



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Resurrection – the Game Changer

Easter Sunday of the
Lord's Resurrection
31 Mar 2024

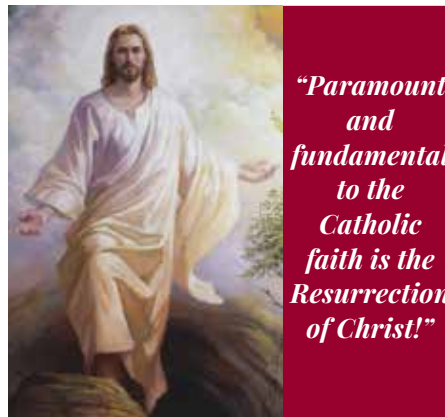
Acts 10: 34, 37-43
Col 3: 1-4
Jn 20: 1-9

Paramount and fundamental to the Catholic faith is the Resurrection of Christ!

Without the Resurrection, the passion and death of Jesus would have been a tragedy. His life and teachings would have come to naught. Jesus would have been another historical great man and his efforts to establish the Kingdom of God would have been in vain. In fact, the New Testament starts with the resurrection account and the resurrection experience of Christ's disciples. Their transformative experience also began a revolution of sorts that continues today. In our time, however, Christ's resurrection seems to have become "diluted" and is seen by some as a "spectacular" and even questionable event. Many struggle with experiencing and understanding the significance of the Resurrection. As we celebrate yet another Easter, how can we have a better grasp of the resurrected life that is Christ's gift to us all at our baptism? Today's readings give us a glimpse of how we can more deeply live our new life in the risen Christ:

Yearn and pine for Christ: "Early... while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb" (Jn 20:1). Everything starts with a desire. Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus

delivered of 7 spirits, had a deep bond of gratitude and love for Jesus. While it was still dark, Mary boldly went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' lifeless body but was rewarded instead with the immense joy of finding that Jesus had risen from the dead!



Remove Jesus from the tomb: "...they have taken the Lord out of the tomb..." (Jn 20:2). We tend to "institutionalise" God (or "entomb" Jesus in church) which results in a dichotomy of faith. We project our best in church but set aside Christian values at work. We must remember that Christ has made us Temples of his Holy Spirit.

Respond in haste: "...the two were running together..." (Jn 20:4). When Jesus calls we are to respond in haste and not tarry, or we may miss a great opportunity for conversion.

Respect the hierarchy of the Church: "...but he did not go in..." (Jn 20:5). God puts the hierarchy of the Church in place to guide us. We owe the Hierarchy an obedience of faith and should entrust our bishops, priests and deacons to Christ's promise that he has given authority to the Petrine office and he would always remain with the church (cf Mt 16:18 & 28:19).

See and believe: "...he saw and he believed..." (Jn 20:8). Our faith cannot be a sentimental faith. We need to

encounter the love and mercy of God. Just as the condition of the empty tomb confirmed the disciples' faith in Christ's resurrection (cf CCC 640), through retreats, pilgrimages and biblical, catechetical or theological studies, we open ourselves to encountering the risen Lord anew.

Be anointed with the Holy Spirit: "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power..." (Acts 10:38). Without the power of the Holy Spirit and his gifts which we received at our baptism, we will not be able to touch others as Christ did in his public ministry, let alone overcome our struggles with sin.

Be a witness of Christ: "...we are witnesses to all that he did..." (Acts 10:39). Witnessing helps us anchor our faith in Christ since being a witness means we have followed and encountered Christ most intimately in his life, death and resurrection (cf Acts 1:21-22).

Preach and testify: "...He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify..." (Acts 10:42). When we desire to share our faith with others, we are also sharing the mysteries of Christ's life. This opens us to deeper insights as the Holy Spirit grows our confidence in the truths of our faith.

Focus on heavenly things: "...if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..." (Col 3:1). As we gradually surrender our material obsessions for the inexhaustible richness of Heaven, we will see with more profound clarity the primary heavenly "thing" – Christ himself "...seated at the right hand of God!"

Therefore let us yearn to see the risen Christ and his Kingdom more clearly this Easter and hope in his Spirit's guidance. Happy Easter!

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



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 1 Apr 2024**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'God Heals'. 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.

Date: Mon 1 Apr

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

ONE: EASTER REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE) has launched their Easter Reflection Booklet: **"Witnessing A New Life"**. Let us delve deeper into the Word this Easter season and Witness a New Life in Christ!



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/ONE-Easter-2024 to download the booklet.

ARCHDIOCESE PASTORAL COUNCIL INTERCESSORY PRAYERS 2024

Join us to pray for God's guidance as we discern a 10-year pastoral plan for the Archdiocese.

St Joseph's Church: Mon 9 Apr, 5.30pm

Church of the Holy Cross: Fri 3 May, 8pm

Church of the Holy Trinity: Fri 12 Jul, 8pm

St Anne's Church: Thu 8 Aug, 8.15pm

Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea:
Fri 6 Sep, 7pm

THE LORD IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Wishing all parishioners a blessed Easter and may you come to believe and experience the living hope and joy of Christ in these extraordinary times.



EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Come celebrate Easter Sunday with us on **Sun 31 Mar, 9am - 1pm** **outside JPll Hall**. There will be Easter Egg hunts, Easter craft activities, cupcake decorating, balloon creations, sweet treats, temporary fun tattoos and bouncy castle! Do drop by for some food and fellowship after morning masses.



Calling all children 12 years and below: Drop by **St Jerome Library** on **Sun 31 Mar, 8am - 1pm** with a friend and just write down the name of the friend that you want to share your Easter joy with. Get a sticker, mini card or bookmark for so generously sharing Jesus' love with others. Mummy, Daddy, a brother or sister can be a friend too!



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: JPll Hall

Register: Contact Brian (9789 2253) / Monica (9669 6781)

PARENTING IMPOSSIBLE

Calling all Parents, Caregivers and those who interact with children with special needs. Bernard & Deseree will be sharing the challenges faced both physically and spiritually as parents of a child with autism. This promises to be an enlightening and candid talk filled with hope and positivity.

Date: Wed 17 April 2024

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Kingsmead Centre

Register: bit.ly/MHS17April

"PRAY AS YOU ARE" BY CENACLE SISTERS

Like the disciples, we long to learn how to pray so as to develop a closer, more intimate & personal relationship with God. We may have tried different methods, look for guides, search far and wide. But the best way to begin this journey is to be and to be with ourselves before God - to pray as we are.

Dates: 19 - 21 April 2024

Venue: La Salle House

Register: tinyurl.com/prayasyouare

MASS WITH INTENTIONS FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

As April is the National Awareness Month for Autism, the Office for Catechesis is organizing an eucharistic celebration, with a roadshow on church grounds of Church of the Holy Cross to highlight the work of Catholic Organizations which are supporting the Special Needs community. Come and join us in prayer and celebration.

Date: Sun 14 April 2024

Time: 11.30am

Venue: Church of the Holy Cross

Register: tinyurl.com/Mass4SpecialNeeds

L10 2024: Discipleship in the Spirit (DIS) is the way

Acts 1:8 – You will receive power! Based on this scripture, 49 SFX and 42 Church of St. Bernadette teens attended the L10 retreat on 9-11 Mar 2024. Emphasizing on the theme: Discipleship in the Spirit (DIS) is the way. The sessions were unpacking the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit. This led up to praying for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in their lives. During the night of empowerment, we collaborated with the Charismatic Prayer Group who spent their Sunday night with us praying for each teen to be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Here are some testimonies:

"This L10 camp has played a pivotal role in helping me establish a deeper connection with God and discovering a supportive community that stands by me through any adversity. With many inspiring speakers who shared their personal stories with us, I have discovered more about how the Holy Spirit is present in our everyday lives. Through their insightful sharings, it has also deepened my appreciation of my upcoming confirmation where I would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news. This last L10 camp, shared with peers whom I journeyed alongside since P2 was simply unforgettable and an enriching experience, which I would long for."



Megan Wong, SFX

"The L10 church camp has been an incredibly meaningful one! The camp has shown me how the Holy Spirit can come in gentle ways, having felt so much peace and calmness throughout the camp. I've learned about how the Holy Spirit works in my life, not having known much about Him initially. Now I'm able to recognise the wonderful ways the Holy Spirit works in my life, in sad and happy times, or even in the most mundane things. I was also surrounded by a lovely community of people, like my facilitators, who have been so sweet and have guided me throughout the camp!"

- Filomena Magha, SBC

"The church retreat on getting to know the Holy Spirit was such an experience for me. The retreat offered a place for spiritual exploration. Engaging sharings and discussions helped me to deepen my understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in our lives. Participants had moments of reflection, entering personal connections with God and the Holy Spirit. The retreat helped me to gain a sense of community, uniting me in my journey to be confirmed. Through prayerful guidance, I discovered newfound clarity and purpose and had a stronger relationship with



Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit. The retreat's atmosphere and meaningful discussions truly touched my soul, fostering a deeper connection with God and the Holy Spirit."

- Edward Gunawan, SFX



"The L10 retreat was a very peaceful yet fulfilling one! It helped me understand, focus, and think more about how the Holy Spirit had acted in my life. In this camp, I was given the opportunity to experience the outpouring of the Spirit during the prayer ministry, and it gave me an overwhelming feeling of peace and joy. Through this camp, I found myself becoming closer to God as a whole because I learned about the Holy Trinity, also known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I thank God for the facilitators and the sessions they did as well, as they preached about God and the Holy Spirit through their different perspectives. This camp played an essential role in guiding me on how to overcome worldliness and live a spiritually fulfilling life. Through this camp, the Holy Spirit has helped me to see its gentle and pure tendencies and has given me a new understanding of God's love. It was truly a great blessing to have been able to attend this L10 camp!"

- Alexis Tay, SBC





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

"Church camp was an eye-opening experience as before it, I hadn't heard much about the Holy Spirit. It seemed much harder to comprehend who and what the Holy Spirit was, as compared to the Father and the Son, as it seemed like an intangible being. Through this camp, I learnt that the Holy Spirit is a person and he is always present, guiding us even when we fail to recognise it. This made me realise the importance of being intentional everyday with the purpose to choose God. My favourite part of the camp was the reconciliation because many of my misconceptions were cleared during the sessions about it and I found out that other people had similar struggles which made me feel less alone. I also liked my facilitators because they provided new insights during the sharing sessions and were really comforting."



- Teresa Wong, SFX



"Camp was a great opportunity again to take a break from my weekend routine and step back to refocus on God. I feel the Holy Spirit has worked in all of us through this Camp, thank you SFX, Church of St. Bernadette, and most importantly Jesus."

- Miguel Castrillo, SBC



"I found the L10 camp to be quite useful and interesting. Before the camp itself my relationship with God was rather strained after a few incidents and I was looking for guidance and answers to my many questions. I now know that God acts in many different ways and will not answer my questions immediately, instead the answer will be revealed over time, when I interact with others and have different experiences. I personally found the many sessions, like learning more about the Holy Spirit and Praise and Worship to be useful and calming, together with the many sharings I was able to see everyone's point of view and experiences during the camp. All in all I found the camp to be quite enjoyable and I am happy to say that my relationship with God has improved as I now understand him better and know that I can always trust him."



- Ethan Soo, SFX

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

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