



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## “Hosanna! ... Not I, Surely?”

Palm Sunday of the  
Passion of the Lord  
24 Mar 2024

**Mk 11:1-10**  
**Is 50:4-7**  
**Phil 2:6-11**  
**Mk 14:1-15:47**

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week with a celebration that seems to be of two extremes. We begin Mass with the waving of palm leaves - a joyful welcome to Jesus who enters Jerusalem. A few moments later, the tone drastically changes and the mood swings to sombre in the Passion Narrative, where our rejoicing turns into doubt, betrayal, and condemnation. It would be tempting to remain in a state of joyful welcome of the Lord rather than take up the anger in the mass protest at his trial which makes us feel complicit in the Lord's crucifixion. But we have to remember that it is often the same lips that both praise and condemn. It is better to understand this contrasting and paradoxical behaviour than to avoid it so that we may enter and have a meaningful Holy Week.

We are called not just to be bystanders in Christ's death and resurrection, but to be involved in it - so much so that the Church invites us to participate in the story intimately through waving palm leaves at the beginning of Mass and in playing the part of the condemning crowd or the passive apostles in the Passion narrative.



*“But the great ‘yes’ of the decisive moment in our life – the ‘yes’ to the truth that the Lord puts before us – must then be won afresh every day in the situations of daily life when we have to abandon our ‘I’ over and over again, placing ourselves at the Lord’s disposal when deep down we would prefer to cling to our ‘I’.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, 5 April 2009)*

This draws us into the drama and makes us reflect on our own lives. Praising “Hosanna!” (Mk 11:9), doubting with the question “...not I, surely?” (Mk 14:19) and condemning “Crucify him!” (Mk 15:13) are also, sadly, part and parcel of our lives. We praise the Lord when we obey his commandments and do his will. We crucify him when we sin. We question our involvement with him when difficulties arise. The events of Holy Week, coming after 40 days of prayer, fasting and abstinence, remind us of how challenging it is to not cling to our own selfish ways of living. The praise of “Hosanna!” should stay on our lips in our imitation of Christ in our own day to day challenges.

Pope Benedict XVI reiterated this in his Palm Sunday Homily: “But the great ‘yes’ of the decisive moment in our life – the ‘yes’ to the truth that the Lord puts before us – must then be won afresh every day in the situations of daily life when we have to abandon our ‘I’ over and over again, placing ourselves at the Lord’s disposal when deep down we would prefer to cling to our ‘I’.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, 5 April 2009)

Entering Holy Week also calls us to focus not only on the suffering of

Christ, but to wait in anticipation of the resurrection. Jesus is the highest role model for suffering and helps us to understand our own suffering in the light of his victory that is to come from the resurrection. The first reading from Isaiah foretells the passion of Jesus and the manner in which he accepted his suffering: “For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away” (Is 50:5). St. Paul continues on Christ’s attitude towards his passion: “[He] emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names.” (Phil 2:7-9) St Paul highlights Christ’s humility in suffering and invites us to share in his redemptive suffering. We are encouraged to imitate Christ by carrying our crosses humbly, without complaining, in union with Christ’s suffering for the salvation of the world.

May this Holy Week be one where we can bring our challenges and sin to the Lord in confidence that He can transform us to be more like him and that we can choose him every day.

## 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)

### CLOSURE OF ADORATION ROOM

The adoration room will be closed on **Holy Thursday at 8.30pm** and reopen on **Easter Sunday 7am**.



### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The 1Cor12 Community will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

### 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)**.

### CATECHETICAL: SESSION 2 - THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

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

### COLLECTION PRO TERRA SANCTA (FOR THE HOLY LAND)

The collection will be made at all Masses celebrated on Holy Thursday. Please donate generously.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for **Wed 27 Mar, 7.30pm - 9.30pm**.

### GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY

Join us for a powerful Good Friday Passion Play led by our Altar Servers on **29 March 2024, 8pm** at the **Auditorium**. Experience the moving reenactment of the final hours of Jesus' life. All are welcome!

## PRAY FOR OUR RCIA AND RCIY ELECT AND CONFIRMANDS

Our RCIA and RCIY Elect and Confirmands are inching closer to the Sacrament of Baptism. We continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord as they journey towards Baptism this Easter!

## 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 JPII Hall after Morning Masses.*

\*Login to the wifi network (sfx-guest) and livestream at <http://stream.sfxchurch.sg/>

### ETERNAL REST: THE ART OF DYING WELL

Death is the end, but it is not *the* end. Join the LiFE Ministry as they screen a series "Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well" which examines the origin of death, the afterlife, and the powerful reality around the sacrament that ushers us into eternal life. There will also be a session on "Mary and the Saints" which answers the question to why we ask Mary and the Saints to pray for us.

**Dates:** 5, 12, 19, 26 Apr; 3 May (Fridays)  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** JPII Hall  
**Register:** Contact Brian (9789 2253) / Monica (9669 6781)

### PIETA SINGAPORE

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The monthly session, run by bereaved parents, is for prayer, reflection and the breaking open of the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to journey together in faith. Our next session on **Tue 26 March 2024, 7.30pm - 9.15pm on Zoom**. For more information, visit [www.PietaSingapore.org](http://www.PietaSingapore.org) or email [pieta.singapore@gmail.com](mailto:pieta.singapore@gmail.com).

### 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:** 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>



### ICPE: PASTORAL CARE COURSE

Are you currently a Ministry/Community Leader or active member that yearns to be empowered to journey with others in their woundedness and in the area of inner healing? This Course is designed to help you develop an understanding of pastoral care and its effective use for building up the Body of Christ. Imagine the difference you could make in your Church by being a more effective 'carer' of others. The Pastoral Care Course is a 6-day stay-in programme where participants will have the space to explore inner work for themselves, encounter Christ the wounded Healer and be empowered to pass it on to others.

**Dates & Time:** Tue 6 Aug, 8am - Sun 11 Aug, 7pm  
**Venue:** LaSalle House (490 E Coast Rd, Singapore 429058)  
**Register:** <http://bit.ly/pcc2024>



# 12 Meaningful Ways to Honour Holy Week



## 1. Pray the Scriptures

If you only do one thing this Holy Week, read the Mass readings every day and spend time praying with them. You might light a candle and play sacred music to raise your mind to God, and perhaps talk with your family about what you've read.



## 2. Pray the Divine Office

The Liturgy of the Hours is the public worship of the whole Church. Praying morning and evening prayer (Lauds and Vespers) or any of the minor hours helps you unite in spirit to Christians around the world.



## 3. Palm Sunday Procession

You might make your own "palms" (out of green construction paper or even backyard plants) and process around your home, wear red (the liturgical colour of the day).



## 4. Monday of Holy Week

Pull out your Bible atlas (or look online) for a map of the city of Jerusalem in Christ's time. Use it to "walk" through the events of the Passion.



## 5. Tuesday of Holy Week

Pretzels are a traditional Lenten food. Buy or make some pretzels and read about their history and symbolism.



## 6. Spy Wednesday

Did you know Wednesday of Holy Week is called Spy Wednesday? This is a perfect day to give alms: An act of charity is a counterpoint to Judas' act of selfishness. You also might hide 30 pieces of "silver" for your kids to hunt.



## 7. Maundy Thursday

A lovely way to honour the day would be for your family to wash each other's feet, as Christ did for the apostles. In the evening, you might light seven candles and pray the traditional Tenebrae service.



## 8. Seven Churches Visitation

Many cultures observe the tradition of going to seven churches on Holy Thursday and praying two Stations of the Cross at each one. Today you might look up images of seven beautiful churches around the world as you pray the Stations of the Cross.



## 9. Good Friday

On this day of fasting and abstinence, it's fitting to pray the Stations of the Cross. You might cover religious images in your home with purple cloth or paper (and unveil them on Easter). Traditionally, hot cross buns are made today.



## 10. Venerate the Crucifix

This is a simple but profound way to honour Good Friday. Each member of the household can kiss the Crucifix while praying "We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world."



## 11. A Passion Play

Older kids and young adults can learn a lot from re-enacting the Passion, or creating "Living Stations" in which they pose as characters in each Station.



## 12. Holy Saturday

Lead a procession with lights at the time you would normally go to Easter Vigil. In the evening, after the Vigil, it's time for glorious Easter hymns, a return of the Alleluia, and joyfully wishing each other a Happy Easter!







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

# Parish Lent Recollection 2024



Deacon Sherman led an incredibly engaging Lent recollection on the Sorrowful Mysteries from March 15th to 17th, immersing us in the profound depths of each mystery and reflection to help us rediscover God's presence in our lives. With his guidance, 83 participants embarked on a spiritual journey, exploring themes of sacrifice, suffering, redemption, and grace. The recollection created a sacred space for prayer and sharing, allowing us to truly connect with the solemnity of the Lenten season.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity to deepen our faith through this experience. Deacon Prof. Dr. Sherman Kuek's teachings and reflections have inspired us to incorporate them into our daily lives, fostering a spirit of compassion and perseverance in our faith journey. Here are some exciting highlights and testimonies from our time together:



"If our bridegroom wears a crown of thorns, we, his bride cannot expect our Christian life to be free of suffering. Suffering is an essential part of holiness to purify and form us. When we understand, accept, and grow in self-denial of our righteousness and self-mastery of things not within our control, we can embrace suffering more fully. Our daily crosses require us to consider how we can be a type of Simon of Cyrene (help carry the cross was not what he planned to do) and find meaning in our suffering to help us grow. You can listen to Deacon Sherman for the whole length as he speaks without being distracted. He has the gift of speaking simply, sharing real life encounters that touch the listener, incorporating theology and powerful reflections. Many of us who attended his previous reflections on the Joyful Mysteries were here this past weekend for the Sorrowful Mysteries. We have gained immensely." - **Caroline Theseira**

"Deacon Sherman is an excellent speaker and provided valuable insights on the Passion of Christ as depicted in the Sorrowful Mysteries. Spiritually uplifting!" - **Gerard Low**

"The Lent Recollection has been a very fruitful experience for me. It made this Lent more meaningful and taught me to embrace suffering instead of running away from it. Thank you Fr Ben, the organisers of the Lent Recollection and parishioners of St Francis Xavier for opening your door to non-parishioners. I felt the warm welcome and a sense of belongingness from everyone." - **Michelle Libed, Church of Holy Trinity**



Do check out SFX Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/sfxchurch.sg](http://www.facebook.com/sfxchurch.sg) for more photos.

## 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*

## ANOIDING 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)