



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Stay with us

3rd Sunday of Easter
23 Apr 2023

Ac 2:14, 22-23
1 Pt 1:17-21
Lk 24:13-35

Today's Gospel on this 3rd Sunday of Easter, is the story of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, a story that may be familiar to many of us. As the two men were walking back from Jerusalem, Jesus came alongside them and struck up a conversation. Not recognising Jesus and with "their faces downcast", they poured out their heavy hearts to him.

The message of Easter is that the Lord has risen, but the two men had lost their faith, overwhelmed by their disappointments. And just like the two disciples, we too can sometimes lose our faith when the worries and troubles of life weigh us down. Our eyes too may not recognise him in our own midst.

We are not told why the two disciples could not recognise Jesus while he walked with them. We can be as guilty as the "foolish men" chided by Jesus, who were "slow to believe the full message of the prophets". Then meeting them where they were, He "explained [the] Scriptures" to them and left their hearts aflame for him. Similarly, scripture can sometimes speak directly into our hearts, and we can immediately recognise that 'Jesus' moment!

The Easter message is not just that Christ has risen but more importantly, that He is with us, not figuratively like his apparition to the two men before he "vanished from their sight" but also in his real body and flesh in the Eucharist!



"We can be as guilty as the 'foolish men' chided by Jesus, who were 'slow to believe the full message of the prophets'"

Jesus is not just a historical figure who lived in the past. Neither is He like any of the other gods. He is different because it was foretold in the Old Testament that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies revealed in the New Testament. He is not just the Messianic preacher but the Divine One! And He has revealed himself to his disciples and to us!

The entire Road to Emmaus experience is very similar to the Mass – Jesus explained Scripture and broke the bread to them. The Mass too, comprises these two great parts – the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC1346). Christ left this great sacrament of the Eucharist for us so that He would forever be with us to sustain us in our earthly sojourn. For us to fully experience this paschal mystery, which is the source and summit of our faith, we need to also prepare to come into a state of grace to meet him, to be ready to have this personal encounter with Christ himself.

As with the two men, it was God's grace that opened their eyes to recognise Jesus in his sacramental presence as "he took the bread and said the blessings; then he broke it and handed it to them". This Sacrament of the Eucharist makes it possible for Christ to be present physically, under the species of

bread and wine, every time a Mass is celebrated, anywhere and at any moment in time.

These sacramental moments at mass are where grace poured out for us, opens our eyes and our hearts to a deeper personal encounter with Christ - to experience his healing, life-giving presence ourselves. But it is also true that we have to respond to this grace.

Jesus knows that our faith journey is sometimes like that of the two disciples and his love for us means that he will meet us wherever we may be in our lives. He may serendipitously open up a verse from scripture to uplift us, offer some needed advice through a friend or help us find solace with a family member.

The message is that it is Christ who comes into our midst. It is Christ who decides the time to reveal Himself to us. Here is the great mystery of faith. In every moment of our lives, from the brightest to the darkest of times, it is God who reveals Himself in new and unexpected ways. In his glorified Body, Jesus is no longer bound by time or space. He is now available to us everywhere and always in the Eucharist, and this just means that He is with and amongst us in our everyday lives. We need our eyes of faith to be opened to see his hand in our lives.

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



SFX EMERGENCY EVACUATION FIRE DRILL

Please note that there will be an Emergency Evacuation Fire Drill at the **Sun 23 Apr, 5.30pm Mass**. Kindly scan the QR Code to find out more about the procedure.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 24 Apr
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 24 Apr**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass. All are welcome!

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

BOOKS BY FR. HENRY SIEW

Father Henry Siew will be sharing a couple of his books "Follow Christ and Be A Catholic", "Smart Way of Loving" and "Pitfalls of Christianity" on **Mon 24 Apr, 8pm** at the **St Jerome Library**. Sign up at www.tinyurl.com/hsiew to hear the story behind his books, and his passion, urgency and desired mission in writing them!



CHARIS: HUMANITARIAN FORUM & FAIR

This weekend, CHARIS is having a roadshow in our parish to promote their biennial Humanitarian Forum and Fair.

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



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). Do drop by the booth located outside JPll Hall to find out more.

SFX CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: THE MARRIAGE KIT

Inviting all married couples to experience the Marriage Kit (5 sessions) 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



BAT - WHY WE BELIEVE: ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Join the SFX Bible Apostolate Team (SFXBAT) in this 8-session study, which began on 16 Apr (on alternate Sundays). Come discover just how reasonable, biblical and beautiful the Catholic faith really is.

Dates: 30 Apr, 14 May, 28 May, 25 Jun, 9 Jul, 23 Jul, 6 Aug
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: <https://bit.ly/WWB2023Register>



30 April: Is Jesus God? Did Jesus claim to be God? And why should we believe him?

14 May: Peter and the Papacy. Did Jesus establish the Catholic Church? What is the historical evidence?

28 May: How Did We Get the Bible? Where did the Bible come from? Who decided which books got in and which didn't?

25 June: Is the Eucharist Jesus' Real Presence? What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist?

9 July: Why Confess to a Priest? Did Jesus arrange for us to confess our sins to a priest of the new covenant?

23 July: Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her?

6 Aug: Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead. Where is Purgatory in the Bible? Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

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 monthly session, run by bereaved parents, is for prayer, reflection and the breaking open of 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 journey together in faith.

Date & Time: Tue 25 Apr, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre
(2 Highland Road, #LG-01)

EASTER THANKSGIVING TREE

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples" - Psalm 93:3

Let us proclaim and glorify God for all the wonderful things He has done for us. We can write our thanksgiving for the New Life we have received - for graces received; to overcome challenges; answered prayers and miracles! Please write on the paper provided and hang your 'Thanksgiving' on the Easter Tree: **Thank you Jesus for** _____



Easter Vigil Baptism 2023

“When we were baptised into Christ Jesus, (we) were baptised into his death...and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.” - Romans: 6:3,11

On 8 April, 2023, the Church was bathed in the light and awash with much joy as we welcomed 16 brothers and sisters in Christ who walked into the waters of Baptism, as well as two Candidates who came into full communion with the Catholic Church and five who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here are some reflections of their RCIA journeys and encounters with Christ:



“For most of my life, my view of God was verging on apathetic, despite being a “cradle” Catholic. I attended Church and Sunday school every week and I sort of believed God existed, but was in the awkward position of not caring enough or knowing what to do with that information.

Last year, my parents wanted me to finish confirmation and I ended up joining RCIA at SFX, even though it made no sense geographically because it is an hour away from my house. However, I believe it to be perfectly planned by God.

I entered RCIA with an open heart and mind but with zero expectations. I didn’t expect my relationship with God to change much... but how wrong I was.

I quickly fell in love with the community and service team at SFX, their joyful vigour and great teaching guided me to take the precocious first step to saying “yes” to God, to finally getting confirmed, not to merely complete the process, but in genuine love for God and wanting to be strengthened by his grace to come closer to him.

I wish for my faith to be strengthened throughout the rest of my life.” – **Zoe Yap, 18**



“I started my RCIA journey on 5th July 2022 and came every Tuesday, I would learn new topics regarding the Catholic faith. In my journey, we were guided by our group facilitators and other service team members. The retreat in February also helped me to understand and experience God’s love. Next, we deepened our commitment through the Rite of Elections at the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary with Cardinal William Goh blessing us. Many Elects and Candidates from different churches also attended the Rite and it was a very special day for us to understand the purpose of our journey through the words by the Cardinal. With a grateful heart, I started to prepare for baptism.

I didn’t know what to expect but I was excited and looked forward to the process. I was very happy to have our daughters, family and friends attend my wife and my baptism. After Fr Ben baptised me, I experienced a deep sense of joy and strength in me so much so that I raised my hands and shouted “Praise the Lord!” The baptism was a special moment for me to know that God has been, is walking with me and will always be in my life. I thank God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit and Mother Mary for choosing me to be part of this family. Special thanks to Fr Ben and Fr Nat and especially the RCIA service team for teaching and guiding us throughout this whole journey.” – **Ronnie Luke Tan, 67**



"I started the RCIA journey with a clear intention to be a Catholic. But it was just a gut feeling, I didn't truly understand what it meant. When past catechumens shared how they found inner peace after baptism, I was skeptical, unsure of what they meant, and wondered if it was all in their heads.

The past year has been a tough one for me. I faced many challenges, from work to my personal life. Despite going through the worst emotional roller coaster rides I've had, I was able to cope. The weekly RCIA sessions provided a boost I needed to keep me going. Whenever my thoughts ran wild, something in the session would click for me, and something that seemed big initially would then become small and manageable. I learned later that this is how God works; using other people's voices to send us messages. With each passing day, the messages continued. Whenever I prayed for clarity, patience, and guidance, He would answer in His own way. The signs got clearer that it could not be a coincidence. I realised that He has always been in my life working His miracles even though I've never acknowledged His work until now.

Baptised and Confirmed, I now have a grateful and peaceful heart. I thank the Lord for taking away my fears and patiently knocking on my door so many times despite my blindness. When I needed Him the most, He gave me unmistakable signs that I could not ignore. I opened the door and discovered a whole new community with whom to journey through life.

I thank my husband, Reuben, who introduced God to me but never once forced me into the Faith. He patiently waited for me to get to know Him and taught me the Grace of God by being a good disciple, role-modeling Him in our daily life.

I thank my Godparents - Vincent and Doris - for being a part of our lives since we got married. God truly sent them to do His work, guiding us as a couple. The moment they found out that I was going through RCIA, they stepped forward to be my Godparents. I believe this was God's plan all along; there are no coincidences.

To the service team, thank you for your hard work and patience. I aspire to have your love for God. To Fr Ben, thank you for patiently listening to my worries during the enquiring stage, and breaking them down so that I entered the faith with minimal worries. Lastly, to those who have prayed for me during this journey, thank you for your prayers. I am certain they have been answered too."

Deanne Conceicao, 35



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

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 JPPII 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