



Disciples
Making Disciples



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On the Margins, Wanting to be Healed

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11 February 2024

Lev 13:1-2, 45-46
1 Cor 10:31-11:1
Mk 1:40-45

This Sunday's Gospel passage is a powerful reflection not just about the healing of a man afflicted with leprosy but more so the virtue of humility.

Leprosy was at that time considered a terrible disease that necessitated lepers "live alone" and "his dwelling shall be outside the camp" (Lev 13:46), far from the people. The leper's condition was most pitiful not just because he was unclean and a terrible sight to behold before man but he was also cut off from his community. Yet, in the midst of his despair, he mustered enough faith and humility to go up to Jesus, kneel before him and ask, "If you wish, you can make me clean" (Mk 1:40).

It is poignant to note that the leper did not demand 'Heal me!' Instead, there was a sense of shame, hesitancy and certainly humility that sounded very much like a 'If you want to, really want to, you could but I have no right to demand it. Why would anyone want anything to do with me anyway?' It sounds like something that would come from someone who has already experienced a life as an outcast with little to no hope and knows that his very request is subject to the other's good graces.

Yet, Jesus was so deeply moved with pity and compassion for the

leper that without hesitation, *"Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said, I do will it. Be made clean!"* (Mk 1:41). This was a powerful demonstration both of his desire and complete power to bring about the immediate physical healing of the disease.

That Jesus touched the leper was both shocking and absolutely prohibited by Mosaic Law for fear of being rendered unclean. However, that did not happen and instead it was Jesus who allowed his healing grace and purification to pass onto the leper. Conventions and laws did not stop Jesus from doing what he came to do. Jesus freed the leper from both physical and spiritual alienation because he approached Jesus with both faith and humility.

After healing him, Jesus commanded him to not tell anyone but go to the temple instead to present himself to the priests and offer up a thanksgiving to God who made it possible. By showing himself to the priests as required by the Law, he becomes the testimony and witness about Jesus to the priests. He becomes the evidence of Jesus working among the people and doing

something new that only God can do.

Jesus wants to do the same for us. His mercy overcomes every barrier. God does not distance himself from us. Instead, but puts Himself in direct contact with our disease and in that moment, takes from us our broken humanity and exchanges it with his healing divinity. But it requires something from us.

Pope Francis said that *"If we wish to be saved, we must choose the path of humility, and of humiliation. We must also learn the wisdom of placing ourselves on the margins so that the Lord will find us. The Lord will not find us at the centre of our self-assurance. No, there the Lord does not go! He will find us on the margins, in our sins, in our mistakes, in our need to be healed spiritually, in our need to be saved. It is there that the Lord will find us"* (Homily, 24 March 2014).

In union with World Day of the Sick, let us also remember that we too are called to be "imitators of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1) by uniting ourselves to God, by becoming instruments of his merciful love to reach out to others who are sick and marginalized. We all have in us the wonderful capacity to offer love to those within our spheres of work, school and community.

We have the opportunity to reach out to those in need just like Jesus did and even if our little actions may seem inconsequential, have faith that by cooperating with the grace of God, something good can happen. It could enkindle a new hope that may bring back the zest to live life again. And maybe, we get to participate and mirror, however dimly, the infinite love of God who also works through us if we allow him to.



*"Lord, if you will,
you can make me clean".*

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



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Parish Office operating hours:

Fri 9 Feb: 9.30am – 1pm

Sat 10 Feb - Mon 12 Feb: Closed

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS

Please note that the only Mass on **Mon 12 Feb (Lunar New Year)** will be at **9am**.

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

There will be no charismatic session on Mon 12 Feb.

INTERCESSORY

There will be no intercessory session on Mon 12 Feb. You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Come join us on **Tue 13 Feb, 8pm** at JPll Hall for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle

***“You crown the year
with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip
with abundance.”*** Psalm 65:11



Fr Benedict, Fr Edward and all staff would like to wish all our parishioners a joyous & blessed Lunar New Year!

LENT @ SFX

Lenten Fridays:

- Stations of the Cross: 8pm
- Mass: 8.30pm

Penitential Service @ SFX:

- Mon 18 March, 8pm

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wed 14 Feb: 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

There will be imposition of Ashes.

Fasting and abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday.



PARISH LENT RECOLLECTION

Come join us for our Parish Recollection as Deacon Sherman Kuek leads us through a reflection of the Sorrowful Mysteries and what this mystery says to us about our Catholic life.

Dates: 15 - 17 March
Venue: SFX Auditorium
Cost: \$50

Register:
<http://tinyurl.com/SFXPR2024>



JOURNEY ON EARLY PARENTING

The SFX Family Apostolate is running a four-session programme for expectant parents and parents with children of up to eight years of age where at least one parent is Catholic. Come and find out more from our sharings of how we grow in our faith with our families as we live out our baptism together in the face of daily challenges.

Dates: 18 Feb, 24 Mar, 21 Apr, 19 May (Sundays)
Time: 3pm - 4.30pm
Venue: JPll Hall
Register: tinyurl.com/JourneyOnEarlyParenting



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY CENTRE: PRAYER EXPERIENCE RETREAT #34

The theme **“The Three Ways of the Spiritual Life”** traces the whole spiritual journey through the Purgative, Illuminative and Unitive stages in relation to prayer. This aims to help participants understand their own journey in order to advance and grow in holiness. The retreat will be conducted by Juliana Koh & the CSC Retreat Team.

Dates & Time: 1 – 3 Mar, 8.30am – 6.30pm (Non-stay-in)
Retreat fee: \$150 (inclusive of 9% GST)
Register: <https://bit.ly/cscper34>



ANGELICO ART AWARD 2024

Calling aspiring and experienced artists to explore your faith by participating in Angelico Art Award 2024. Organised by Catholic Foundation, artists will reflect on the theme, **“The Greatest of These is Love”** (1 Cor 13:13). There are two categories: Youth (13-24 years) and Open (25 years and above). For more information and online submission, visit angelicoart.com. Closing date: **15 July 2024**.



Pope Francis' 2024 Lenten message

“Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God’s dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.”

“Through the desert God leads us to freedom” is the theme that Pope Francis uses in his Lenten message to encourage the faithful that the season is a journey from bondage to spiritual renewal and freedom.

“When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom,” the pope said.

The Holy Father went on to note that this process “is a demanding one” and that “it is not answered straight away. It has to mature as part of a journey.”

“We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more — in the words of the prophet Hosea — the place of our first love,” the pope observed.

Pope Francis also noted that this season cannot be looked at as an “abstract journey” but must, instead, be concrete and to be so, we have to “open our eyes to reality.” He reminds us of the cry of our oppressed brothers and sisters and encouraged the faithful to undertake an interior examination by asking: “Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us?”

The Lenten season is a “season of conversion, a time of freedom.” Like Jesus himself who was tempted in the desert, this time can be characterised by personal struggle as we suffer from similar temptations, but it is the recognition of this that calls us to “pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God...” On the three pillars of Lent – prayer, almsgiving and fasting – the pope noted that they are not unrelated acts but “a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.”

The pope ended his message by highlighting the communitarian aspects of Lent and how the decisions we make are “capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighbourhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation.”

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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
Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 1am
Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

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



5 Ways to Prepare for Lent

It's closer than you think it is!



Get Moving Physically

Being made of both body and soul, our body tends to influence the state of our soul.



Get Moving Mentally

Feed your mind. Using your mind more often can help you deepen your understanding of your faith.



Pray, Pray, Pray

*Form a habit of prayer.
(P.S. You don't have to be eloquent or to be in the mood for your prayer to be a good one)*



Get yourself to the Sacraments

Go to confession! Get closer to Jesus through the celebration of the Eucharist.



Start Noticing your Problem Areas

Consider the areas of your life that need to be revived. A good examination of conscience will help you see your Lenten goals more clearly.

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2017/02/10/5-ways-to-prepare-for-lent-its-closer-than-you-think/>