



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Rejoice in the Lord! His love has no end

4th Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday
10 Mar 2024

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21

Rejoice brothers and sisters! The salvation of the Lord is near and is in fact, here. On this fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday*, we are called to look up as we muddle through our Lenten observances to recall the purpose of our prayer, fasting and almsgiving - to prepare ourselves for Easter. That is, to ready ourselves for the ultimate gift of redemption that we have already freely received through Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. The Church signals us to this rejoicing through the change in liturgical colour from purple to rose. Similarly, the mass readings transition from its call to repentance and transformation to the key message of God's love for us.

Laetare Sunday takes place 21 days before Easter, the midpoint of the Lenten journey. This also gives us the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate our walk through the proverbial desert. As we do so, to rest and drink from the oasis of God's love for us, a well that will never run dry. The Lord continues to refresh us through scripture, through verses from Jesus' dialogue with Nicodemus about being born again in the Spirit (cf Jn 3:5) which are arguably the most well-known. Though we may have heard these words countless times, they are

spoken anew to our hearts this Sunday. Jesus reminds us that he came into this world because of his father's immense love for us. That the purpose of his coming is to save us and not condemn us, "...God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son..." (Jn 3:16). Jesus consoles and quenches us with his message of love as we continue in this season of sacrifice and purification, helping us to remember why we chose our Lenten observances in the first place.

However the first three weeks of our Lenten journeys have passed, we are strengthened through the Word to continue our efforts and observances. This is not to earn any merit or salvation as that has been freely given to us, as Paul reminds the Ephesians, "...it is by grace that you have been saved; through faith, not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God..." (Eph 2:8). We should now humbly allow our Creator to continue to mould and



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shape us through focused prayer and detachment from worldly desires. Therefore, even if we feel we have failed, Jesus shows us that we cannot earn what he has already generously given to us. Instead, because we have been saved by grace, this should fill us with joy and anticipation to continue walking in faith to the promise of Easter.

We are often told to strive for achievements, to work for success. Yet, Jesus' message goes against everything we know - that without any work on our part, we have been given our salvation. We are so deeply loved by our heavenly Father that all he asks of us is faith in our redemption through Christ's death and resurrection. This mystery of grace can be illusive. While we may still be tempted to strive for success in our spiritual lives by fasting more, taking on more observances in order to feel closer to our Lord, we should also remember that God loves us and chooses to save us, hoping that we might also choose him in all that we do so that his love in us blossoms into good works that bless those around us.

Let us therefore, reflect more deeply on the gift of the cross; of the grace of the salvation we are about to receive anew this Easter and the depth of God's love for us that he would send his only Son, so that we may believe in him and have eternal life. Brothers and sisters, may we recognise the love that the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God (1 Jn 3:1) and that he continues to wait for us to choose him and love him through our works in this world. May we be blessed in this journey and grow deeper in love with the one who loves us, on this walk toward the cross of Christ.

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

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Infant Baptism Minstry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPll Hall. Do drop by for the fellowship.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 11 Mar**. There will be praise & worship followed by a talk on 'Leaven for the Dough' by Michelle Voo. Individual praying over available after the session upon special request. All are welcome!

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

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 11 Mar, 8pm - 9.30pm** at **Mount Tabor Adoration Rm.**

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

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

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

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: JPll Hall



PLACING OUR MEN OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDER THE CARE OF ST JOSEPH

Please write the names of your husbands, fathers, spiritual fathers in the book provided in Church, in front of Mother Mary's stained glass icon. On **Tue 19 Mar**, a prayer of consecration will be said for them at all Masses.

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

JOURNEY WITH JESUS AND COMMUNITY THIS LENT

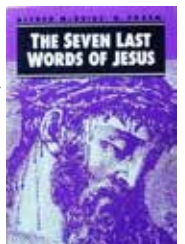
Need some extra strength? Join the 1Cor12 communities LOG, IOS and FOCUS as we head to Calvary with Jesus. Pick up a piece of paper and hang your responses to the prompts on the desert mural outside the JPll Hall. Little ones are invited to colour and put up their own responses too!



Youth, young adults and young families are also invited to participate in praying the Stations of the Cross with us on **Sun 24 Mar** at the **SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)** from **10.30am - 12.30pm**.

EXCERPTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM FR ALFRED MCBRIDE'S "THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS"

Reflecting on Jesus' first word from the cross, Fr McBride says, *"The evidence for the real temptation [Jesus] faced is found in his first word: 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do' ...Jesus does not experience the temptation to save himself... If he is experiencing any temptation at all, it is the urge to give up trying to save others. The temptation he feels is the temptation to refuse forgiveness."* - p12, The Last Temptation



St Jerome Library has taken excerpts of Fr McBride's reflection on Jesus' words from the cross and arranged them in a display with pictures of the locations, relics and artwork referred to in the book. The display will be up until the Easter Triduum. The Library is open **Sundays, 8am - 1pm**.

CATECHETICAL: THE CATHOLIC FAMILY (SESSION 2)

The second session will be held on **Sun 24 Mar** from **3pm to 4.30pm** at the **JPll Hall**. Come and listen to shared experiences on raising our families in the faith in the face of the daily challenges.

CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE LENTEN EVENING 2024

Catholic Junior College (CJC) invites all Catholic youth aged 15 to 18 to participate in Lenten Evening 2024! Held in collaboration with the Office for Young People (OYP), this event aims to create an opportunity for participants to forge bonds across different schools and encounter Christ more deeply in this Lenten season.

Consent from parents/guardians is required via a downloadable form at the registration link, and is to be submitted on arrival at CJC.

Date: Fri 22 Mar
Time: 5.30pm - 9pm (includes dinner and tour of CJC campus)
Venue: CJC Auditorium
Attire: School-based T-shirt with school pants/skirt/pinafore
Fee: Free of charge
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/cjclentenevening>

NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2024

What makes a parish truly welcoming? How do we play our part to extend warmth and welcome to friends and strangers alike, so that they feel welcomed and belonged when they come to our parish? Join us at this year's New Wine Parish Conference as we explore how we can unlock heartfelt hospitality and be the welcome for others!

Dates & Time: Fri 12 Apr, 7.30pm - 9.30pm & Sat 13 Apr, 9.30am - 4pm
Venue: 618 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, S678214 (SFX Seminary Building)
Fee: S\$28 (Individual)/ S\$88 (Group of 4) (inclusive of GST and lunch)
Register: bit.ly/newwine2024

10 Tips for Making the Lenten Season More Meaningful

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Here are some ways you can make this season more meaningful:



1 Slow down – Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalise your body and your spirit.



2 Read a good book – You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, or an inspirational book. *Head to St Jerome Library and pick up a book or two – the Library is open on Sundays, 8am - 1pm.*



3 Be kind – Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Go out of your way to do something nice for someone everyday.



4 Apologise – Lent is a season of repentance. It is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt.



5 Volunteer – Whether it's cleaning the church, helping with Sunday canteen, or providing logistics support for parish events, it will give you a chance to help others. *Head to our parish office and leave your name if you'd like to volunteer!*



6 Reach out – Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you for Stations of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Mass anytime during Lent.



7 Pray – Especially for those in need. *Our Intercessory Prayer Ministry organises a prayer session every Monday, 8pm – 9.30pm at Mount Tabor Adoration Room – you're welcome to join in!*



8 Tune out – Turn off the television, put your mobile devices away and spend quality time catching up with family members or friends.




9 Get involved – Participate in a Lenten activity. *Journey with our communities this Lent - pick up a piece of paper and hang your responses to the prompts on the desert mural outside the JPII Hall.*



10 Donate – Pick a Catholic mission and decide how you can help by sending money, clothing or supplies.

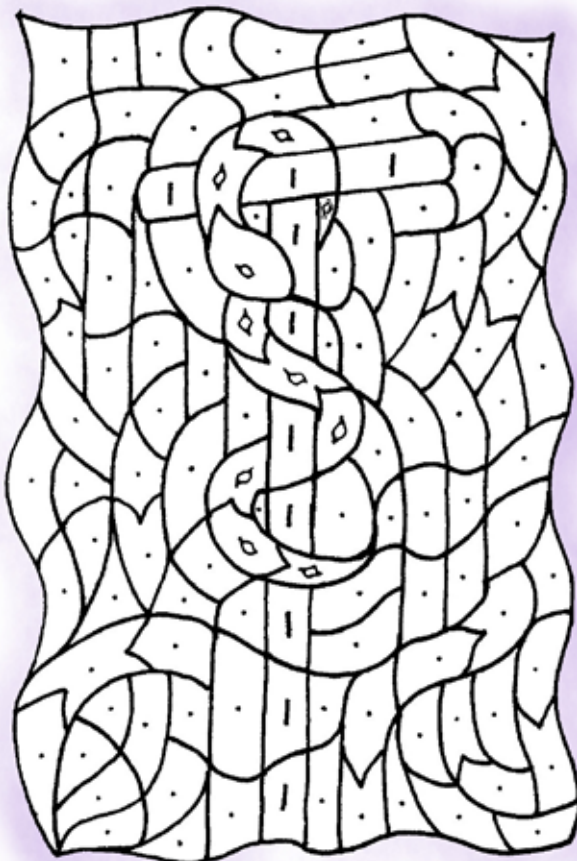


Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



In Laudate Deum, Pope Francis reminds us that “Everything is connected.” During Lent, we reflect not only upon our own life and journey but also our interconnectedness with the world and the people in it. Pope Francis goes on to say, “No one is saved alone.”

Weekly Reflection for March 10, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent



*Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could go to Heaven.
When God's people in the desert were bitten by snakes, Moses held up something he made from bronze that the people could look at and live.
What was it? Use the colour code to find out!*

• blue | brown ◊ green

Source: The Kids' Bulletin

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

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