



## Disciples Making Disciples



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## Even Caesar Belongs to God

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
22 Oct 2023

Is 45:1, 4-6  
1 Th 1:1-5  
Mt 22:15-21

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, the Pharisees attempt to entrap Jesus by asking him: "Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

In Jesus' time, Rome's taxation of Judaea was politically and religiously controversial.

On one hand, Jewish zealots who were keen to expel the Roman Empire from the Holy Land argued that taxation was a form of Roman enslavement. Such narratives had been even used to incite the people of Judaea to violent rebellions.

On the other hand, the Herodians supported Herod, who had been put on the throne by the Romans. Accordingly, they supported, at least implicitly, Roman rule.

Herein would be Jesus' "dilemma" - the trap the Pharisees thought they had so cleverly set up. If he answered "yes", he could be criticised for impiety - denying the sovereignty of God's holy nation and people. But if he answered "no", he could be arrested for sedition - inciting rebellion against Rome.

Jesus' brilliant response draws the distinction between State and Church: "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God" (Mt 22:21). At a time when both Roman and Jewish leaders equated spiritual with political authority, Jesus cut the Gordian knot linking the kingdoms of God and men.

This is a common theme throughout Jesus' ministry. From his parables to his miracles, and eventually at his trial before Pontius Pilate, Jesus' consistent message was that "[his] kingdom is not of this world" (Jn 18:36). Even while he was condemned by religious leaders and crucified by political ones, he remained the King of the Jews. In this regard, St Augustine of Hippo wrote that Jesus was "the only-begotten" and yet "he paid the reckoning (of his body), the tribute to Caesar".

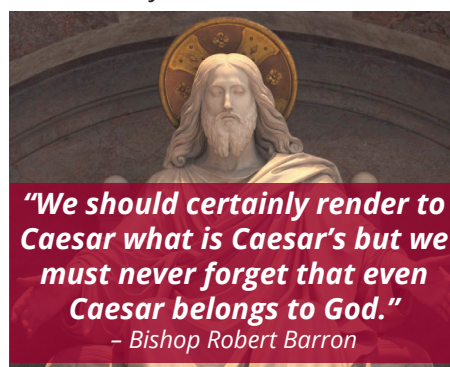
What does this distinction between Church and State mean for Christians? How does it implicate the way we carry out our daily work, how we deal with political authority, or even how we vote?

Theologians, politicians, and historians do not fully agree on answers to such complex questions. But we can converge on some principles.

*First, distinction is not mutual exclusion.*

As Bishop Robert Barron puts it, "Though there is a legitimate distinction between [the religious and political spheres], this can never turn into a separation. We should certainly render to Caesar what is Caesar's but we must never forget that even Caesar belongs to God."

St Paul affirms this (Rom 13:1): "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."



**"We should certainly render to Caesar what is Caesar's but we must never forget that even Caesar belongs to God."**

*- Bishop Robert Barron*

The second principle, then, is we should *generally* respect worldly authority.

CCC1900 states that we are required to "give due honour to authority and to treat those who are charged to exercise it with respect, and insofar as it is deserved, with gratitude and goodwill." In this regard, we consider these authorities "as representatives of God, who has made them stewards of his gifts." (CCC2238)

Accordingly, we are "morally [obliged] to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country." (CCC2240)

The third corollary principle is that worldly authority has limits, and is subject to divine authority and the natural law.

In other words, authorities must act for the common good (CCC1902), employ morally acceptable means (CCC1921), practice distributive justice with a view to harmony and peace (CCC2236), and respect the fundamental rights of the human person (CCC2237).

If authority is exercised illegitimately, Jesus' injunction to render to God what belongs to God takes precedence. We are therefore "obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons, or the teachings of the Gospel." (CCC2242) Or in Peter's words, "We must obey God rather than men." (Ac 5:29)

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, we pray for and with missionaries who are spreading the gospel in all parts of the world. Our Sunday gospel text is especially relevant for such brothers and sisters who have given their lives to build God's kingdom in alien lands which are sometimes ruled by hostile governments. May we all remember that the work we do is in service of the one true sovereign, Christ the King.

## 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)



## MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

All Mass collections from **21 - 22 Oct** will be set aside for the spread of the Gospel. The total amount collected will be placed at the disposal of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

## CATHOLIC NEWS DESKTOP CALENDAR 2024

The Catholic News Calendar 2024 is now available! The theme for 2024's calendar is "We Are Not Alone", inspired by Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality as we journey forward as one Church. Drop by the Parish Office to get a copy at **\$10**, while stocks last! Please bring the exact cash amount.

## INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 23 Oct  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

## 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

## ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY MASS SCHEDULE



### All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation):

#### Vigil Mass:

Tue 31 Oct: 6.30pm

#### Masses:

Wed 1 Nov: 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm



### All Souls' Day Masses:

Thu 2 Nov:

6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

*There will be blessings of niches after all Masses.*

## MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND - 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 support them as a loving and prayerful community.

Mass with Anointing

will be on **Sun 26 Nov**  
**from 2pm - 3.30pm.**

Confessions begin

from 1pm. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023](https://tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023) by Mon 20 Nov.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serve refreshments after Mass. Please register at [tinyurl.com/MFTS2023Volunteers](https://tinyurl.com/MFTS2023Volunteers) by Mon 13 Nov.



## 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)

## ST JEROME LIBRARY

*"...the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights...." (Jon 2:1)*

*"...everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear..." (1 Sam 17:47)*



Calling all parents of young children!! Now you can tell the stories of Jonah and the Whale & David and Goliath with these plushie-book combos now available for loan from St Jerome Library. Introduce your little ones to the characters in these narratives and most of all - let them know that God is always guiding and teaching us and He protects and gives strength to those who do his will! St Jerome Library is open **Sundays, 8am - 1pm.**





# World Mission Sunday



In 1926, Pope Pius XI instituted Mission Sunday for the whole Church with the first worldwide Mission Sunday collection taking place in October 1927.

Mission Sunday is always on the next to last Sunday during the month of October. It is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement. Throughout the world the faithful will reflect on the universal call to Mission of all the baptised. They are invited to be specifically conscious of the Church's missionary activity abroad through prayer, sacrifice and financial contributions.

The funds collected in all churches throughout the world on Mission Sunday is coordinated by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, founded by Pauline Jaricot under the umbrella of Pontifical Mission Societies. The funds are used to assist churches who need financial support and directed towards communities in need, both spiritually and materially.

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2023, reflects on the theme "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," based on

the story of the disciples who encounter Jesus on their way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35). He invites all of us to "set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity."

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalised.



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)



World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world. It is a special day in October when we remember that Jesus wants us all to be missionaries so that his love can reach everyone, everywhere..

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person sent out to deliver God's love to everyone. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on World Mission Sunday to \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ charity, help us all to be missionaries. Through our prayers and donations, we can make sure all \_\_\_\_\_ children have the things we need to stay \_\_\_\_\_ and healthy. Some of these things are listed below. Try to find them in the word search.

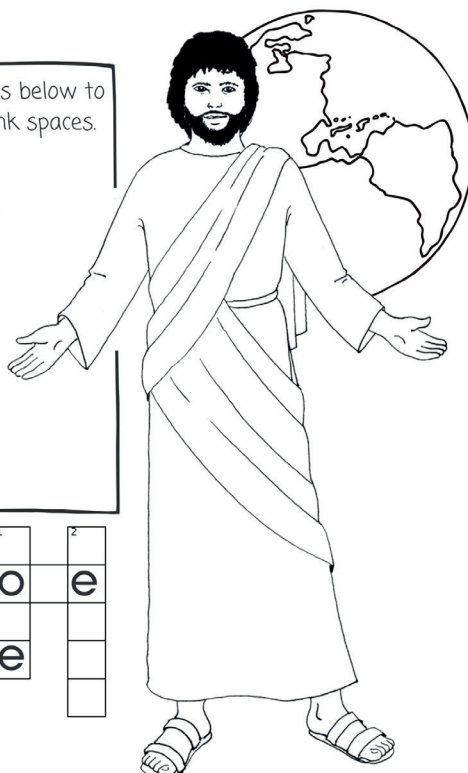
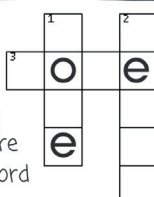
<b>Hope</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Justice</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>Faith</b>	<b>Dignity</b>	<b>Jobs</b>
<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Mercy</b>	<b>Friendship</b>	<b>Healthcare</b>

U F J M E R C Y R D I G N I T Y F R  
J I Z Z J E S U S M J U S T I C E S  
G L F A I T H E A L T H C A R E B Y  
L O V E C O M M U N I T Y J O B S C  
C O N I E D S R E D U C A T I O N I  
J T F R I E N D S H I P Y F H O P E

Use the words below to fill in the blank spaces.

Pope's  
missionary  
World  
God's  
prayers  
donations  
Missio  
happy

Complete the missing words. All are from the word search.



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