



Disciples Making Disciples



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The Rock of the Church

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
27 Aug 2023

Isa 22:19-23
Rom 11:33-36
Mt 16:13-20

In this Sunday's gospel text, Jesus declares to Simon Peter: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church."

What made Peter so special?

Because Peter recognized who Jesus was. Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).

This was a radical notion at that time. As our gospel text notes, people said that the Son of Man (an exalted figure prophesied in Daniel 7 as Israel's liberator) was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration* that Elijah personifies hope for the restoration of Israel while Jeremiah is the bearer of the promise of a New Covenant (cf *Chapter Nine, Two Milestones on Jesus' Way: Peter's Confession and the Transfiguration* p292).

While these figures point towards the mystery of who Jesus is, "they do not arrive at Jesus' identity, at his newness. They interpret him in terms of the past, in terms of the predictable and the possible, not in terms of himself, his uniqueness, which cannot be assigned to any other category," as Pope Benedict XVI wrote.



"Because of the faith he confessed Peter will remain the unshakable rock of the Church. His mission will be to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it."
- Catechism of the Catholic Church 552

But not only is Peter's confession wholly new, it was also scandalous to Jewish society. At Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin, the high priest reprises Peter's confession, but this time as an accusation. In acknowledging the title, Jesus puts himself on an equal footing with God himself. In Jewish law, this is blasphemy, and the high priest therefore rends his robe. Jesus was convicted and crucified, not for what he did, but for who he was – an identity that was revealed to Peter (cf Mt 26:64ff).

What, then, does this mean for Peter?

Commissioned as the "rock" upon which Jesus will build his Church, Peter is conferred primacy among the disciples. CCC552 accordingly states that Peter holds "the first place in the college of the Twelve... Because of the faith he confessed, Peter will remain the unshakeable rock of the Church. His mission will be to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it."

The First Reading from Isaiah prefigures this commissioning. Just as Eliakim was given the key of the House of David, so was Peter given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. As Eliakim was entrusted with the authority to open and to close, Peter was entrusted with the power to bind and to loose (cf Isa 22:22 & Mt 16:19).

This does not merely mean that Peter is a doorkeeper to heaven. The kingdom of heaven refers to God's sovereignty, which Jesus also establishes on earth (albeit not of worldly authority) through and in himself.

Despite Peter's flaws, he was the first among the disciples to recognize and articulate who Jesus truly was – when Jesus first called him to put his net out into the deep, when he reached out to Jesus as he was sinking on the stormy lake, and finally, when he confessed the identity of Jesus in this Sunday's gospel text (cf Lk 5:8, Mt 14:33, Mt 16:19).

In the end, the task of the disciple is to truly know the Lord.

This knowing the Lord or "encountering the Lord in a personal way" was also highlighted by His Eminence William Cardinal Goh in his vision of his Cardinalate which he spelt out in *Ut Vivant: The Next Lap* published at the Thanksgiving Mass for his elevation to the College of Cardinals on 27 August 2022. On this anniversary of his Cardinalate, let us pray that His Eminence William Cardinal Goh will continue to know the Lord more fully even as he is entrusted with more responsibilities and authority. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide him to do the Lord's will as he supports the Petrine ministry, and may he remain the unshakeable rock of the Singapore Catholic Church.

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/SFXFacilityReport



PUBLIC HOLIDAY (1 SEP): POLLING DAY

Please note that there will only be one Mass at 9am.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

Fridays: 4pm - 6pm

Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 28 Aug

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

OYP: EXAM MASS & RECOLLECTION

Calling all students currently in JC/IB! Busy with studying and the many commitments of school? Do you desire to come away and rest for a while? Look no further!

Date & Time: Fri 8 Sep, 2pm - 5pm

Venue: Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street, Level 8)

Register:

tinyurl.com/8sepJCIBexamass

LA SALLE HOUSE: PARENTING PRE-TEENS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

For young parents (with children 12 years & below) to help them review their parenting skills and learn valuable tips to impact positively on the growth of their children.

Date: Sat 9 Sep 2023

Time: 9.30am - 12 noon

Venue: La Salle House (490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058)

Cost: \$75/person

Register: tinyurl.com/2jxu873t

PARISH RECOLLECTION: WHERE ARE YOU? (GEN 3:9)

In the Book of Genesis, we are reminded of a profound question that God asks Adam and Eve: "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). This question, though directed at our first ancestors, continues to echo through the ages, reaching our hearts today.

Dates: 20 - 22 Oct (Non Stay-in)

Speaker: Deacon Sherman

Cost: \$50

Venue: SFX Auditorium

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXRecollection2023



In our busy lives, it is easy to lose sight of where we truly are in relation to God. We can become preoccupied with worldly concerns, distractions, and responsibilities that pull us away from our spiritual journey. Yet, God's question resonates with a gentle invitation to pause, reflect, and reorient ourselves towards Him. Come and find rest in the Lord for a time of input, reflection and prayer. Registration closes on Fri 13 Oct. Sign up now!

MINISTRY RECRUITMENT FAIR

God has blessed each of us with gifts. Whether you have a talent for teaching, a flair for music, a passion for outreach, a desire to pray for others or just the call to serve, there is a ministry waiting for you! Our fair will provide you the perfect opportunity to explore the various ministries in our parish and find a meaningful way to serve our community. Come meet our volunteers and learn more about how your unique gifts can make a difference. The fair will be held outside JPPII Hall and foyer with these following ministries:

Sat 26 Aug, 5.30pm Masses

1. Children's Liturgy
2. Wardens
3. Small Christian Communities

Sun 27 Aug (All Masses)

1. Children's Liturgy (All Masses except 7am)
2. Wardens
3. Small Christian Communities
4. St Augustine Music Ministry (7am & 9am Mass)
5. Elders Group

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

Come and experience a weekend away for a lifetime of change. The 65th Beginning Experience (BE) Weekend is a live-in weekend for the permanently separated, divorced or widowed (for both males and females). The BE Weekend helps single-again individuals move on from the darkness of their grief into the light of a new beginning, to be healed and be free to love themselves, others and God.

Dates: Fri 22 Sep - Sun 24 Sep 23

Cost: \$230

Venue: Lifesprings Canossian Spirituality Centre

Register: tinyurl.com/BE-SG-WKD

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION DINNER 2023

This annual fundraising dinner is hosted by His Eminence, Cardinal William Goh. All funds raised from the table sales and direct contributions from the dinner will go towards the building of the Catholic Hub. For dinner information, scan the QR Code or visit www.catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner.

Date: Wed 8 Nov 2023

Venue: The Village Hotel, Sentosa



CHURCH OF ST IGNATIUS: THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS CHRIST

Let's contemplate the Holy Face of Jesus on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. The talk will be presented by Andrew Kong. Love offerings are welcome.

Date: Fri 15 Sep 2023

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: St Ignatius Hall

Register: tinyurl.com/HolyFaceofJC2023



BAT: A CATHOLIC VIEW OF THE END TIMES

What do the Bible and the Catholic Church teach about the End of Time? The Catholic Church has very explicit teachings about the Tribulation, the Antichrist, the Second Coming, and the New Creation.

If you've ever wondered about where this world is heading and what the ultimate destiny of humanity is, sign up for this 5-part series of talks, based on the work of Dr Brant Pitre, and get answers to crucial questions such as:

- What is the meaning of Jesus' prophecies of tribulation and the coming of the Son of Man? Are we in the "end times" now?
- Why did Jesus prophesy the destruction of the Temple, and how does it relate to the End of the World?
- Is the Protestant belief in a secret "Rapture" a biblical teaching or a false doctrine?
- What will the Final Judgment be like, and how will we be judged?

Dates: 17 Sep, 24 Sep, 1 Oct, 8 Oct, 15 Oct
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: bit.ly/EndTimes2023Register



Ministry Spotlight



Children's Liturgy

Each Sunday, we celebrate the order of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word) and break the Word in an age appropriate manner with the children, so that they understand and be enriched in their awareness of God's love, the humanity of Jesus and the seasons of the Church. The Liturgy of the Word with Children centres on Jesus and his message. It is a special time for the children to hear Jesus speak to them.

We are on duty every Sunday during the 11am Mass (except during school holidays) and preparation meetings occur once a month. We also plan and conduct children-specific events for key feast days/occasions (Advent, Christmas, Children's Day).

Small Christian Communities

We gather to break the Word of God together so as to support each other in our struggles to be faithful to the gospel and to encourage one another to serve the needs of others. We meet regularly, at least once a month, in our homes/zoom to break the Word. We also attend relevant talks, parish-wide events, and events involving the other SCCs.

Wardens

The wardens have been serving the parish since the church was built in 1959. Wardens have the role of keeping good order, peace, and tranquillity for worship in Church. The duties and responsibilities of Wardens include ushering parishioners to seats during Mass, collection of offertory from parishioners during Mass. Manage and direct movement of parishioners during Processions and Holy Communion during Mass. Manage and direct movement as well as parking of vehicles in church. Wardens also help with cutting and cleaning palm branches for Palm Sunday. Every Warden strives to serve with love and undertakes to serve and not to be served.

World Youth Day 2023

SFX Youth and Young Adults embarked on a transformative journey at World Youth Day, an event that brought together young people from all corners of the globe. Through this extraordinary gathering, they were able to deepen their faith, forge new connections, and leave with lifelong memories. Let us delve into their incredible experiences and the impact it had on their lives.



Coleginho de Santo-Antão-o-Velho, the church where Saint Francis Xavier celebrated Mass before he left Lisbon to go on mission in India and the Far East.

My journey through World Youth Day reminded me of the Universal Church's greatest strength: our diversity. How amazing it is to gather and sleep alongside pilgrims from other nations and cultures and know that we are brought together because of Jesus Christ. As Pope Francis also asked us to chant: *"Todos, Todos, Todos"* I leave Portugal with the truth that the Jesus is for everyone. - Elaine Tsui

WYD, an opportunity to step out of my daily routine, has allowed me to grow in my faith through an ongoing surrender to the Lord. In the moments of discomfort and displacement were where I sought solace in God's constant providence, graces and mercies. - Perlyn Quek

"In desiring world peace, there must first be peace in your heart." Truly, peace did I find - in the throes of pilgrims, in the myriad of colored hair and eyes, in the beats dropped by Fr Padre. World Youth Day was a firework of an experience - gone all too quickly as it came, but the residue of awe and wonder of the universal church remains. - Jun Mei Wong

I come back from World Youth Day feeling reignited by my encounter with the universal Church. Although I did not really have any deep faith conversations with the other nationalities which I thought would be the ideal way to feel connected, just being there part of the mass gathering, and witnessing the Church incarnate helped me to encounter deeply the truth that Jesus welcomes everyone and truly all are welcome and have a place in the Father's house. - Melissa Tan

Spending time amongst people from different parts of the world helped me to realise that the strength of the church is in its diversity. Though many of us come from diverse backgrounds and cultures we all share in our common faith and when we work together, it is possible to have a hope filled future. - David De Souza

"Comment ne pas te louer?" (How can I not sing your praise?) was a song we sang many times during our World Youth Day experience, and these words ring true as I reflect on it. In the many encounters both in Spain and Portugal, I have felt an unspeakable joy and comfort at recognising Christ's body, the Church, and my place within her. As I return to daily life, I resist the urge to rest in sentimentality for the encounters, being invited instead to *"Arise and go with haste"*, carrying this joy that I received beyond Europe and back home, perhaps as a certain Patron Saint of ours did? :) - Raphael Theseira



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

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

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