



Disciples Making Disciples



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The Good Shepherd

4th Sunday of Easter
(Good Shepherd Sunday)
30 Apr 2023

Ac 2:14, 36-41
1 Pt 2:20-25
Jn 10:1-10

Along with bread, wine, and water, the shepherd is one of the key images that John's gospel is built around. In this regard, many of us are familiar with the persona of Jesus as The Good Shepherd.

It is therefore surprising that the shepherd discourse in John 10, which this Sunday's gospel introduces, does not begin with Jesus declaring that "I am the Good Shepherd" (Jn 10:11). Instead, Jesus opens with the image that "I am the gate for the sheep" (Jn 10:7). Accordingly, anyone who enters by that gate is the "shepherd of the sheep" (Jn 10:2).

In this manner, Jesus establishes the criterion for all other shepherds of his flock – they exercise their ministry only through Jesus, the one and only Good Shepherd.

Let us now examine four motifs in the shepherd discourse that Pope Benedict XVI identifies in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*.

First, the Good Shepherd gives life in abundance, unlike the thief who "comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (Jn 10:10). This builds on Old Testament imagery: "I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain country of Israel shall be their pasture" (Ez 34:14). Similarly, the psalmist in today's readings proclaims that the Lord will shepherd

us to fresh and green pastures, restful waters, and along the right path.

In this sense, the "life in abundance" that Jesus promises is diametrically opposed to the greed and self-interest of the thief, who regards the sheep as property that he owns and exploits. Instead, humanity is nourished by the "mountain country of Israel", which the Church Fathers saw as the "life-giving food of God's word", as Pope Benedict points out.

Second, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Here, the images of the shepherd and bread coincide. As the Church Fathers have alluded, Jesus is also the Bread of Life, broken and given for all. Jesus therefore gives life by giving *himself*, for he *is* life.

Third, the Good Shepherd knows his "own" flock and his "own" know him. In this context, the "ownership" that Jesus speaks of is more about *belonging* than mere *possession*.

In *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict distinguishes things, which are property that we can own, possess, and transfer; and human beings, who are "free creatures in their own right". The *what* is different from the *who*. Hence, while we can possess things; we belong to one another, "not as property, but in mutual responsibility".

And this belonging is rooted in the deep knowledge that we have of one another, the same way parents know their children and the Good Shepherd knows his flock. Whereas for the thieves, tyrants, and thrones of the world, human beings are merely things that they possess.

Fourth, the motif of unity. Later in John's gospel, Jesus declares that his flock comprises not only the



"The Logos who became man in Jesus is the Shepherd of all men, for all have been created through the one Word; however scattered they may be, yet as coming from him and bound toward him they are one."

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

scattered sheep of the house of Israel, but all "the children of God who are scattered abroad" (Jn 11:52). For these "other sheep, that are not of this fold", Jesus will have to "bring them also and they will heed [his] voice". Thus, there is "one flock, one Shepherd" (Jn 10:16).

As Pope Benedict writes, "The Logos who became man in Jesus is the Shepherd of all men, for all have been created through the one Word; however scattered they may be, yet as coming from him and bound toward him they are one." Put simply, there is one flock *because* there is *only* one Shepherd.

Since the third century, Christians have been inspired by the image of the shepherd seeking out the lost sheep, carrying it upon his shoulders, and bringing it home to join his flock. As we celebrate Easter, let us recall how the Good Shepherd carries us too on his shoulders to bring us all home, how he gave his life for us, and how he himself is life.

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



PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON MON 1 MAY (LABOUR DAY)

There will only be one Mass at **9am** and
no evening Mass.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY COLLECTION



All Mass collections on the weekend of **29 & 30 April 2023** (4th Sunday of Easter) will go towards the ongoing formation of our seminarians and expenses relating to the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary. Please give generously.

VOCATION SUNDAY - A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SEMINARIAN

As part of Vocation Sunday in promoting vocations, the Seminary has released a feature film "A Day in the Life of the Seminarians". For all who have wondered what life in seminary is like, especially young men who are thinking about the call to priesthood, you may catch the full-length feature film on the Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore's official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@CatholicSG



MAY - MONTH OF *Mary*

Come join us to pray the rosary as a parish community to honour our Blessed Mother at the following timings:

Mon - Thu: 8pm (Grotto) | **Fri:** 7.30pm (Church) | **Sat - Sun:** 6.45pm (Grotto)
except 14th May at 8pm

Alternatively, you may join our online Zoom Rosary Sessions:

**WEEKDAY DIVINE
MERCY & ROSARY**
tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary
Date & Time: Mon - Fri, 3pm
Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708

ROSARY BY SaLT
tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary
Date & Time: Tues, 8.30pm
Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234
Password: 465481

ROSARY BY LECTORS
bit.ly/SundayRosary
Date & Time: Sun, 8.30pm
Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379
Password: 3059464132



ONE: EASTER REFLECTION 2023

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced an e-booklet of reflections for the season of Easter. The theme is "The Word - The Life of the World". The e-booklet is available for download at <https://one.org.sg/resource/2023-easter-reflection-booklet>.

SFX CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: THE MARRIAGE KIT

The Marriage Kit sessions 2 to 5 will be held at our parish on Wednesday evenings. You can still catch some of the sessions as the content and tools for each session are independent. For details and registration, visit <http://shorturl.at/uEO04>

Dates: 3 May - 24 May
(Every Wed)
Time: 7.15pm - 10pm
Venue: JPil Hall



WHY WE BELIEVE: ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Join the SFX Bible Apostolate Team (SFXBAT) in this study "Why We Believe: Answering Common Questions about the Catholic Faith". Come discover just how reasonable, biblical and beautiful the Catholic faith really is. The topic for **14 May** is "Peter and the Papacy" - *Did Jesus establish the Catholic Church? What is the historical evidence?*

Date: 14 May
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: <https://bit.ly/WWB2023Register>



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 the graces received to overcome challenges, prayers answered and miracles encountered! Please write on the paper provided and hang your 'Thanksgiving' on the Easter Tree: **Thank you Jesus for** _____

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE (CTIS): REGISTRATION FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2023

CTIS caters to students who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Christian faith in the context of the Church and the world of today. Registration is now open for the Second Semester of 2023 for those who are interested to pursue the Certificate in Theology. For more information, visit ctis.sg.

INFORMATION NIGHT

Date: Thu 4 May **Time:** 8pm - 9pm

Venue: St Cornelius Room, Basement, SFX Seminary Building
(618 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 678214)

COURAGE SG: "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?" RETREAT

Inviting Catholics who experience same-sex attraction or identify themselves as LGBTQ. It is a weekend retreat to encounter Jesus who asks this question of every Christian. It will be an Ignatian-inspired retreat, with time for silent prayer, small group sharing and community. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist will be celebrated during the stay-in retreat.

Dates & Time: Fri 26 May, 6.30pm - Sun 28 May, 4pm

Venue: LifeSprings Canossian Spirituality Centre (100 Jalan Merbok, S598454)

Register by 16 May: tinyurl.com/couragemayretreat

OYP: KICKSTART 2023

Beginning your university journey this year? Come join us at Kickstart 2023, a 2D1N retreat with fellowship and formation for all incoming university freshmen (studying locally or overseas)! You can look forward to hearing the faith stories of other university students and learn more about the universities you are entering from the seniors who will be there to welcome you! The Lord desires much for you, take a leap of faith to discover more! For enquiries, contact Alysha at alysha.oyp@catholic.org.sg

Dates & Time: Fri 23 Jun, 10am - Sat 24 Jun, 7pm

Venue: 2 Lor Low Koon Singapore 536449

Cost: \$21.60 (inclusive of 8% GST)

Register: bit.ly/oypks23

BAPTISM 2023

Our RCIA and RCIY neophytes take time to reflect on their journey and share their thoughts and testimonies with us.

"Jesus keeps knocking on the door. I have been attending Mass with my wife for a few years. Although I was curious about the faith, I always procrastinated to find out more. I am glad that I finally took the step to join the RCIA programme. Each week, I looked forward to the sessions and I loved the friendliness and openness of everyone. The highlight of this journey was my baptism at Easter Vigil. It symbolised the start of a new journey of faith. It represented the washing away of sins and the renewal of the individual's spirit, as I made a public declaration of my commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Receiving my first Holy Communion was a powerful reminder of God's grace and love for us, and served as an encouragement to continue walking in faith and pursuing a relationship with him. I highly recommend anyone who is mildly curious about God to join the RCIA programme with an open mind and experience it for yourself!"



Jude Moy HJ, 34



Alicea Tan, 31

"The journey as a Candidate exposed me to teachings, Sacraments and practices of the Catholic Church which challenged what I knew through my early non-Catholic Christian formation. However, through explication, the patience of the RCIA service team, my Catholic friends and the workings of the Holy Spirit, I was able to let go of the pride I held concerning my original beliefs. My heart became open to the truth of the matters I had been rejecting. Only then was I able to say YES to God again in the Sacrament of Confirmation."

"Glory to God! It feels like such a privilege to be baptised together with my wife and two kids in such a grand ceremony. I'm also very grateful to our RCIA service team who showed us what discipleship really means - to carry the cross on our backs even if it could crush us any moment, and always giving of themselves unconditionally. I can't thank all of you enough for guiding me through the darkness in search of light. This is just what Jesus would do for anyone. My sincere gratitude also to the SFX community who have been praying for us. Please continue to pray for us as we will in turn pray for all of you too. Peace be with you! Jesus loves you always!"



Davian Ng Dong An, 34

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"Many Easters passed and it was just another Sunday for me. However, this Easter was very different, I was baptised and given new life. The RCIA journey really opened my eyes and mind, and no words can express how deeply touched I am. I am thankful for the many people who have made this journey possible for me - my sponsor for putting me on this journey, the RCIA service team for their inspiring mentorship and friendship to all of us, my family for their support, and above all, I thank God for calling and choosing me. I know that baptism is just the start of my new faith journey and life's many challenges will continue. But with the love of this Catholic community, I feel confident that my remaining journey will be well supported."



John Tan Yuh Cherng, 49



Annie Lee, 50

"I am so thankful to be baptised and to be a part of this SFX community. This is not a matter of impulse as it took nine months of preparation and hard work by the RCIA service team, sponsors and godparents who committed themselves to walking this journey with us. The baptism ceremony was magical. Day by day I could see and feel the positive changes happening in my life - especially within my family. It takes a lot of courage to live by faith. Challenges will come but if I keep my focus on God and surrender my fears to him, the challenges will no longer become insurmountable. The love and peace which I have been experiencing since the start of

my RCIA journey has grown stronger and I know that this is the grace given by God. I am blessed to be the chosen one and I continue to thank the Lord for his unconditional and enduring love for all of us."



Dana Alvina Edea Tan, 32

"We often don't open our eyes, ears and hearts enough to feel or see how God is showering us with a million blessings. Our heavenly Father knows what is best and has it all planned out for us. I only realised that while thinking of a baptism name, He has already planned a Saint's name for me - Dana. It is also a nickname which my family has been using - 大NA for years. Then when I thought I didn't know any Catholic friends, he planted a godparent in my life. The RCIA journey has been rocky and stormy and more than once, I felt like giving up. But I'm glad I persisted and believed that God would work his magic and clear the path for us. It truly was a blessing to have my Catholic family witness our baptism and I feel so welcomed with open hands and hearts. I was spiritually lost but now am found by God."

"I contemplated my decision to seek God for a few months. In those months, there would be days where the urge to know him was so strong, I'd google about the Bible and read it from Genesis despite not understanding what it was saying. Out of fear that it'll upset my non-religious family, I often stalled my decision. By then, the Lord had placed two very inspiring Christian friends in my life who welcomed my many questions about the faith. The more my questions were answered, the more I felt drawn to choose Jesus. At last, I let my heart be led and started RCIA. Week after week, month after month, Jesus was gentle and patient to nudge and guide me, and kept reeling me back to his side. RCIA slowly became a grounding space for me. During the RCIA retreats, I was reminded how much I'm loved and how I am not unworthy. He kept waiting for me until I finally said my yes. I'm so happy to be found in Jesus. To actually live as a disciple of Jesus and not just in what I can imagine is joy. I am finally home."



Vienna Nerissa Lim, 23 (Left)



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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

ANOIDING 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