



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Celebrating our Holy Father in Heaven and on Earth

3rd Sunday of Lent
12 Mar 2023

Ex: 17: 3-7
Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8
Jn 4: 5-42

Today's eucharistic celebration sets a wonderful stage for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate which falls tomorrow. The readings capture well the spirit of our Holy Father as he strives to build a united and compassionate church.

John's Gospel recounts the familiar story of Christ's encounter with a Samaritan woman by a well on a hot afternoon.

There is much going on in the chance meeting which says a great deal about our Lord and our faith. The woman is taken aback at being spoken to by Jesus as Jews and Samaritans do not mix socially having had a long history of animosity, and she reproaches him for asking her for a drink.

"What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" (Jn 4:9)

But Jesus does not allow her rejection to thwart his plan and answers back: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." (Jn 4: 10)

Our Lord's response is instructive. He does not answer her question directly or try to defend his action,

which is what most of us tend to do. Instead he focuses on what is important: What she desires in life and how he can help her achieve it.

His response is life-giving and hopeful - you only have to ask and God will deliver, not just water to quench your thirst, but life itself.

Later, we are told that the woman is not without sin, having had five husbands and now with a man who is not her husband.

Jesus knows all this, that she is a sinner like all of us, but he does not allow this to deflect him from his plan at the moment which is for her to acknowledge him as Messiah seeking his love and mercy.

There are two thirsty persons in the story.

God's thirst for our souls is unending. He wants to quench it by relentlessly seeking us out and doing whatever is necessary to renew our lives.

The woman is thirsty too. First for the well water but later for Jesus' living water. She is so thirsty she leaves her pot behind to rush back to town and inform the people there of God's presence.



"If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water."
(Jn 4: 10)

How thirsty are we for his love?

It is significant that water which we cannot do without is used as a symbol for God's longing to save our souls and our search for him.

It is exactly the same with our seeking redemption through Christ: We cannot do without it if we want to stay alive.

As we celebrate Pope Francis' 10th anniversary tomorrow, the message from today's readings is especially relevant.

In his inaugural Mass in Vatican city in 2013, he spoke about how true power, even when exercised by the Pope, is anchored in service to the people.

"He must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service which marked St Joseph and, like him, he must be open in arms to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection all of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important..."

Last year in October at the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council he reinforced this point by urging the church to be "in the midst of the people, not above the people, which is the bad sin of clericalism, which kills the sheep rather than guiding them or helping them grow."

He wants ordinary Christians to participate more fully in the life and mission of the church through the ongoing three-year global synod launched in October 2021.

Like Jesus who never allowed the Samaritan woman's status as an outcast to distract him from his plan to redeem her, Pope Francis has been forthright in his mission to protect the weak and vulnerable.

It is leadership defined by charity, compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

These qualities are worth celebrating.

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



NO INTERCESSORY

Please note that there will be no intercessory prayer session on **Mon 13 Mar**.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 13 Mar**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Desiring The Holy Spirit'. All are welcome!

Venue: Hosea Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)
Time: 8pm - 10pm

ONE: LENTEN REFLECTION

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 14 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Thessalonians
(Parsonage, Level 2)



CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

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

CONFESSION SERVICES AT SERANGOON DISTRICT

Wed 22 Mar, 8pm:
Church of the Transfiguration

Thu 23 Mar, 8pm:
Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Mon 27 Mar, 8pm:
Church of St Francis Xavier

Tue 28 Mar, 8.15pm:
St Anne's Church

Wed 29 Mar, 8pm:
Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thu 30 Mar, 8pm:
Church of St. Vincent de Paul



13 MARCH 2023: 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE

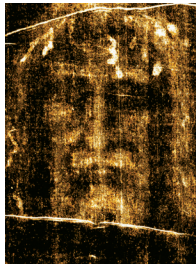
Scan the QR Code for
'A Hail Mary for Pope Francis'



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>



THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Is this the burial cloth of Jesus Christ or an elaborate medieval fake? What do the stains on the shroud reveal about this controversial cloth?

In preparation for Holy Week, the evidence can help us reflect on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Date: Thu 30 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

ASSISI FUN DAY 2023

Assisi Fun Day is our annual signature fundraising carnival, which was adapted to a virtual platform for the past 3 years due to COVID restrictions. As Singapore is now in the endemic phase of COVID-19, we look forward to a reunion of hearts and hands as we welcome the community to the physical Assisi Fun Day at St Joseph's Institution International (SJII). Come and visit our booth outside JPll Hall to find out more after Mass!

Date: Sun 11 Jun
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: St Joseph's
Institution International

PREGNANCY CRISIS & SUPPORT: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PRO-LIFE ROSARY (ZOOM)

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Rosary is a beautiful way to pray for the unborn children and all who are affected by abortion. Let our Rosaries be our weapon against the culture of death and let us pray for the dawning of a new culture, the culture of LIFE! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! For more information on Pregnancy Crisis & Support, visit www.pregnancycrisis.sg

Date & Time: Sun 12 Mar, 8.30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 844 0554 0478
Passcode: 295583



2023 LENTEN LECTURE SERIES: TOWARDS GOD WITH PRAYER (ZOOM)

The Asian Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in collaboration with the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas or ANGELICVM are pleased to bring to you 3 talks of our **Lenten Lecture Series "Towards God with Prayer"**. These talks will be presented online by 3 eminent Professors of Theology, direct from the Angelicvm, Rome. You may pick up the posters at the back of the church with more information. Do register online by scanning the QR code or visit apavm.com to find out more.

The Presences of God in the World
Date & Time: 14 Mar 2023, 8.30pm
Speaker: Fr Simon Gaine, OP
(Professor of Theology and Director of the Angelicvm Thomistic Institute)

Falling Towards God: What the Saints Teach us about Prayer
Date & Time: 21 Mar 2023, 8.30pm
Speaker: Fr Paul Murray, OP
(Professor of Theology Master in Sacred Theology Angelicvm)

Living Friendship with God
Date & Time: 28 Mar 2023, 8.30pm
Speaker: Fr Michael Sherwin, OP
(Professor of Theology Director Angelicvm Institute of Spirituality)



RCIA - Rite of Election 2023



On 26 February, our parish witnessed the sending of 24 Catechumens and candidates from RCIA and RCIY as they went forth to the Rite of Election (ROE) which was celebrated by Cardinal William Goh in the Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary that afternoon.

After three years of Covid-19 restrictions, the RoE returned as a diocesan-wide celebration of Catechumens, which usually takes place on the first weekend of Lent. Upon the testimony of their godparents, the Catechumens then proceeded to enrol their names in the Book of Elect as a pledge of fidelity.

In the weeks leading up to the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist), there will be three Scrutinies, also known as rites for self-searching and repentance to help protect the Elect against temptation, while giving them strength in Christ.

Here are some of the testimonies from the Catechumens.

"It was such an interesting experience observing the Elect from various parishes process up to enter their names into the Book of Elect. Seeing an elderly man in a wheelchair amongst the crowd made me realise that it is never too late for one to be a follower of Christ. Faith is all about a personal relationship with God and no one should be pressured to make a choice. This is why my faith journey has been a meaningful one when I made my choice in answering God's call to follow Jesus." - En'dro Lui, 23

"The Rite of Election was a very heart-warming yet exciting experience! There were many churches involved and I could feel all the love and support for the Elect and Candidates. I was quite nervous walking up to enrol my name in the Book of Elect. This meant a lot to me as it signified another step closer towards Baptism and becoming a part of the Catholic Church." - Natalie Lee, 20



"I was truly blessed to have received a special blessing from William Cardinal Goh. When his palm touched my head, I felt all the burdens lifted from me. The Rite of Election was a beautiful experience for me to be a part of this universal church, and to be one with my brothers and sisters in Christ."

- Annie Lee, 50

"It's been eight months since my RCIA journey started. Week after week, it became clearer to me why I felt this desire to answer God's call. During the Rite of Election, the Cardinal asked, 'As you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church. Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?'. At that moment, I felt every part of me saying YES!"

- Deanne Conceicao, 35



Our RCIA and RCIY Elect and Candidates are inching closer to the waters of Baptism this Easter. Let us continue to support them. Pick up a prayer card and pray for them.

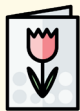


MAKE LENT FRUITFUL

PRAY • FAST • GIVE

Three initiatives have been 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.



LENTEN FRIDAYS

Guided Reflection: **7.40pm**

Stations of the Cross: **8.00pm**

Mass: **8.30pm**



*Jesus says that if we drink
His living water, we*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15



Source: <https://thekidsbulletin.com/>



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

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