






Disciples
Making Disciples

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Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

4th Sunday of Lent
19 Mar 2023

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41

Lent is a time God has given to us, to transform us. As we pass the midpoint of this forty-day journey it is perhaps important to take stock of how we have been responding to God's invitation to us this Lent. Have we truly encountered the Lord through the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? Have our eyes been opened to our sinfulness and areas of brokenness? In this week's gospel, we see one such example of transformation. Jesus gives sight to a man who was born blind. In fact, he not only restores sight to the man but also opens the eyes of his mind and heart to encounter Jesus as the messianic "Son of Man" foretold by the prophets (cf Dan 7:13).

In contrast, we hear about the Pharisees who judged the man based on his blindness, concluding that he or his parents must be sinners. Adding to that, the Pharisees were unable to grasp Jesus' true nature being revealed and were instead blinded by their strict adherence to the law, leading them to conclude erroneously that Jesus must be a sinner. The Pharisees were finding fault with others and perhaps because of pride, were blind to their own.

However, Jesus does not see as men see. Instead, he knows what is truly in our hearts and sees beyond our flaws to what we are capable of being. As we hear from Jesus himself, he is the light that illuminates us that we may see ourselves as we are (cf Jn 8:12). Encountering his divine light, we can



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choose to remain with him and allow him to transform us for goodness and righteousness or we can run back into our darkness. Today's readings invite us to ponder upon areas within ourselves that we have not allowed the Lord to illuminate with his light; areas that we may find shameful or unpleasant.

Though we have these areas of darkness and want them hidden, God still wants to find us and form us for a unique purpose. In the first reading, God chooses David, out of all his brothers. We see in David's father, how human nature would have chosen the other brothers instead. Yet, the Lord saw David's heart and chose him instead. God chooses us too, despite our darkness, brokenness, sin and anger. Have we responded to his call to be his witnesses just as the man who was born blind did? Or do we run away or revel in the darkness? This call and chosen-ness is something that we, in our human nature, continue to grapple with. We may often feel like we have nothing good to give and that our busy lives already stretch us beyond what we can bear. How can God want anything more to do with us?

Yet through Jesus, we see that all things are possible. That even a

blind man whom others may have shunned or not expected anything out of, could be transformed into a powerful witness of God's divinity and miraculous power. Or David, who was smaller and less experienced than his brothers, in his obedience to God, was transformed into a great king. Even after his coronation, David continued to struggle with sin but God in his wisdom and mercy, accepted his repentance and allowed him to grow in his kingship.

God invites us too, to live in his light, to receive his transformative grace and to grow as his disciples, bearing witness to his sovereignty and merciful love. Whatever areas of darkness that still remain, Jesus has the power to heal and restore. In turn, we need to run to him and allow him to bring these areas to light. This transformation does not happen by our own power, but by responding to Jesus' invitation to surrender and to say yes to his desire to open the eyes of our hearts. As we continue on this Lenten journey, may we continue to say "yes" to Jesus, that our eyes may be opened and our hearts transformed. That we may become convicted in God's love for us and the truth that we have been called to something greater.

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



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) is a regular giving campaign to fund the Archdiocese's organisations involved in youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation etc. and building projects. You can give via PayNow (**UEN: 201231391K**) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg.

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)

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



TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

Parishioners who drive are reminded to be considerate when parking their vehicles outside the church compound. **Parking is prohibited** at Trinity Square's sheltered drop-off point and Chartwell Drive entrance, especially on rainy days. For your safety, please use the church's entrance and sheltered area only for **pickup and drop-off**.



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

SUNDAY MOVIE DATE: COURAGEOUS

In this movie, four men arrive at a better understanding of their role as fathers. All are welcome for our next movie screening, especially all parents of children attending catechetical sessions. Spend quality family time together while being entertained by a movie that is truly meaningful.

Date: Sun 26 Mar
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JPll Hall

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH

There will be a special blessing for all fathers, godfathers and grandfathers during the evening mass on this Solemnity.

Date: Mon 20 Mar
Time: 6.30pm

CHARIS' HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR

The Humanitarian Forum and Fair is a biennial event of dialogue and engagement in humanitarian initiatives within the region. The event features mass celebrant Cardinal William Goh and key speakers like Dr Noeleen Heyzer (United Nations Special Envoy) and Fr Derrick Yap OFM (Regional Superior). For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/HFF2023>.

Date: Sat 24 Jun 2023
Time: 9am - 6pm
Venue: Catholic Junior College



THE MARRIAGE KIT

Inviting all married couples to experience the Marriage Kit to improve communication with your spouse, learn or relearn conflict resolution skills and strengthen your marriage bond. This is for Catholic or interfaith couples alike and is relevant at all stages of marriage. For details and registration, visit <http://shorturl.at/uEO04> or scan this QR code by **Sun 23 Apr**.

Dates: 26 Apr - 24 May
(Every Wed)
Time: 7.15pm - 10pm
Venue: JPll Hall



REVIEW OF LIFE WORKSHOP

Join us on a Saturday morning in person as we learn to use the Catholic See-Judge-Act method to review one's life issues or contemporary social issues in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. This practical workshop is not a one-way talk, but it is a hands-on session where our facilitators will help participants practise using the method in small groups. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org.

Date: Sat 1 Apr 2023
Time: 9am - 1.30pm
Venue: CANA,
The Catholic Centre
(55 Waterloo Street, Level 2)
Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/N6KcP5rmRy>



CLARITY: BRAVE STEPS 2023 (ZOOM)

Looking for a safe space to share about all the questions you have about mental health and how it relates to our Catholic faith? Join us in our new psycho-spiritual programme, BRAVE Steps, that can help connect you with like-minded Catholics keen to discuss and share more about mental health and faith! More programmes can be found on www.clarity-singapore.org/event-calendar. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/bravesteps2023.

Mental Health Literacy

Date: Tue 21 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm

God and Emotions

Date: Tue 28 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm

Self-care

Date: Tue 11 Apr
Time: 8pm - 10pm

Companionship

Date: Tue 18 Apr
Time: 8pm - 10pm

MIDPOINT OF Lent

The mid point of Lent this year fell on Thursday of the Third Week of Lent, which was **16 Mar**.

Computing the Mid-point of Lent (Sundays Aren't Part of the Lenten Fast)

The 40 days of Lent refers to the traditional Lenten fast, which runs from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday - a period of 46 days. But from the earliest days of the Church, Sundays - the day of the Lord's Resurrection - have never been days of fasting. And between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday, there are six Sundays. Thus, 46 days total minus 6 Sundays equals 40 days of fasting.

So when we're determining the midpoint of Lent, we have two options. We can count out 20 days of the Lenten fast from Ash Wednesday forward (skipping the Sundays), or we can take the easier route and just count all the days from Ash Wednesday, stopping at 23 (since 23 is half of 46). Either way, we wind up at the Third Thursday of Lent.

Laetare Sunday: Lightening the Mood

The Church recognises the mid point of Lent on The Fourth Sunday of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday; *Laetare* is Latin for "rejoice," and the entrance antiphon for the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is Isaiah 66:10-11, which begins "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday, because, to lighten the austerity of Lent, the Church uses rose vestments instead of the penitential purple normally used during the season. In addition, flowers may be used on the altar, and the organ, which is normally silent during Lent, may be played.

Taking Stock of Our Lenten Journey

As we begin the second half of Lent, let us take stock of our Lenten journey. Now is the time to go for Confession, if we have not already done so, in preparation for making your Easter duty. And how are we progressing toward our spiritual goals? If we have not set any since the start of Lent, now is the time to do so.

> Continued on Page 4



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Staying on Track

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!



MAKE LENT FRUITFUL

P R A Y • F A S T • G I V E



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 each of the Mass. 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**

If at First, You Don't Succeed...

And remember - if you get distracted and find that you're not making as much progress as you wish this Lent, there's always tomorrow. Begin each day with a Morning Prayer, firmly resolving to concentrate on your Lenten discipline, and let God take care of the rest. Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep at the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

“The coming of Jesus into the world leads to a choice. Whoever chooses darkness will face a judgment of condemnation, whoever chooses light will have a judgment of salvation. Judgment is the result of our own free choice. Whoever practices evil seeks the darkness; whoever seeks the truth, that is, those who practice what is good, come to the light.”

“We are called to welcome the light into our conscience to open our hearts to God's infinite love, to His mercy full of tenderness and goodness. God always forgives our sins when we ask for Him to.”

Pope Francis (Laetare Sunday 2021)

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 JP II 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