



Disciples
Making Disciples



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A sanctuary for life

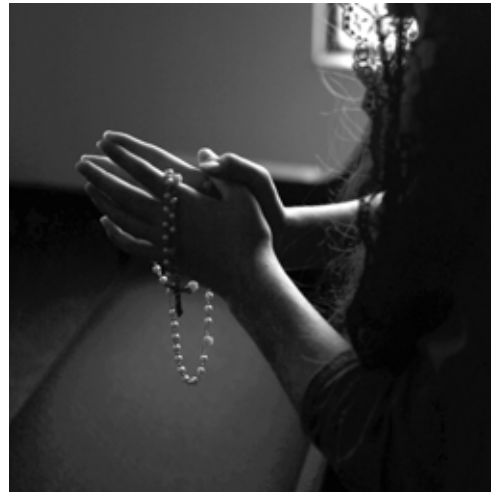
3rd Sunday of Lent
03 March 2024

Ex 20: 1-17
1 Cor 22-25
Jn 2: 13-25

Today's three readings taken together reveal the mysterious way God works for our salvation despite our own human nature getting in the way.

The first seems like a straightforward list of the commandments handed to Moses at Mount Sinai. Each of these is important but more critical than the commandments is the one who created them. God's love for Israel was so great he wanted the people to be free, not just from Egyptian slavery, but forever so that they can be a sacred community united in worship of him. The Mosaic laws were intended to help strengthen their relationship with God and guide their social and religious life. That was the plan.

By the time of our Lord in the Gospel reading it was clear the old covenant was not working. The temple had become a place of merchants and money changers, and the people running it were hypocrites concerned mainly about their own interests and status (cf Mk 7:6). Jesus was outraged and drove all of them out, "knock[ing] their tables over". "Take all of this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market" he said (Jn 2:15). When challenged over whose authority he was doing this, he replied enigmatically: "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." (Jn 2:19) Our Lord was referring to his body as the new temple and foretelling his crucifixion



"On this Lenten journey, let us be attentive to welcoming Christ's invitation to follow him... to abandon the old man who is in us and clothe ourselves in Christ, thus reaching Easter renewed and being able to say with St Paul 'it is no longer I who live but it is Christ who lives in me.'"

(Pope Benedict XVI, Mar 2011)

and resurrection. Jesus the crucified Christ is the new sanctuary, a place where we encounter God, replacing the old one that had been corrupted by sin (cf CCC 586).

But to achieve this encounter we have to get rid of our old ways centred on our selfish desires - what Jesus meant when he referred to the destruction of the old temple. This change can take place only deep in our hearts when we make Christ the centre of our life and through him create a sacred place to meet God and experience his love. It is not easy to make this transformation. God understands our limitations and the second reading explains the difficulty. "While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here we are preaching a crucified Christ... a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (1 Cor 1:22-25) It is not only Jews and Greeks who find this notion of a crucified saviour alien. Our very fallen nature is an obstacle. We are used to solving problems by looking at what is outside of us that needs fixing. Jesus is telling us the problem is ourselves and that we cannot be saved except through him.

That was the reason for the state of affairs Jesus found in the temple. And it persists today. It was not the Mosaic law that was the problem but the very nature of human beings and their self-centeredness that led to sinful ways. "What the Law could not do because of the weakness of human nature, God did, sending his own Son in the same human nature to be a sacrifice for sin... so that the Law's requirements might be fully satisfied as we direct our lives not by our natural inclinations but by the Spirit." (Rom 8:3-4)

At this midpoint in the season of Lent, let us refocus our attention on the temple that Jesus has created in us so that we may be as close to God as is humanly possible. Pope Benedict XVI put it wonderfully in a homily in 2011:

"On this Lenten journey, let us be attentive to welcoming Christ's invitation to follow him more decisively and coherently, renewing the grace and commitment of our Baptism, so as to abandon the old man who is in us and clothe ourselves in Christ, thus reaching Easter renewed and being able to say with St Paul 'it is no longer I who live but it is Christ who lives in me.'"

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

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come join us every Lenten **Wednesday at 7.15pm**. Meet outside the Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse. All are welcome.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Wardens will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPIL Hall. Do drop by for the fellowship and try the delectable food selection prepared.

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 'Maintenance'. Please give generously.

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 4 Mar
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 4 Mar**. There will be praise & worship followed by praying over. All are welcome!

Venue: SFX Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

LENTEN VIGIL

The SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry is organising a 9-hour Lenten Vigil with a closing Mass at 6.30am. Come and prepare our hearts as we enter Holy Week. All are welcome! Sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXLentenVigil2024

Dates & Time: Fri 22 Mar,
9pm to Sat 23 Mar, 6am
Venue: JPIL Hall



SERANGOON DISTRICT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

**13
MAR
WED**

Church of
St Vincent de Paul

**19
MAR
TUE**

Church of the Nativity of
the Blessed Virgin Mary

**14
MAR
THU**

Church of the
Transfiguration

**20
MAR
WED**

St Anne's Church

**18
MAR
MON**

Church of
St Francis Xavier

**21
MAR
THU**

Church of The Immaculate
Heart of Mary

PARISH LENT RECOLLECTION

Come join us on **15 - 17 March** as Deacon Sherman Kuek leads us through a reflection of the Sorrowful Mysteries and what this mystery says to us about our Catholic life. Come visit our booth outside JPIL Hall after Mass to find out more. Registration will be extended to **Sun 3 Mar**.

Venue: Auditorium

Cost: \$50

Register:

<http://tinyurl.com/SFXPR2024>



STUCK IN THE DESERT? JOURNEY WITH JESUS AND COMMUNITY THIS LENT

Join the 1Cor12 communities LOG (Leaven of God), IOS (In One Spirit) and FOCUS (Followers of Christ, United Spiritually) as we move from desert to mount Calvary. Pick up a paper and hang your responses to the prompts on the desert mural outside the canteen. Little ones are invited to colour and put up their own responses too! Let us journey together and also pray for each other especially during this season of Lent.



LA SALLE HOUSE: TALK ON EASTER VIGIL

Br Collin Wee FSC invites you to a talk on the Easter Vigil, the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities" as the Church keeps watch and celebrates the resurrection of Christ on this very night. This talk is highly recommended for neophytes, those thinking of attending the Easter Vigil Mass, as well as parishioners as part of their faith formation. Register early, limited seats! For more info/to register, scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/6CQG2jPkHdDZg9768>

Date & Time: Fri 22 March 2024, 8pm - 10pm
Venue: La Salle House (490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058)
Love Offering: \$10 per student; \$20 per adult



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME) WEEKEND FOR Q2 2024

"Listen, Connect and Renew your Marriage at the ME Weekend!"

Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled for 5 - 7 Apr, 31 May - 2 Jun, and 2 - 4 Aug by contacting Reenie at 9676 7889 or email at mewkend@gmail.com or scan the QR code to book your weekend with your spouse.



AN IGNATIAN RETREAT

An individually guided silent retreat with daily spiritual direction, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Set on a small island, away from the busyness of city life. Come as you are to encounter the Lord. For enquiries, email Jacinta Teo or Sister Cecily at anchoredinchristsg@gmail.com

Dates: 29 Aug - 6 Sep 2024 (7-day Retreat) /
31 Aug - 6 Sep 2024 (5-day Retreat)
(include travelling time)
Venue: Xavier House (Cheung Chau island, Hong Kong)
Register: tinyurl.com/XH2024



PICK OF THE WEEK

**Liturgical Living | Catholic All Year at Home****with Kendra Tierney**

Join the Tierney family as they celebrate the feast of Saint Frances of Rome, patroness of homemaking! Learn about practising the corporal works of mercy in the home, the very Catholic Lenten history of pretzels and beer, and watch Kendra and three-year-old Barbara make something they like to call “trash can soup.”

Find this episode's feature recipes and more about liturgical living in the home at Catholic All Year. <https://catholicallyear.com/at-home/>.

WATCH: <https://watch.formed.org/videos/st-frances-of-rome-catholic-all-year-at-home-w-kendra-tierney>

**The Faithful Departed | Eternal Rest | Episode 4**

What is left for the living to do after someone dies? In this session, we talk about the final ways in which those still living on earth care for the body and soul of the dead. We discuss the work that remains for the living to do as we grieve for the deceased and as we turn to the work of preparing for our own death, and the hope in which we live and die as Christians.

WATCH: <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-faithful-departed-eternal-rest-episode-4>

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR THE
MONTH OF MARCH****FOR THE
NEW MARTYRS**

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

IN THE MONTH OF FEB 2024**WEDDINGS**

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Chin Jun Jie, Bernard & Wong Hui Min, Judith

CONDOLENCES

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

1. John Baptist Lim Kia How
2. Josephine Rankine Ng Siew Tiang
3. Low Cheng Kim Leonard

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Mah Yu Cheng Jonas
2. Lian Yu Cheng Jonas
3. Thang Wen, Raphael
4. Elijah Gabriel Cheng Xing Rui
5. Gabriel Moy Rui Feng
6. Ignatius Noel Peeris
7. George Peter Soh Rui Xiang



Death, Where is Your Sting? | Fearless | Episode 4 with Sarah Kirchner

Despite our attempts to cheat it, we all must face death eventually. Listen as Chris shares the powerful story of Sarah Kirchner and her courageous battle against pediatric bone cancer. Who can bring us victory in the face of such significant trials? Find out in this lesson.

WATCH: <https://watch.formed.org/videos/death-where-is-your-sting-w-sarah-kirchner-fearless-episode-4>



Jesus at the Temple Word-Find



DROVES OCT F
HEVTEPXOTA
MZEALIEIET
FORTY LNNMH
OUTABLESPE
PSULEEHLR
THREEDOVES
MONEYIUSIX
SWEJEWSTOP
BODSHEEPDY

Find all the words in CAPITALS and then use the letters that are left over to fill in the blanks at the end.

Jesus made a whip out of cords and DROVE them all out of the TEMPLE area, with the SHEEP and the OXEN, and SPILLED the COINS of the MONEY-changers and OVERTURNED their TABLES, and to those who sold DOVES he said, "Take these OUT of here, and STOP making my FATHER'S house a market place." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, ZEAL for your HOUSE will consume me. The JEWS said to Him, "What sign can you SHOW us for doing this?" Jesus answered them and said, "Destroy this temple, and in THREE days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for FORTY - SIX years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of _____ of _____.



Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8.30pm

Stations of the Cross at 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