



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Heeding Jesus' farewell message

6th Sunday of Easter
14 May 2023

Ac 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Pt 3:15-18
Jn 14:15-21

This week's Gospel reading is part of what is commonly referred to as Jesus' farewell message to the Apostles. He has completed his public ministry and is about to be arrested, mocked, abused and tortured to death on the cross. Knowing all this, what does our Lord say to his closest friends who are destined to continue his mission? This is such an important moment in the formation and understanding of our faith, we should hang on to his every word as he prepares them for the battle to save the soul of the world. Our Lord's final discourse is contained in John 13-16, of which today's reading (Jn 14:15-21) is part of. What was his all important parting message?

First, Jesus spoke about his identity: He is the only way to the truth and to a life with God.

Next, his reassurance to them about what will come next, telling them that even though he will not be with them, another Advocate will be sent by God to guide them. Indeed our Lord says that his absence will be to the disciples' benefit, as the Holy Spirit will then be sent to help them in their mission. "Still, I must tell you the truth; it is for your own good that I am going because unless I go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will show the world how wrong it was, about sin and about who was in the right..."

(Jn 16:7-8). Jesus is preparing them for his departure, assuring them that it is a necessary part of God's plan which is ultimately to unite them with the Father through his love for them.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus repeats this reassurance. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you" (Jn 14:18-19).

These words were directed at his Apostles, but they are as relevant to us. He is telling us that even though he is no longer physically with us, he lives in our heart and is in us, as we are in him. The question we have to ask ourselves is whether we see and feel him.

How can we see Jesus? Our Lord provides the answer in the reading. "Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him" (Jn 14:21). He is telling us not to worry about whether we can see him: He will show himself to us! But only if we keep his commandments which he

says we will surely do if we love him.

Love is our Lord's core message in this farewell address.

As Pope Francis put it in a homily last year, "He loved us first; he waits for us; he keeps loving us. This is our identity: We are God's loved ones. This is our strength: We are loved by God" (Pope Francis, 22 May 2022).

Jesus' farewell message to the Apostles is as pointed today as it was more than 2,000 years ago. Indeed the present world is like that of the early Christians in terms of the challenges faced by the faithful. Large parts of the modern world have rejected Christianity, in pursuit of worldly distractions that draw people further away from God. It is a world which Jesus said in the reading, "can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him" (Jn 14:17). As Christians, we are privileged to belong to the other part of the world that is able to see.

In return, all that Jesus asked is for us to love one another as he loved us.

The power of such a love to transform our lives and those around us is a gift from God.

Let us use it to fulfil Jesus' last wish.



"He loved us first; he waits for us; he keeps loving us. This is our identity: We are God's loved ones. This is our strength: We are loved by God."

(Pope Francis, 22 May 2022)

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



ASCENSION OF THE LORD (DAY OF OBLIGATION)

Wed 17 May (Vigil): 6.30pm
Thu 18 May: 6.30am, 6.30pm & 8.30pm

L10 CONFIRMATION MASS

A total of 53 teens from our church will be confirmed by William Cardinal Goh during the **5.30pm Mass** on **Sun 14 May**. Please do keep our teens in your prayers for this important Sacrament as we pray for the Holy Spirit to descend on all.



WHY WE BELIEVE: ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Join the SFX Bible Apostolate Team (SFXBAT) in this talk. How do we know that the Catholic Church is the one established by Jesus? Why do Catholics believe that the Pope is infallible?

TOPIC 3: PETER AND THE PAPACY

Date & Time: Sun 14 May, 9am - 10.30am

Venue: Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: <https://bit.ly/VWB2023Register>

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 15 May**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Mary On Mission'. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Date: Mon 15 May

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

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



Happy Mother's Day

"Her children rise up and call her blessed."

- Proverbs 31:28

Wishing all mothers a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day! May you feel loved and appreciated on this special day, and may you be reminded of the immeasurable impact you have on your family and those around you.



MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Celebrate Mother's Day differently this year! Bless your mother with the gift of prayer - come as a family, and offer a decade of the rosary at the Grotto specially for the special woman in your lives. Come and also honour our Blessed Mother - the mother of all mothers, who exhorts us in her apparitions to never stop praying. Complete your spiritual bouquet by picking a flower stick, personalising it for your mother, and placing it at the feet of Mother Mary.

ROSARY PROCESSION

Come join us for a Mother's Day Rosary Procession on **Sun 14 May, 8pm** in JP II Hall.

PENTECOST: NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come join our Charismatic Prayer Group, Intercessory Prayer Ministry and Praise & Worship Group for a time of Praise and Worship followed by the Novena to the Holy Spirit. **Please note that there is no session on Thu 18 May.**

DAY 1: 17 MAY (WED)	8PM - 8.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 2: 19 MAY (FRI)	7PM - 7.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 3: 20 MAY (SAT)	7PM - 7.45PM	THESSALONIANS (PARSONAGE, LEVEL 2)
DAY 4: 21 MAY (SUN)	7PM - 7.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 5: 22 MAY (MON)	8PM - 8.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 6: 23 MAY (TUE)	8PM - 8.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 7: 24 MAY (WED)	8PM - 8.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 8: 25 MAY (THU)	8PM - 8.45PM	JP II HALL
DAY 9: 26 MAY (FRI)	7PM - 7.45PM	JP II HALL

MONFORT CENTRE: THE HEART OF LIVING – ST. LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT: A PROPHET FOR OUR TIMES

As we celebrate the **350th anniversary of St. Montfort's birth**, come and discover how his spirituality of a perfect devotion to Mary is especially needed for the renewal of our Church and our lives as disciples of Christ today.

Date & Time: Sat 20 May 2023, 2.30pm - 5.30pm
Venue: CANA (55 Waterloo St, #02 01, Singapore 187954)
Register: www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/the-heart-of-living-2023



ST GABRIEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: E-OPEN HOUSE 2023

Celebrating **70 years of Gabrielite Education**. There is a Principal's Live Engagement Session with Parents via Webinar. For more information, visit www.stgabrielspri.moe.edu.sg/e-open-house/e-open-house-infographic/

Date: Sat 27 May
Time: 9.30am - 10.45am
Register: <https://go.gov.sg/sgps-e-open-house-2023>



Drawing Closer to Mary in the Month of May



It's the merry month of May, and for Catholics all over the world, we know that this is traditionally "Mary's month!". If you're looking for a way to get closer to Our Lady and celebrate her this month, here are some wonderful resources to help you honour our mother Mary.

Books

For the Love of Mary by Fr. Daniel Maria Klimek

For the Love of Mary takes the reader on a spiritual journey of tender love that begins with the questions, "How do I fall in love with Mary, the mother of Jesus and my spiritual mother? How do I cultivate a deeper, more intimate and meaningful relationship with her, inviting her into my spiritual life?" The author presents a path of deep spiritual intimacy with Mother Mary that includes practicing the "presence of Mary" in one's life, among many other beautiful devotions.

The Reed of God by Caryll Houselander

First published in 1944 and now a spiritual classic around the globe, The Reed of God contains meditations on the humanity of Mary, Mother of God. British Catholic writer Caryll Houselander lovingly explores Mary's human side, depicting Our Lady as a musical instrument who makes divine love known to the world.

The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God by Archbishop Fulton Sheen

In The World's First Love, Fulton Sheen presents a moving portrayal of the Blessed Virgin Mary that combines deep spirituality with history, philosophy, and theology. Mary's whole life is lovingly portrayed in this book that brings not only information but also consolation and inspiration.

Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross by Edward Sri

In Walking with Mary, Edward Sri looks at the Bible passages concerning Mary and offers insight about the Blessed Mother's faith and devotion that we can apply in our daily lives. We follow her step-by-step through the New Testament account of her life, reflecting on what the Scriptures tell us about how she responded to the events unfolding around her.



Video Studies

Journey Through Scripture Course: The Bible and the Virgin Mary



The Bible and the Virgin Mary unveils the mystery of Our Lady that is woven into the fabric of Sacred Scripture. Twelve visually stunning lessons convey the beauty of the doctrine and devotions surrounding Mary, bringing them to life in a powerful, new way.

Emmaus Academy Course: Full of Grace by Fr. Daniel Maria Klimek

This course is an invitation to better understand and come to love the person of Mary, the Mother of Christ, by cultivating intimate devotion to her. Special emphasis is given to Marian spirituality, with topics such as the Rosary, the practice of the presence of Mary, and much more.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother DVD Set



Filmed on location in the Holy Land, in these eight videos Edward Sri provides a captivating look at the life of the Blessed Mother and an explanation of our beliefs about her.



For Children

Through the Year with Mary: Ponder and Pray Together with Children by Katherine Bogner

Through the Year with Mary brings together the Church's traditions in one place and provides a year-long plan for coming to know and love the Mother of God through weekly passages from Scripture, saints, and scholars; reflections to nurture understanding of Marian teaching and devotion; sacred art from around the world; and Marian prayers to teach you to grow closer to Jesus through Mary.



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Mary, Mother of All by Dr. Scott Hahn & Emily Stimpson Chapman

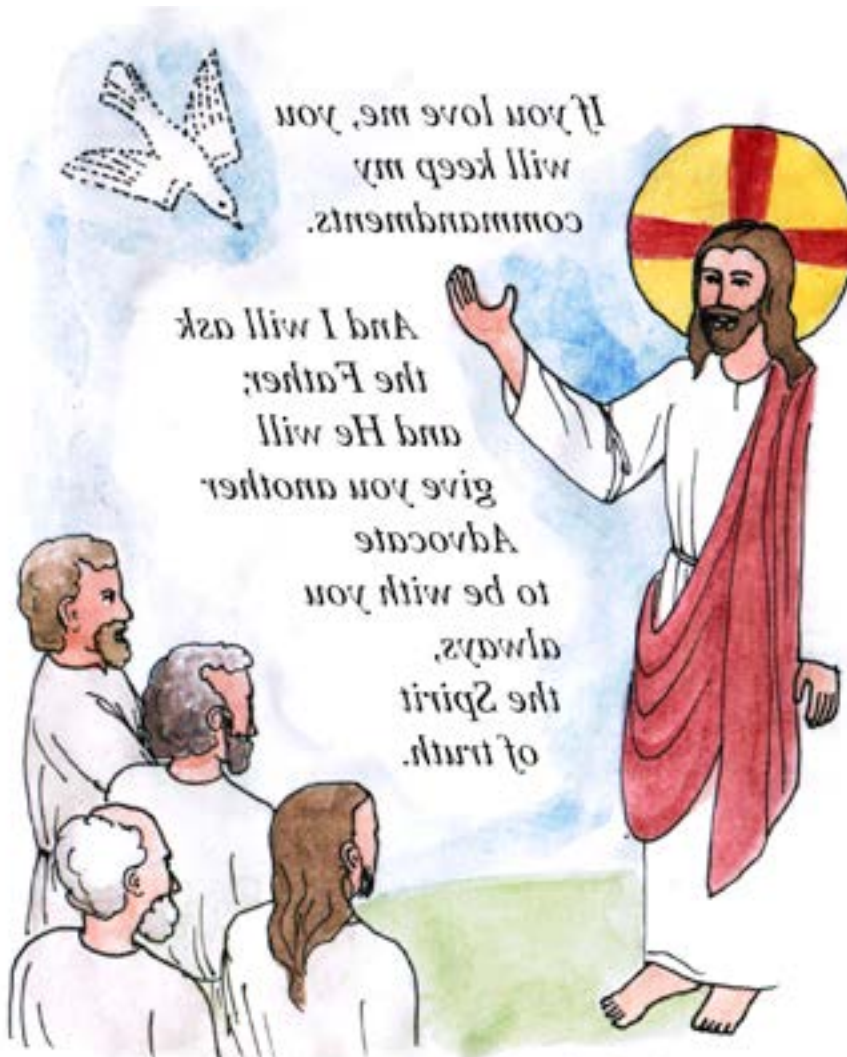
Bestselling authors Scott Hahn and Emily Stimpson Chapman have teamed up to bring the story of Our Lady's role in salvation to children with Mary, Mother of All. It begins with the story of creation and the Fall and continues with God's unfolding plan of salvation. Crucial to this plan is a Mother whose love continues to surround us today.

Children — and their parents — will be deeply grateful for this exceptional presentation that makes Catholic teaching on Mary understandable to all ages.

Source: <https://aletea.org>



Mini MANNA



What did Jesus say to the disciples to prepare them for His departure?
Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

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:
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

ANOIDTING 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