "As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous." (Rom 5:19)

Let us now deal with each temptation. First, Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. But why is this a temptation at all? Should not the Messiah solve world hunger, and more generally, all social problems? In fact, did not Jesus himself multiply loaves to feed the thousands who followed him?

Jesus' response, quoting Deut 8:3, is the key: "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." As the German Jesuit Alfred Delp wrote, "Bread is important, freedom is more important, but most important of all is unbroken fidelity and faithful adoration."

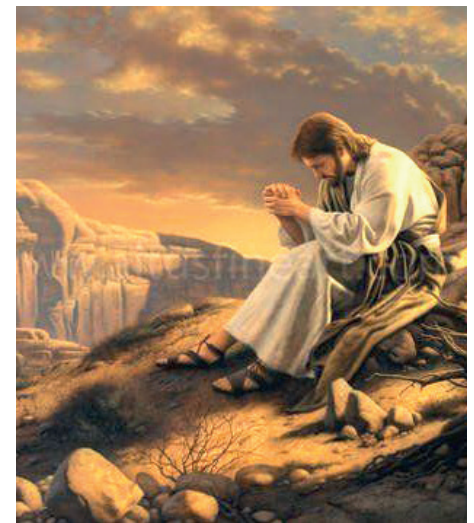
What Jesus rejects therefore is not bread *per se*, but the prioritisation of bread over God. Or as Henri Nouwen writes in *In the Name of Jesus*, Jesus rejects the temptation to be relevant. This is in contrast to Jesus' multiplication of the loaves, where his followers first hunger for him and his teaching, and only then, for bread. In this regard, Pope Benedict XVI argues that the failure of the Marxist experiment demonstrated the folly of focussing on food at the expense of faith.

Second, Jesus is tempted to throw himself off the Temple and let God save him – or in his own words, to "put the Lord your God to the test". Again, what is at stake here is the primacy of God. To subject God to experiment is to deny his sovereignty by placing ourselves above him. As Pope Benedict XVI writes, "To think like that is to make oneself God."

Third, Jesus is tempted with kingship over the world. For indeed, Jesus is the king; but his is the kingdom of God. This is a temptation that has plagued us throughout history, be it in the Christian empires of old or the modern prosperity gospels today. As Pope Benedict XVI puts it, "This temptation to use power to secure the faith has arisen again and again in varied forms throughout the centuries, and again and again faith has risked being suffocated in the embrace of power... For the fusion of faith and political power always comes at a price: faith becomes the servant of power and must bend to its criteria."

Fundamentally, the temptations that Adam and Jesus faced point to the same evil – "the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives", as Pope Benedict XVI writes.

This, then is what we are called to give up this Lent: all the "urgent matters" that distract us from "worship[ing] the Lord our God and serv[ing] him alone".



"At the heart of all temptations, as we see here, is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives."

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*

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 CHURCH PEWS?

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



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 27 Feb**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass. All are welcome!

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 27 Feb
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

ONE: LENTEN REFLECTION

Make this Lent special. Come join us during Lent and let the Word of God convict us of the change that needs to take place in our life. Let that change come from the love we have for the Lord. Bring your bibles

Date: Tue 28 Feb
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Thessalonians
(Parsonage, Level 2)



SFX P&W: RETURN, REPENT, RESTORE

Join us for an evening of contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament. This Lenten season, let us prepare to 'Come Back to Jesus' through song, reflection and prayer. This is organised in collaboration with the Intercessory Prayer Ministry & the Charismatic Prayer Group.

Date: Mon 20 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

Motorists are reminded to slow down when approaching the ramps and all gratings. Vehicle owners are reminded to be considerate towards the neighbouring residents and **ensure your vehicle is not indiscriminately parked**. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!



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
Venue: Jeremiah Room (L2 Parish Centre)
Register: <https://bit.ly/BWTCP2023Register>



CHILDREN'S LITURGY: OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite all children and families to join us this Lent as we walk the Stations of the Cross. Come and spend the morning during this Lenten season recalling the journey of the Passion of Jesus. For more enquiries, contact Craig (9451 8256)

Date & Time: Sat 4 Mar, 9am - 12.30pm
Venue: JP11 Hall
Register: tinyurl.com/CLOutdoorStations2023



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 Friday)
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: JP11 Hall
Enquiries: Contact Desmond (9011 5076)



MOVIE DATES ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

All are welcome for movie screenings on Sunday afternoons, especially all parents of children attending catechetical sessions. 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 witnessed his father's courage and conviction. This movie will uplift us in our daily encounters with Christ.



Date & Time: 5 Mar, 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JP11 Hall

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



Date & Time: 26 Mar, 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JP11 Hall

CHARIS: OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION COURSE

Join CHARIS for their interactive and collaborative course, and discover "what", "why", and "where" your calling may be, to be open and have a courageous heart in becoming a missionary disciple. The course features key speakers like Rev Fr David Garcia, OP, Justin Khoo, and Kenneth Wambeck.

Date & Time: Sat 4 Mar, 9am - 5pm
Venue: St. Joseph's Institution (38 Malcolm Rd, S308274)
Register: makehopehappen.charis-singapore.org/Activities/ohfc3



PIETA SINGAPORE: MONTHLY SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. For more information, visit www.PietaSingapore.org

Date: Tue 28 Feb
Time: 7.30pm - 9pm
Venue: Agape Village
 (Toa Payoh Lorong 8)

THE APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC TRUTH: THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

The Apostolate for Catholic Truth (ACT) is organising a free course, over 5 Thursday evenings, on the Theology of the Body (TOB). Learn to understand Sexuality, Love and the Meaning of Life.

Dates: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Zoom
Register: <https://catholic.sg/act>

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE LENTEN RETREAT: WISDOM IS THE CROSS 2023

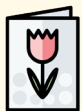
This Lent, we are once again invited to share in Jesus' suffering in his Cross. It is in the cross that we will find Him. Come and enter into the depths of mystery of the Wisdom of God, not in mere philosophy but in carrying the cross.

Dates & Time:
 3 Mar (7pm) - 5 Mar (1pm)
Venue: Monfort Centre
Register:
www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/wisdom-is-the-cross-2023



Lent has officially begun! Last Wednesday, we marked our foreheads with ashes, a reminder of our mortality and the temporary nature of our earthly lives. The Church has given us this beautiful season to help us prepare our souls to celebrate the most important event in the history of the world: the passion, death, and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Lent is an opportunity to renew our Christian faith through the three pillars of Lent - intentional prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to wean ourselves from all that keeps us away from God. These spiritual disciplines can potentially change us to become better disciples of Christ.

Three initiatives will be introduced this Lent in our parish, which old and young can participate in. Let us make a personal and communal effort to mark this Lent with repentance, reflection and spiritual growth, that we might experience a truly joyful Easter!



LENTEN PROMPTS

Each weekend, parishioners will be given a specially designed 'Lenten Offerings' card. Prayerfully commit to your personal Lenten sacrifice - ideally one for each of the three pillars of **Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving**.

The completed card will be collected at the end of the Mass and faithfully fulfill your commitments for the week(s) ahead. A new card will be given each weekend in Lent.



PRAY IT FORWARD

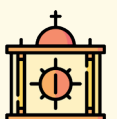
Let us spiritually accompany our **RCIA/Y Elect/Candidates** preparing for the Easter sacraments by picking a name and praying daily for the person. As a way of welcoming him/her into God's family, you may wish to write a note or include a small gift.

Prayer cards are available at the icon of our Blessed Mother and at the back of the Church.

S. O. S (SOUND OF SILENCE)

Most of us live frenzied lives that never seem to let up, or we fill it with endless activity because we are afraid to be alone. Beginning this Lent, let's reclaim the forgotten art of being completely quiet and still before the Lord during Mass so that we can hear his Spirit speaking to us, leading to growth in personal holiness.

Outside of Mass, make this 'quiet time' a daily date with Jesus!



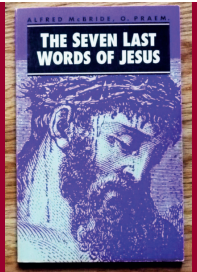
This Lent, let us challenge ourselves to go beyond the gesture of 'giving up something', especially if it is something sinful or a vice (since those should not be part of our lives in the first instance.) Be conscious instead of accompanying our acts of 'giving up' with something positive as provided in the three Lenten initiatives. Ask the Lord to grace you with the desire to go beyond token sacrifices, that this Lent will change us in meaningful and lasting ways - there is no better response to thank God for his great sacrifice of love for us.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

“The Seven Last Words of Jesus”

by Fr Alfred McBride



The “Seven Last Words of Jesus” refer to seven statements made by Jesus as he hung on the cross. These seven “words” are scattered across the gospels and are ordered not by strict historical chronology but by pious tradition. Three of the “words” come from Luke’s Gospel, three from John’s Gospel and one is found in both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark:

1. “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)
2. “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
3. “Woman, behold, your son...Behold your mother.” (John 19:26-27)
4. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)
5. “I thirst.” (John 19:28)
6. “It is finished.” (John 19:30)
7. “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

Drawing on archaeological, historical, traditional, scriptural and theological sources, Norbertine priest, Fr Alfred McBride, has put together a rich meditation on Jesus’ last words from the cross. Jesus’ last words reveal the full extent of the suffering and pain he shares with us in his human nature and his divine longing, as the Son of God, for man to be reconciled with his creator and with each other.

St Jerome Library has put up a visual display of Fr McBride’s book consisting of excerpts from his meditations and pictures of the locations, relics and artwork he has referenced such as the Chapel of Adam (Golgotha), Fortress Antonia (Pilate’s Praetorium), Shroud of Turin and the Roman flagrum used in the scourging of Christ.

The display will be on until the Easter Triduum in St Jerome Library which is open every Sunday 8am to 1pm.



If you are able to help extend the library opening hours as an ad-hoc librarian, please email stjeromelibrarysfx@gmail.com.



(L to R): Archaeological evidence of crucifixion - a nail driven through a heel bone; a cap rather than a wreath crown of thorns based on the blood and puncture marks of the crucified man from the Shroud of Turin and evidence that nails are driven through the wrist-bones and not the palms.

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8.30pm

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