



Disciples
Making Disciples



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A Hidden Message of Hope?

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8 Oct 2023

Is 5:1-7
Phil 4:6-9
Mt 21:33-43

Today's gospel text seems to be a parable about some ungrateful and violent vineyard tenants who not only abused and killed a vineyard owner's servants but even dared to kill his son when he was sent to collect the harvest after their servants' failed missions. The parable is somewhat of a retelling of Isaiah's prophecy of a much-loved and nourished vineyard that only produced "sour grapes" (Isa 5:4). The shocking and disappointing outcomes in both the prophecy and the parable prompt these questions: how could a well-tended vineyard yield "sour grapes" and how could so much trust and liberty given to the tenants be returned with such ingratitude and violence (cf Mt 21:34-39)?

The vineyard or grapevine is mentioned more than any other plant in the Bible. Vineyards were so important economically that they often took on life-sustaining significance and came to be used symbolically in scripture to reflect the covenantal blessings of God for his chosen people. God's chosen people, Israel, is thus described as "the vineyard of the Lord of hosts" (Isa 5:7). Privileged to be God's chosen people, Israel was expected to yield admirable fruits of "justice" and "integrity" but instead produced

*"With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption"
(Ps 130:7)*

the "sour grapes" of "bloodshed" and "cry of distress" as injustices and abuses proliferated while the civic and religious leaders neglected their duties to the people.

Jesus began his parable in much the same way as Isaiah began his prophecy - with a landowner so lovingly planting his vineyard to ensure a good yield. The inclusion of the tenants in Jesus' parable was a direct warning to the chief priests and the elders. Israel's religious leaders before them had killed many of the prophets or "vineyard owner's servants" sent to warn Israel of her sins. Now, the chief priests and the elders' hostility towards Jesus were reaching the point of wanting to "kill the vineyard owner's son".

When asked what they thought the vineyard owner would do after his son's murder, the chief priests and elders replied that the vineyard owner "will bring those wretches to a wretched end" (Mt 21:41). Jesus' response to them did not include this eye-for-an-eye vengeance. While he warned of the dire consequences of having the kingdom taken away from them and given to others (Mt 21:43), the purpose of this parable seemed to be to draw their attention to the great patience of the vineyard owner in the repentance of the tenants who he had hoped would perhaps "respect [his] son" (Mt 21:37). This parable is in fact about God's mercy. It is an allegory of God

the Father sending Jesus, his son to die for the sins of the world in the hope of the repentance of all sinners.

Reflecting on this parable, Pope Francis said, "God's disappointment at the wicked behaviour of mankind is not the last word. This is the great novelty of Christianity: a God who, even though disappointed by our mistakes and our sins, does not fail to keep his word, does not give up and, most of all, does not seek vengeance." (Angelus, 8 Oct 2017) Referring to God's refusal to "bring those wretches to a wretched end", he continued, "God does not avenge himself. God loves, he waits to forgive and embrace us. Through Christ, God continues to circulate 'the new wine' of his vineyard, namely mercy... there is only one obstacle to the tenacious and tender will of God: our arrogance and our conceit which at times also becomes violence. Faced with these attitudes where no fruit is produced, the Word of God retains its power to reprimand and reproach."

Christians are the new chosen people of God and hence his vineyard (cf 1 Pt 2:9), so let us today produce fruits that are "good and pure... virtuous... worthy of praise" (Phil 4:8). When we have been negligent and committed grave sin, let us hope in the Lord, show true repentance and confess - for with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (cf Ps 130:7).



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



OCTOBER: CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. There will be nightly processions within the church grounds in honour of Our Blessed Mother. You may bring your own waxless candles and meet at the Grotto. *Please note that there is no procession on 31 Oct.*

Mon - Thurs, Sat - Sun: 8pm
Fri: 6.30pm

SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously. For cheque payments or PayNow, pay to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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

CHARISMATIC - GROWTH SERIES

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 9 Oct, 2023**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Fruit Of The Holy Spirit: Galatians 5:22' by Bro Colin Wee. All are welcome!

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

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 9 Oct
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

PARISH RECOLLECTION 2023

In our busy lives, it is easy to lose sight of where we truly are in relation to God. God's question resonates with a gentle invitation to pause, reflect, and reorient ourselves towards him. Come and find rest in the Lord as Deacon Sherman Kuek leads us through a reflection of the Joyful Mysteries and what this mystery says to us about our Catholic life. **Registration closes on Fri 13 Oct.** Last chance to sign up now!

Theme: Where Are You (Genesis 3:9)

Journeying with Christ in the Joyful Mysteries

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

Speaker: Deacon Sherman Kuek

Cost: \$50

Venue: SFX Auditorium

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXRecollection2023 or scan the QR code



MASS FOR THE SICK - WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast Day celebrations, we invite all who are unwell to this special Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing. Come experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community.

Mass for the Sick with Anointing will be on
Sun 26 Nov from 2pm - 3.30pm, Confessions from 1pm. Sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023 by Mon 20 Nov 2023.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serving refreshments after Mass. Please register at tinyurl.com/MFTS2023Volunteers by Mon 13 Nov 2023.



Physical registration forms are also available at the main entrance of the Church or next to the SSVP donation box outside JPll Hall. Completed forms can be dropped into the above respective locations. For further enquiries, please contact 8608 7857 (Anne) or 9863 4407 (Carissa).

LIFE MINISTRY: REBORN - YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE HEART OF BAPTISM

Explore the profound effects and mission of the Sacrament of Baptism through a three-part video series with LiFE. Examine the essential role of Baptism in God's salvation plan and discover your baptismal calling to share in the mission of Christ to which all the baptised are called.

Dates & time: 27 Oct, 3 Nov, 10 Nov (Fridays), 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: JPll Hall

Enquiries: Contact Desmond (9011 5076)

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. Where this world is heading and what is the ultimate destiny of humanity? Please sign up for the rest of this 5-part series of talks, based on the work of Dr Brant Pitre.

Dates & time: 8 & 15 Oct (Sundays), 9am - 10.30am

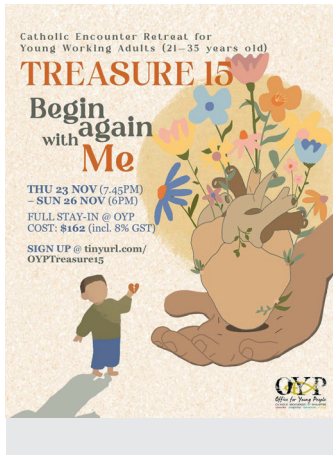
Venue: Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

Register: <https://bit.ly/EndTimes2023Register>

VERBUM DEI: PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS

Join us in celebrating Verbum Dei Sister Monika's Profession of Vows on **Sat 14 Oct, 10am** at our Main Church. After the ceremony, we invite you to join us for fellowship at the JPll Hall. Your presence and prayers will undoubtedly encourage her as she embarks on this sacred path.

OFFICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: TREASURE #15 - A CATHOLIC ENCOUNTER RETREAT FOR YOUNG WORKING ADULTS



Have the demands and worries of life left you feeling lost, empty or broken-hearted? The Lord invites us to Begin Again with Him. Treasure is a stay-in Catholic Encounter Retreat organised for young working adults (age 21 to 35 years old) in Singapore. Come to discover our Treasure in Christ! If you have any queries, please write to treasure.oyp@catholic.org.sg

Dates & Time: Thu 23 Nov, 7.45pm to Sun 26 Nov, 6pm
Venue: OYP (2 Lorong Low Koon S536449)
Cost: \$162 (incl. 8% of GST)
Register: tinyurl.com/OYPTreasure15

OYP OUTREACH FOR SECONDARY 4 & 5 STUDENTS

The Office for Young People is excited to bring an outreach programme for graduating secondary students! On this day, we gather to experience the grace of God in the midst of their hectic school life.

Date & Time: Sat 18 Nov 2023, 10.30am - 1pm
Venue: OYP (2 Lorong Low Koon S536449)
Register: tinyurl.com/oypsecoutreach2023

CHARIS: APPEAL FOR CHARIS' HUMANITARIAN MONTH

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making its annual appeal for their Humanitarian Aid Fund which supports the Archdiocese's overseas humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts. By sharing our blessings, we can unite as the helping hand of the Church by responding in love to our brothers and sisters in need. Donation envelopes are available in the parish.



Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, 55 Waterloo Street, #0702 Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954. Please contact CHARIS at 6337 4119 or scan the QR code to visit their website for more information.

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THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

PICK OF THE WEEK



The Rosary: A Prayer of Miracles

A deeply inspiring documentary that reveals the miraculous power of the Rosary from incredible stories of how it saved nations and impacted history. A young American soldier was seriously injured in war. With his clenched fist, dirty with blood, he raised a Rosary. The true story of this photograph was an inspiration for the film directors to embark on a journey across four continents to investigate claims that the recitation of the Rosary can change the course of history.

<https://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed-october-2-2023/videos/the-rosary-a-prayer-of-miracles>



Brother Francis: The Rosary: A Special Way to Pray

Join Brother Francis in this entertaining and guidance-filled presentation that will inspire children to deepen their faith by praying the Rosary!

<https://watch.formed.org/brother-francis-1/season:1/videos/the-rosary-a-special-way-to-pray>



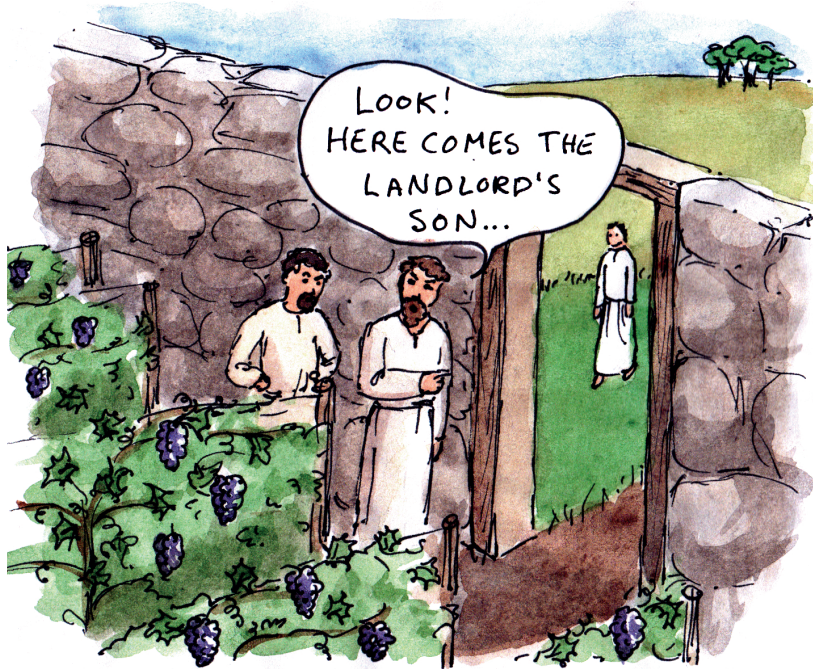
Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!



The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello: Every Park Needs a Lark | Episode 1

This episode of Benjamin Cello reveals that every part of creation has a purpose and brings beauty into the world.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/benjamin-cello-episode-1-every-park-needs-a-lark>



*What did the bad tenants do when the owner's son came to get the produce?
Use the code below to find out.*

! 0 3 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

D E H I K L M T Y

Source: <https://thekidsbulletin.com/>

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 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