



**Disciples
Making Disciples**

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**Transfiguration -
We are God's Poem**

2nd Sunday of Lent
5 Mar 2023

Gen 12:1-4
2 Tim 1:8-10
Mt 17:1-9

Today's Gospel is supernatural and bewildering - Jesus is transfigured, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, even God the Father is heard. At the same time, this story is surprisingly relevant to us today.

Encounter the Lord - Pray: On a mountain, Jesus reveals his divinity and glory after the shock of his first Passion prediction. (cf CCC 555) Seeing the glory of Christ strengthens Peter, James and John for the dark moments of their lives. We too need a defining moment with God to face life's challenges.

Often overlooked but critical - Jesus goes up the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28). It is while praying to God the Father, that the "appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white." (Luke 9:29)

We too can have defining moments with God through prayer. It does not have to be an extraordinary supernatural event.

This Lent, put a special emphasis on prayer telling our Lord, "I want to encounter you, Jesus. I want to hear your voice in my heart. I desire to know your love deeply." Invite Jesus into the secret parts of our lives darkened by sin or wounded by past hurts. Jesus is "truly man while remaining truly God" (CCC 464). Ask him how he copes with pressure, tiredness, irritations, mood swings, difficult people and situations.

When we seek Jesus sincerely, we will glow in holiness. Encountering

him will fill us with spiritual consolation - mystical but real.

Salvific Economy - Participatory: The Transfiguration would be much more reverent without the disciples. They did not add anything to it except their awkwardness. We are told that Jesus took the disciples, not that they followed uninvited.

Our calling is an invitation. Follow our conscience. Surely, God can build his kingdom without our interference. But he chooses to work through us in ministry, evangelisation, works of charity...

Feeling inadequate? We do not have to be perfect. The disciples fall asleep while praying. Human weakness is part of the story. God uses flawed people like the disciples, including you and me.

Even our flaws can be used for salvific purpose. Perhaps our arrogance is pitted against another proud person. Like pebbles polishing pebbles, both can be polished and purified.

Our idiotic actions too, can be serendipitously right. The impetuous Peter seems to make a silly suggestion to pitch a tent. In his ignorance, he correctly anticipates heaven and liberation from sin that comes from the new exodus of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection - which overshadows the liberation from slavery in the exodus led by Moses. Peter's intention mirrors the Feast of the Tabernacles - Jews pitch tents in Jerusalem, anticipating the promised land.

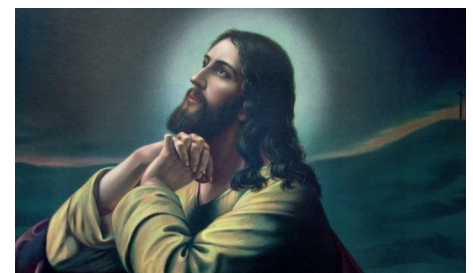
Hardship-Faith: The Transfiguration is a triumphant story with Jesus all dazzling and shiny. Beneath the veneer lies another message. Moses, despite bringing the Jews out of Egypt, faced constant grumbling and opposition from his people. Elijah, despite defeating 450 pagan prophets to demonstrate that God

is real, had a death warrant put on him. Jesus heals the sick, the blind, the mute, the lame, ... Ultimately he is crucified.

Serving God is not easy. There is often a high price to pay for being faithful. This is echoed by Paul in the 2nd Reading. He encourages perseverance through grace. We need to trust God.

We see faith in action in the 1st Reading. God calls Abram to leave his country, his family, his comfort-zone. Abram goes into an unknown land and an unknown future. He has no security beyond the simple promise of God. Yet he follows this call obediently.

In the Transfiguration - Moses and Elijah from the past, juxtaposed with Jesus pointing to the future, draw us into the reality of our own journey in salvation history. When we allow God to transfigure our minds to see all things in the light of our own salvation history, beautiful poems of our lives emerge as we live it. It is not easy. We may not understand. Pray! Have faith. We only need to obey the only command that God the Father gives us in the New Testament: "Listen to [Jesus]." (Mt 17:5) Like Abram, simple obedience is all that is needed for the journey.



"Jesus is "truly man while remaining truly God" (CCC 464). Ask him how he copes with pressure, tiredness, irritations, mood swings, difficult people and situations."

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



2ND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH

There will be a second collection this week and all funds raised will go towards the general maintenance and operations of our church. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN **T08CC4033J** and indicate in the reference 'Maintenance'. Please give generously."

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 6 Mar**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over. 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 6 Mar
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 7 Mar
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 and the Charismatic Prayer Group.

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

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) has been inaugurated to assist Cardinal William Goh in discerning the hopes and concerns of the diocese developing the 2032 pastoral plan for the Singapore Catholic Church.



Find out more about the APC



Pray for the APC



Please support and donate generously towards Charities Week 2023, an annual fundraising project of our Archdiocese. Proceeds will enable Caritas Singapore and many Catholic organisations under its umbrella to continue their work in reaching out to those in need. These include the poor, families, youth and children, prisoners, migrant workers, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with physical challenges, persons with mental health conditions and overseas humanitarian aid.

Let's all rise as one. Pick up an appeal envelope and donate generously to let the light of God's love shine through us. You can mail your donation directly to Caritas Singapore (for cheques only) or drop them at our Parish Office. For walk-in donations to the Caritas Singapore office, please visit them at **7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, #04-01 Agape Village, Singapore 319264**. Please scan the QR code to donate online.



<https://bit.ly/cw23bu>

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of those in need. For more information, please contact them at 6338 3448 or visit their website at www.caritas-singapore.org.

CENACLE SISTERS: COME AWAY BEACH RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (3D2N)

Take a holiday in a meaningful way in this "play and pray" retreat designed to help us grow and deepen our faith despite a busy lifestyle. Learning from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, this retreat will introduce experiences in quiet prayer, daily discernment, self-care and a way of finding God in all things and time. Open to all between 21-35 years old. Singles or couples are welcome.

Dates: 12 - 14 May 2023
Venue: Bintan
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/comeaway2023>



SUNDAY MOVIE DATE: 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. All are welcome for the movie screenings, especially all parents of children attending catechetical sessions. Spend quality family time together while being entertained by movies that are truly meaningful.

Date: Sun 5 Mar
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JPII Hall

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>



CARITAS: MY PERSONAL COMPASS - VIRTUES AND BECOMING BETTER PERSONS BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

What is a virtue? Why are virtues so central to the Church's moral teachings and tradition? How do they help us to become more fully human? Join us as we explore these questions and more! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org.

Dates: 23 Mar - 4 May (Every Thurs)

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: CANA (55 Waterloo Street, Level 3)

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/JJScS0ZGvW>



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

IN THE MONTH OF FEB 2023

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Romero Pina David Alberto & Chia Su-Min Felicity
2. Yang Weiwen, Brandon & Liu I-Hsuan

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Lau Mui Kiang Teresa
2. Tay Chin Chye Francis
3. Francis Ong Cheong Leng

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Kai Asher De Souza
2. Hayley Choo Rui Xin
3. Teo Eng Ming Jake Elijah

St Jerome Library – the Gospels in Art (March)

The Gospels in March have been chosen to emphasise the divinity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Beloved Son as we hear in the Transfiguration in today's gospel (Mt 17:1-9). In his larger than life 4m x 6m oil on canvas, Peter Paul Rubens sets the radiance of the Transfigured Christ before the viewer in an invitation not to be afraid but to draw near to Christ and be healed by his love.

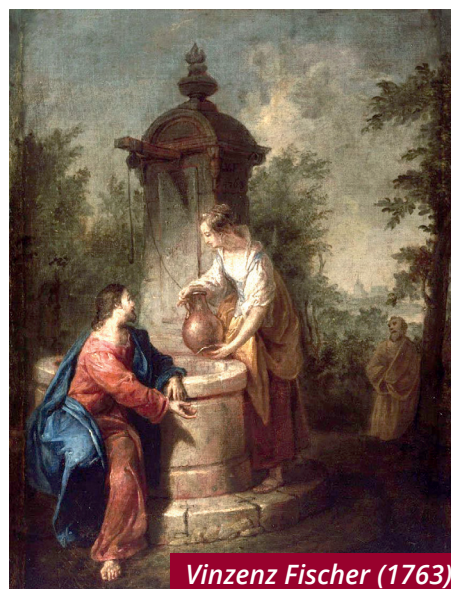
The gospels over the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays have been chosen to accompany the three scrutinies of the Elect who will be baptised at Easter. The Elect are assured that the "living water" offered to the Samaritan Woman at the Well (Jn 4:10), the sight restored to the Man Born Blind (Jn 9:7) and the new life given to Lazarus who had died (Jn 11:43), would also be the gifts of the Spirit received at their baptism.

The artworks of Vinzenz Fischer (1763), Fr Ronald Raab (2020) and Henry Ossawa Tanner (1896) on these gospels respectively lead us to contemplate in wonder the love of our God, who became man so as to speak with us, touch us and raise us to new life by laying down his own life on the cross.

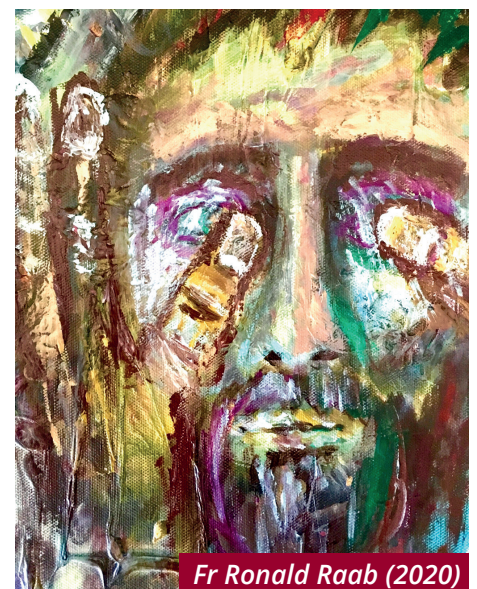
Copies of these artworks are on display in St Jerome Library.



Peter Paul Rubens



Vinzenz Fischer (1763)



Fr Ronald Raab (2020)



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



Henry Ossawa Tanner (1896)

Excerpts and illustrations from Fr Alfred McBride's "The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

Reflecting on Jesus' first word from the cross, Fr McBride says,

*"The evidence for the real temptation [Jesus] faced is found in his first word: 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do' ...Jesus does not experience the temptation to save himself... If he is experiencing any temptation at all, it is the urge to give up trying to save others. **The temptation he feels is the temptation to refuse forgiveness.**"*

– p12, The Last Temptation

St Jerome Library has taken excerpts of Fr McBride's reflections on Jesus' words from the cross and arranged them in a display with pictures of the locations, relics and artwork referred to in the book.

The display will be up until the Easter Triduum. **The Library is open Sundays, 8am - 1pm. Do come and have a look!**



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

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