



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Living in the “Hour” of Christ

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
17 Mar 2024

Jer 31: 31-34  
Hebr 5: 7-9  
Jn 12: 20-33

As we move closer towards Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, this Sunday's readings give us the impetus to make a strong finish through Lent, and convict us in our commitment to live as an Easter people.

In the Gospel, Jesus says that “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (Jn 12:23). In this one all-in-all statement, he declares his mission and purpose – his Passion, Death and Resurrection – which he fulfilled through obedience, humility and love, so that we may obtain the grace to overcome sin and evil, and have hope of eternal life with him and the Father. By laying down his life, Jesus robs Satan of power and casts him out. The crucifixion of Christ is therefore both a sacrifice for, and an exorcism of, the world. His Cross, with him as the Temple of God, is the source of salvation for all mankind (cf Jn 12: 31-32).

As CCC 1085 says, “The Paschal mystery of Christ... cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is – all that he did and suffered for all men – participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection *abides* and draws everything toward life.”

By telling us that his hour has come, and the suffering it entails, Jesus invites us to daily live in this hour of



*“When a man  
serves me,  
wherever I am,  
my servant will  
be there too.”  
(Jn 12:26)*

his Paschal Mystery too. To embrace life on our cross, through selfless, others-centric love; through death to ourselves, our pride and ego, comfort and pleasure – a life-giving death that perseveringly rejects evil, so as to bring glory to the Father and so that on the last day, we may be resurrected too. For those reasons, Jesus tells us not to cling to our own lives, for that is when we will lose it (cf Jn 12: 25).

This is what we are called to do every day, till we draw our last breath, not just during Lent. In his hour, we are each empowered by the cross, the ultimate symbol of love and humility, the ultimate power over evil.

Jesus is always direct in his call to living this hour with him. He says, “When a man serves me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too” (Jn 12:26) and “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mt 16: 24).

To live in the Lord's hour is also to be an Eucharistic people. As Jesus died on the cross to become bread to feed us in the Eucharist, we are reminded – especially at every Mass – to be grain, crushed, broken and baked into bread to feed hearts and souls. When we receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we too will be equipped to die to self and to give life to others.

Christ's hour has overcome the devil. As Catholics, we are the Lord's instruments. Through the sacraments, we experience the supernatural graces, love and mercy of Jesus and this enables us to overcome evil every day.

In receiving his body, blood, soul and divinity, just as Jesus was “made perfect” (Hebr 5: 9), ordained as the eternal High Priest at his hour, we too are set apart to be holy like him, consecrated and perfected through an interior covenant of love that he established with us, to know and do his will, cooperating with him for our own salvation.

Christ's covenant with us is the sacred family bond between the eternal bridegroom and his bride (Jer 31: 31-34). Like in a marriage, we are to be faithful to him, to keep the covenant with him by way of seeking his forgiveness in true repentance through the sacrament of reconciliation every time we find ourselves living outside his hour.

The Lord poured out his life for the forgiveness of our sins. Like the prodigal father, he waits patiently for penitent sinners to encounter him in the sacraments; to be like King David in asking for “a pure heart”, “a steadfast spirit”, so that even as sinners, we may always return to him (Ps 51: 10-12).

## 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)

### GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme. Please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection boxes. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg) to contribute online or find out more.

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Catechetical Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPIL Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

### OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come join us every **Lenten Wednesday** at **7.15pm** and meet us 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 your hearts as we enter Holy Week. All are welcome! Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/SFXLentenVigil2024>

**Dates & Time:** Fri 22 Mar, 9pm to Sat 23 Mar, 6am

**Venue:** JPIL Hall



### JOURNEY WITH JESUS AND COMMUNITY ON PALM SUNDAY

Youth, young adults and young families are invited to participate in praying the Stations of the Cross with the 1Cor12 communities on **Sun 24 Mar, 11am - 12pm** at **Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. To find out more look for us at the mural outside the canteen on Sunday morning (17 Mar)!

## Holy Week Schedule



**Maundy Thu 28 Mar**  
7.30pm  
*Altar of Repose until 12am*



**Good Fri 29 Mar**  
9am, 12pm, 3pm



**Easter Vigil 30 Mar**  
7pm



**Easter Sunday 31 Mar**  
7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm  
*There will be fellowship at JPIL Hall after Morning Masses.*

### SERANGOON DISTRICT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

**Mon 18 Mar, 8pm: Church of St Francis Xavier**

**Tue 19 Mar, 8pm: Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Wed 20 Mar, 8.15pm: St Anne's Church**

**Thu 21 Mar, 8pm: Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary**

### SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

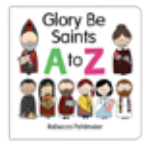
Please write the names of your husbands, fathers and spiritual fathers in the book provided in Church, in front of Mother Mary's stained glass icon. On **Tue 19 Mar**, a prayer of consecration will be said for them at both Masses.

### PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONS

Palm Sunday processions will take place before all Masses. There will be outdoor processions for the **5.30pm Masses** on **Sat 23 Mar** and **Sun 24 Mar** subject to weather conditions. Palms will be available outside JPIL Hall and the Main Church Foyer.

### ST JEROME LIBRARY: CHILDREN'S BOARD BOOKS (NEW ARRIVALS)

This Tue 19 Mar, is the Solemnity of St Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Introduce your child to St Joseph's obedience and faithfulness to God. Find out how he always protected and cared for the Holy Family. The Saints are our friends in heaven and they are always praying for us to love God and grow in holiness. St Jerome Library has a new board book which includes 21st century Saints like St Gianna Beretta Molla, Pope St John Paul II, St Oscar Romero and St Zelig Martin. These books are now available for loan. **St Jerome Library is open Sundays 8am - 1pm.**



### CATECHETICAL: SESSION 2 - THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

The second session will be held on **Sun 24 Mar** from **3.00pm to 4.30pm** at the **JPIL Hall**. Come and listen to shared experiences on raising our families in the faith in the face of the daily challenges.

### CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY LUNCHTIME TALK: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Join Rev Fr David Garcia as he introduces the Church's social teachings and helps us understand our own dignity as human individuals made in the image of God.

**Dates:** 18 & 25 Mar, 1 & 8 April 2024 (Mondays)

**Time:** 12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Venue:** Cecil Building, 137 Cecil Street, #04-01, Singapore 069537

**Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/CSTWhatMattersMost>



### REGISTRATION AT LITTLE SHEPHERDS' SCHOOLHOUSE

Join us for a joyful preschool journey filled with learning and fun activities for your little ones. Share this opportunity with families who may be interested in enrolling their children at Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse.

Enrolment is open for 18 months to 6 years old. For more information and registration details, please visit the website at <https://littleshepherdsschoolhouse.edu.sg> or contact the school at **6011 1076** or **9092 8732**.



## ACTS SINGAPORE: JUNE & JULY MISSION TRIPS

ACTS Singapore, which stands for A Call To Share, is a Catholic lay mission group that reaches out to the poor and marginalised in countries in the region such as Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam and Laos. Every year, ACTS organises week-long mission trips to these countries, in collaboration with Catholic churches and religious congregations there. We invite volunteers to join us on these mission trips, where you can share your talents and resources in various initiatives in health, education and general works. This June and early July, ACTS will run 4 mission trips to Kampot, Battambang, Laos and Vietnam. Online registration for the mission trips opened on 2 March 2024 and will close on 24 March 2024. It is compulsory to attend the Mission Awareness session before your mission participation is confirmed. For more details, please visit [acts-singapore.com](https://acts-singapore.com). Come visit our booth outside JPPI Hall and Foyer after Mass to find out more.



## *Ways in which St. Joseph was a wonderful husband to Mary*

### Patience Personified

Imagine living with someone as virtuous as Mary. It must have taken an incredible amount of patience to follow God's plan, and to support his wife through their trials and tribulations.

### Master of discretion

Despite the miraculous circumstances of Jesus' conception, he kept Mary's secret safe, showing incredible respect for her and her divine calling.

### Provider and protector

As the head of the Holy Family, he diligently provided for Mary's physical and emotional needs. He worked tirelessly to ensure their safety, sustenance and comfort, embodying the virtues of responsibility and selflessness.

### A paragon of humility and obedience

He humbly accepted God's will and obediently followed his guidance, even when it meant facing challenges and uncertainties. His humility allowed him to support Mary in her unique calling without seeking recognition or glory for himself.

### Expert travel companion

Whether it was the journey to Bethlehem for the census or the flight into Egypt to escape Herod's wrath, the Holy Family was in safe hands. St. Joseph probably had a good sense of direction, too — no GPS needed when he was at the wheel... or leading the donkey!

### Teacher and role model

He served as a loving teacher and role model for Mary, guiding her in faith and virtue by his own example. His steadfast devotion to God and commitment to righteousness undoubtedly influenced Mary's own spiritual growth and character development.

### Faithful guardian

He faithfully protected and cared for Mary, recognising her purity and divine role as the Mother of God. His unwavering commitment to her well-being reflects the utmost respect and honor he held for her.



*May these qualities of St. Joseph inspire you in your marriage and relationships!*

# L4 Bible Presentation

On 18 Feb, our L4 children received their first Youth Bible from Fr Edward. This marks a new chapter in their Catholic faith formation journey. The Bible will be an integral part of the children's weekly catechism sessions and reflections.



I felt so happy to have my own youth Bible and can't wait to read more about God and Jesus. - **Kayden**

Receiving my Bible felt like a new chapter of my Catholic journey. I am very proud to be a Catholic. I will treasure and respect the Bible forever. - **Dana**

I love the stories in the Old Testament especially Genesis and Exodus as it's full of dramatic scenes. - **Lucas**

My Bible will help me understand catechism lessons better as I can read up on the things I don't fully understand. - **Léa**

The Bible is the greatest book ever written. I hope it will help me with my faith in the near and far future. Amen. - **Elizabeth**

I like to read the stories as it is very entertaining with a bunch of touching moments of joy. - **Jerome**



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