






**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

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## The Art of Leadership According to Our Lord

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
5 Nov 2023

Mal 1:14-2, 8-10  
1 Th 2:7-9, 13  
Mt 23:1-12

Leadership matters in all aspects of our lives. We want our country to be governed by competent leaders who will protect our interests and ensure peace and abundance. At work, we look for capable men and women to guide us in our careers. In the Church, we pray that God's favour will always fall on our spiritual leaders as they help us to understand the Lord's teachings and fulfil his will. But we also know there are examples of bad leadership everywhere. Indeed, many people lament the lack of global statesmen able to rise above their narrow national interest amid the violent conflicts now taking place.

What makes a good leader?

There are as many management books and university courses on the subject as there are good and bad leaders. Most experts say it is both a science and an art. It also tends to be influenced by the fads and fashions of the times.

In contrast, the readings today offer a timeless lesson on leadership that is unique and different. They upend the usual notions of what makes a good leader.

Our Lord's first lesson was about how the people should respond when they confront bad leaders: "You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say;



***"For leaders, there is only one road: service. There is no other way."***  
***(Pope Francis, 12 May 2014)***

but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach" (Mt 23:3-4).

His criticism was directed at the scribes and Pharisees who exercised authority on Mosaic Law, and his message was clear: Leaders must set an example by what they do and how they live, and followers should judge them accordingly.

It is not the law that is at fault but those who administer it. A good leader can make the best of a bad law but a bad leader will lead a people to ruin despite the best laws.

Leadership is hence as much about moral conduct as it is about knowledge and competence.

Jesus' second lesson makes this point even sharper: "The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted" (Mt: 23: 11-12).

Our Lord was the ultimate servant leader, the king who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and who had a special place in his heart for the poor and oppressed.

He contrasts this to the attitude of the Pharisees who act to attract attention to themselves, "wanting

to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogue."

These are simple and effective precepts that provide a uniquely Christian perspective on leadership. But there is one all-important prerequisite.

The relationship between leader and follower does not exist in a vacuum. They are part of a community that binds them together for a common purpose. As Christians, we are brothers and sisters, equal before God, bound together by our desire to understand his Word and to be transformed through the action and grace of the Holy Spirit. Within this community, some of us are called forth to step forward as leaders.

Baptism is the most important mark of our membership in the community, more important than the day some of us may have been ordained as priest or bishop. Without this sense of equality and community, the unique form of leadership that Jesus taught will not be workable.

As Pope Francis said in an address to seminarians in 2014: "For leaders, there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities, the ability to communicate, etc...but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather (people) together. Leadership must enter into service, but with a personal love for people" (Pope Francis, 12 May 2014).

These lessons are relevant to every one of us because we exercise leadership in many areas of our lives: at home as parents, in the workplace and in church as volunteers.

Are we like the Pharisees who do not practise what they preach and impose more burden on the people? Do we tend to judge others but not ourselves? As Christian leaders, we do best by living our lives according to God's words so that others may follow suit.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport)



## 2ND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH

There will be a second collection this week and all funds raised will go towards the general maintenance and operations of our church. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference "General Maintenance & Operations". Your generous donations are appreciated.

### INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 6 Nov  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 6 Nov 2023**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over by CPG Team. All are welcome!

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

### CENACLE SISTERS: WORKING WITH DREAMS

This is a stay-in retreat. This programme helps us with our dreams, to understand their symbolic language, listen to and experience them as a way in which the Divine can speak to us. Participants are to bring a significant dream to work on.

**Dates & Time:** 10-12 Nov (Fri check in with light dinner at 7pm, Check out Sun after lunch)  
**Venue:** La Salle House  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/CenacleSr-workingwdreams](http://tinyurl.com/CenacleSr-workingwdreams)



## 2023 PARISH CENSUS UPDATE

It has been many years since our last Parish Outreach when every SFX household was visited by a priest. As part of our 2023 SFX Feast Day celebrations, we will embark on a 12-month programme involving visits to as many SFX households as possible. To facilitate this, we are conducting a Census of all Parishioners during Mass this weekend.

The information gathered from this Census will serve to update our contact database and facilitate the visits of each household. Please fill up the Census form at [tinyurl.com/SFXCensus2023](http://tinyurl.com/SFXCensus2023) or scan the QR code. Alternatively, physical forms are also available and we kindly request that every parishioner aged 12 years and older take a few moments to fill out the form.



## 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 give support to them as a loving and prayerful community.

Mass with Anointing will be on **Sun 26 Nov from 2pm - 3.30pm**, Confessions from 1pm. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023](http://tinyurl.com/SFXMFTS2023) by Mon 20 Nov 2023.



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



## 2024 CATECHISM REGISTRATION

Scan the QR Code to complete the registration form on **myCatholicSG**, and upload your child's **Baptism Certificate**. Parents are expected to be present as catechists to journey along with their children. You can now register your child born between 2017 to 2019 for the K1, K2 and L1 Catechism sessions groups. **Registration opens on Wed 1 Nov 2023 and closes on Thu 30 Nov 2023**. 2024 Catechism sessions are held on Sundays, 3pm - 4.30pm. Scan the QR code to find out more information on how to register.



## HEALING SERVICE WITH SR. BRIEGE MCKENNA

Sr. Briege McKenna is an Irish-American Catholic Nun, who is internationally renowned for her powerful healing ministry. She is the author of the bestselling book "Miracles do Happen". She along with Fr. Pablo Escriva, have a ministry of intercession for priests for whom they regularly run retreats. Sr. Briege was the global rapporteur for an international retreat for priests at the Vatican.

Sr. Briege and Fr. Pablo will be conducting a healing rally at our parish. Love offerings will be collected. Parking is limited, strongly encourage to come by public transport. All are welcome and no registration is required.

**Date & Time:** Sat 18 Nov, 1pm - 4pm (Doors will open at 12pm)  
**Venue:** Main Church (Overflow to Auditorium)  
**Love Offering:** Paynow to UEN T08CC4033J  
**Livestream:** [youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier](https://youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier)

## PIETA SINGAPORE ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS 2023

We gather as families united in faith after the loss of our children and we turn our gaze to Christ for His comfort, hope and peace. Parents who wish to include their children's names for Mass and for further enquiries, please email us at [pietamass@gmail.com](mailto:pietamass@gmail.com).

**Date & Time:** Fri 10 Nov 2023, 8pm  
**Venue:** Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (OLPS)  
**Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/Pieta-MM2023>  
**Closing Date for registration:** 1 Nov 2023





## 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.

## ACMI: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR MIGRANTS

Registration for Jan - Jun 2024 courses are open! Pick up skills such as English, Caregiving, Basic Computer and Word, Microsoft Excel and Powerpoint, Crocheting and more! Courses are held at the Church of St Bernadette and Agape Village.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/3MiA94K](http://bit.ly/3MiA94K) or scan the QR code below for more details! Registration closes on 19 Nov. For any enquiries, please email [sd.acmi@catholic.org.sg](mailto:sd.acmi@catholic.org.sg) or call 6801 7444 (Mon - Fri).



## THE CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP (CDSG): UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS ON DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT

This Symposium presented by Father Terence Pereira will help participants to gain an insight into the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment. For more information, please contact 9817 4617 (Christina Lye)/ 8128 2004 (Jo-Anne Lee). All Ministry Members and Catholics, regardless of marital status, may attend.

**Dates:** (Part 1) Thu 9 Nov 2023 (Part 2) Thu 23 Nov 2023  
**Time:** 8pm - 10pm (via zoom)  
**Cost:** Free (Love offerings are welcome)  
**Register:** <http://bit.ly/3Llrn5c>



## RCIA & RCIY- Rite of Acceptance 2023



On Sunday 15th Oct, 29 inquirers from both RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation of Youths) took part in the Rite of Acceptance (ROA). This was held during the 9am Mass to enable the church community to take an active part in the celebration. The ROA marks the first milestone in the journey; the end of the period of inquiry (a time of searching for answers) and the start of a commitment to living out the Christian faith. Thereafter, they are known as "catechumens". In the months to come, they will go through another important Rite of Election that will further prepare them for their initiation into the Christian faith through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

*Continued on page 4*



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

### FOR THE POPE

We pray for the Holy Father.  
As he fulfills his mission, may he  
continue to accompany the flock  
entrusted to him, with the help  
of the Holy Spirit.

## IN THE MONTH OF OCT 2023

### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following  
couples:

1. Ashok Balakrishnan & Veronica Ann D/O Joseph Steven
2. Arnold Hu Hanquan & Chew Jia Ying, Jamie
3. Lionel Tan Junzer & Woo Mun Si Chloe
4. Ong Quan Sheng & Tan Hui Xin Elaine
5. Darren Augustine Tay Wei Kiat & Lim Xiuying Gwendoline

### CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families  
of the following who have returned  
to the Lord:

1. Simone Lim San Siang
2. Irene Adeline Wee
3. Teo Pek Yoong Amelia Amy
4. Lau Shak Jin Winifred
5. Pang Seow Huat Gregory
6. Prakash Padmanabhan
7. Ong Geng Neo Angela

### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Ezra Augustine Lim Junyu
2. Stef Arabella Lee Xin Yi
3. Ellarae Marie Wong
4. Ashlyn Zoey Khoo
5. Emma Choo Li Ting
6. Kang Xinyi Sarah
7. Goh Yichen Gabriel Bacud

At the same time, we also joyfully welcome 10 candidates who are already one with us by baptism, and who now wish to complete their Christian initiation through the sacrament of confirmation and Eucharist (for those baptised outside of the Catholic faith).

Let's keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in our prayers for an encounter with the Lord and a fulfilling spiritual journey.



"ROA is a significant step towards embracing the Catholic faith. I felt a deeper sense of belonging and a stronger commitment in this path towards spiritual growth and understanding of the Catholic faith."  
– **Marcus Yeong**

"The Rite of Acceptance feels like an important milestone in my journey with God. I'm thankful for the support I've received and to the service team in making the event a smooth and memorable one. I look forward to deepening my faith for the rest of this RCIA journey with the full confidence that I'll be given help and the necessary guidance." – **Cepheaus Chee**

"It's been long overdue but I'm glad that I answered the Lord's call to come home. At the rite, when Fr Ben signed the cross on my forehead, I felt a strong presence of God and I sensed a path being charted for me. I know not what I will encounter, but what I do know is that Christ will be with me every step of the way. What's more, I am welcomed by a gracious, caring community which endeavours for us to experience the fullness of Christ's love. With friends by my side, scripture in my hands and the Holy Spirit showing the way, I thus say, 'Here I am Lord, I shall answer your call...(you) restore my soul. (You) lead me in right paths for your name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' (Psalm 23:3-4)" – **Gregory Tan**

"I believe that ROA, as with every spiritual rite, is as important as it is sacred in this RCIA journey. One may even wonder what makes this rite so special. To me, it is knowing that our heavenly Father, and his son Jesus Christ have accepted us, despite our faults, into his house. We are now no longer 'guests' (or inquirers) but members of the family as catechumens."  
– **Tan Kai Peng**

"The RCIA journey has been providing me with knowledge of the Catholic teachings, and helping me understand the faith better. I also treasure the friendship with cohort mates as we learn and grow together in God's house. After the ROA, I feel that a greater commitment is required from us catechumens. How I see it is that the weekly sessions are occasions to help exercise our 'muscle memory' of opening ourselves to God's grace, in preparation for our eventual baptism." – **Tracy Wong**

"Never have I considered what it means to be spiritually immature until the ROA, after which I feel a sense of growing spiritual awareness and maturity. There is also a deeper sense of inner peace, and a connection with God that is especially humbling for me." – **Terence Teo**



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