



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Jesus, truly the Son of God

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
13 Aug 2023

**1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13**  
**Rom 9:1-5**  
**Mt 14:22-33**

In today's gospel, Jesus makes known his identity as Son of God to the apostles by walking on water. "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid", Jesus says to quell the fearful disciples when they think he may be a ghost. Though this takes place shortly after Jesus had performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the apostles still fail to recognise Jesus for who he truly is, instead they deem him a ghost and are terrified. Bible scholars refer to this biblical account as a theophany, an appearance where God makes himself known, demonstrating his power and might. Jesus reveals this by comforting the disciples and using the phrase, "It is I." This phrase was used in other Old Testament theophanies and is translated literally from Greek as "I am", the divine name of God. It has been used by God in instances such as his response to Moses through the burning bush, when Moses asks God for his name (cf Ex 3:13-14).

It is through his use of "It is I" and his demonstration of sovereignty over the elements, that Jesus allows the disciples a glimpse of his divinity. He comes to them while their boat is battling the wind and waves, moments where they were uncertain and afraid. Jesus' revelation is also for us, in our own moments of anguish. Jesus reminds us that he is truly the Son

of God and is thus in control. As we face the anxieties of our lives, it is only natural to get swept up in them, just as the disciples were in the boat. However, Jesus comforts us, showing that when we call out to him in prayer as Peter did when he was sinking into the water, Jesus will reach out to save us.

This gospel account is also an invitation for us to ponder whether we are able to step out onto the water in trust like Peter, to wherever Jesus may be calling us. Peter had the faith to leave the boat toward Jesus, but began to falter as soon as he took his eyes off Jesus, getting distracted by the winds. Similarly, it is when our gaze strays from Jesus and his Lordship that fear and anxiety threaten to overwhelm us. How do we remain steadfast in our walk with the Lord?

Elijah's example in the first reading enlightens us. Elijah, though disheartened in his flight to Mount

Sinai from the wicked Queen Jezebel, was visited by the Lord. During the visit, Elijah was able to discern that the Lord came to him in the intimate, still small voice, and not in the mighty wind, earthquake and fire that had come earlier. Through his intimacy in relationship with God, he was able to hear God's voice. Conversely, the disciples who spent much time living and serving alongside Jesus did not realise it was him walking toward them on the water. Similarly, we who have encountered the Lord and learnt more about him may still find it challenging to listen to him and discern his voice if we do not cultivate an intimate relationship of prayer. Jesus himself, prioritised stepping away from the crowds and his disciples to spend time alone with his father. He exemplifies how we may also grow in that same intimacy with the Lord through quiet time spent in prayer, away from the world.

This prayerful and intimate relationship with Jesus fortifies us during the storms of our lives. Conversing deeply with the Lord allows us to know and recognise his voice that speaks through our lives and in our hearts. As we come to a more profound relationship with the Lord, we are more able to claim his promises and surrender our fears to him. We too, may then be able to step out of our boats and walk toward Jesus, professing his sovereignty over our lives. As we grow in understanding of Jesus' identity as Son of God, may we bow down in true worship of the God who saves us and loves us beyond measure.



*"...when we call out to him in prayer as Peter did when he was sinking into the water, Jesus will reach out to save us."*

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MASS HYMNS**  
[www.sfxchurch.sg/mass](http://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/SFXFacilityReport](https://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport)



### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Kindly note that the office will be closed on **Mon 14 Aug** for Staff Bonding Retreat.

### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (DAY OF OBLIGATION)

**Mon 14 Aug (Vigil Mass):** 6.30pm

**Tue 15 Aug:** 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

*The rosary will be prayed at the Grotto 30 mins before all the Masses.*

### SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$8,894.25** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)**

- **OCBC Bank Account No:**  
686 596 768 001
- **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B

### CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Come meet us on **Sun 13 Aug, 8pm** at JPPII Hall for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle.

### INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 14 Aug  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

## BOYS' TOWN 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING 2023

This weekend, staff/volunteers from Boys' Town will be at our Parish to raise funds for their programmes and operations. Together, we can help make a difference in these young lives!

You can also donate via:

**PayNow to UEN: 201534576H007**

**For tax deduction purposes, kindly key in your information using the template below under Reference:**

CC <space> NRIC <space> Mobile No.

### LIVING THE FAITH EVERYDAY (LIFE): SACRAMENTS OF THE EUCHARIST AND RECONCILIATION

Come join LiFE on this six-part video series as we explore the beauty of Holy Communion and encounter God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Experience the transformative power of grace that God offers us in these sacraments!

**Dates:** 11 Aug - 15 Sep  
(Every Friday)  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** JPPII Hall  
**Enquiries:** Desmond, 9011 5076

### OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS: SACRAMENTS (FOUR SESSIONS)

Sacramental catechesis, which is both preparatory and ongoing, seeks to enable a deeper understanding and commitment to an active and worthily celebrated sacramental life. Its reception and fruitfulness is therefore vital – for, 'in the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us' [Francis (2022), Apostolic Letter on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God, Desiderio Desideravi (DD), 11].

**Dates:** 23 & 30 Aug, 13 & 20 Sep (Wednesdays)  
**Time:** 7.30pm - 10pm (Note: no session scheduled on 6 Sep)  
**Venue:** Zoom  
**Register:**  
<https://ofc.churchsys.info/civcrm/event/register/?id=546&reset=1>  
*Registration closes Mon 21 Aug*

### CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: CHURCH HISTORY

Join us over four Mondays as Rev Fr Jovita guides us through how to understand and read the history of the Catholic Church and its development, beginning with our home-ground, Singapore. Registration is required.

**Dates:** 21 & 28 Aug, 4 & 11 Sep 2023 (Mondays)  
**Time:** 12.30pm - 1.30pm  
**Venue:** TPI Building (62 Cecil Street, 5th Floor)  
**Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksChurchHistory>



### CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS: CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (CCD)

CCD is a faith formation/Catechism programme held at the Church of St Ignatius for expatriate children (6-13 yrs old) attending international schools. Registration for the year 2023 - 2024 is now open. Weekly classes start from **Sep 2023 - May 2024**, on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 4pm - 5.10pm. Confirmation classes are on Sundays, 3.30pm - 5pm. All students (new or returning) must register online at [www.stignatius.org.sg/ccd](http://www.stignatius.org.sg/ccd).

### KATONG CATHOLIC BOOK CENTRE PTE. LTD (KCBC)

**31 August -** Last day of Katong Catholic Book Centre Pte. Ltd.  
**1-31 September -** Shop is closed  
**1 October -** Shop reopens and is renamed as Katong Catholic Shop

*\*In October, resumption of orders for - ORDO, Advent Candle orders, Living Faith & Shalom subscriptions, Paschal candles.*



## DURIAN FEAST AT SFX

With durian season in full swing, we are organising a Durian Feast for all! Advance payment required via PayNow to SFX Church UEN No. **T08CC4033J** with a remark "Durian\_{Name}". Space is limited so sign up today!

**Date:** Sun 27 Aug  
**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Outside JPll Hall  
**Tickets:** \$30/person  
**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/SFXDurianFeast2023>  
 (Please register by 20 Aug)  
**Enquiries:** Thud Chee (9632 3489)



## VERBUM DEI: FAMILY CAMP

Come away to Malaysia with your kids to the Verbum Dei Family Camp from **1 - 3 Sep 2023**. Hear from fellow Catholic parents about their life experiences on how to grow closer to God as a family. A kids programme for ages 3 – 12 will be provided. For enquiries and registration please email [VDeifamilies@gmail.com](mailto:VDeifamilies@gmail.com), call 96890919 or visit [www.verbumdeisingapore.org/](http://www.verbumdeisingapore.org/)

# Ministry Spotlight

## Elders' Ministry

The Elders' Ministry are here to help our senior parishioners age gracefully in an environment of faith, friendship and fun while maintaining our fitness for as long as possible.

We gather on Thursdays at JPll Hall to pray and intercede for our own families, the wider Parish as well as the Catholic community in Singapore. We also watch faith-based videos and movies and enjoy fellowship and social activities such as line dancing, Rummy-O and other games.

If you'd like to participate in our activities and are willing to help, suggest and organise activities, feel free to join us! We also welcome young adults who are willing to teach technical skills to older members or would like to come spend time with us and learn from the experience of the Elders.



## Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is an international association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of All Graces, have formed themselves into a legion for apostolic services.

The praesidium, Queen of All Saints, at Church of Saint Francis Xavier has its meeting on Fridays at 8pm. Come and join us today!



## Intercessory Prayer Ministry

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20*

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry brings together a group of prayer warriors, who gather every week to give praise, worship, supplication, and thanksgiving to God our Father, his Ever-Living Son Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as well as through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

If you are stirred by the Spirit to be an intercessor, and have a heart for communion with Christ through prayer, we invite you to join us every Monday from 8pm to 9.30pm, to stand in the gap for our beloved community and the world. You may email us at [intercessory@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:intercessory@sfxchurch.sg) to be a part of the SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry and move mountains with your prayers.





Am I being called? Do I have what is needed to help? Can I help?  
**Yes. Yes and yes!**

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,  
faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*  
1 Peter 4:10

Every little bit helps in building up His kingdom and no effort is ever wasted. If you feel a stirring inside you, just remember this quote from Mark Batterson, "God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called".

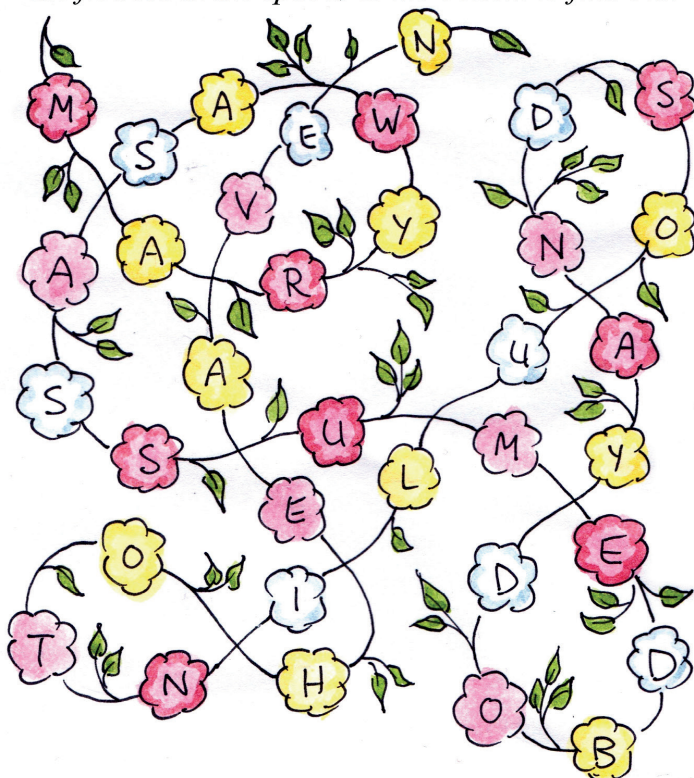
Join these ministries or find out more by emailing [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



## Flowers for Our Lady

*This Tuesday, August 15th, is a feast day of Our Lady.  
What are we celebrating?*

*Follow the line, starting at M, and put the letters from  
the flowers in the spaces at the bottom to find out.*



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\_\_\_\_\_!

### 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

#### BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:  
5am - 1am

#### 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)