



Disciples
Making Disciples



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse@St Francis Xavier:
6011 1076, lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Edward Lim
6282 3151
frelim@catholic.org.sg

Christ Dispel Ignorance and Restores Our Faith

3rd Sunday of Easter
14 April 2024

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 Jn 2:1-5
Lk 24:35-48

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the account of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The excruciating way Jesus was crucified sent many of his fearful disciples into hiding. However, as with all his post-Resurrection appearances to his disciples, he greets them: "Peace be with you."

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples remained afraid and uncertain about what to make of the figure before them. We often presume that it was only Thomas who doubted the resurrection of Christ. However, Jesus understood very well that most of his disciples doubted (Lk 24:38). This was why he had to eat with them and allowed them to see and touch him. They needed to understand beyond the seeing. Jesus assures them that he is not a ghost, his resurrected body still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts.

While the disciples were afraid of the appearance of Jesus, the people of Jerusalem were amazed at the miraculous healing of the lame beggar, which Peter attributes to faith in the power of the resurrected Christ (Acts 3). The first reading had Peter laying the blame squarely on the shoulders of the people of Jerusalem, saying *"It was you who accused the Holy One... you (who) killed the prince of life"*. But because God knew that the Messiah would suffer because of his love for us, he took that risk. But Peter adds *"Now brothers, I know that neither you nor your leaders had an idea of what you were really doing"* and that *"this was the way God carried out what he had foretold"* in scripture. He was alluding to their ignorance.

Now is the time and as St Paul says, *"The time of ignorance is over."* (Acts 17: 30-31). This is why John assures us today that: *"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who... is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours but the whole world's."*

The disciples too were ignorant. Even though they had been with him, heard him preach, and watched him perform many miracles, yet they remained ignorant of who he really was and

especially, what the scriptures said about him. Ignorance was a major reason why they lacked faith in him. This is why St Jerome also reminds us that: *"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ"* and it can be a major stumbling block to faith.

Jesus knew this and what he needed to do. *"He then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures"* and the significance of what was written about him. The essence being that his crucifixion is not the end and that his resurrection is living proof of it! Despite the great injustice and sin that they had committed against the Son of Man, Jesus ironically becomes the redeeming way back to God the Father. Peter said just as much, that while we sent him to die, *"God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses"*. We too are called in the same way as the disciples were, through our encounter with him, to become witnesses of his Resurrection message - to *"repent and turn to God so that your (our) sins may be wiped out."*

And that is why being able to celebrate Mass is such a blessing. We, like Jesus' disciples then, have the privilege of encountering the real Jesus every time at Mass, in both Sacred Scripture and in the Eucharist.

When we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, the Word of God comes alive in us to teach, to guide or to speak into our lives. In the Eucharistic meal, Jesus feeds and nourishes our souls for our pilgrim journey. Together, they help us to witness and announce the good news of repentance and the forgiveness of sins, to the people in our schools, at our workplace or community more boldly. Wherever we may be in the world, we are called to share with others what we have received.



"We are witnesses."

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



SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously. **Please note that the SSVP UEN Number has been changed by SSVP National Council.** If you wish to make a cheque payment or PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

• **OCBC Bank Account No:**

686 596 768 001

• **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149BSFX

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

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

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 15 Apr, 8pm - 9.30pm** at Mount Tabor Adoration Room.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Come join us on **Sat 13 Apr, 8pm** at JPIL Hall for the rosary procession within the church grounds followed by fellowship. You may bring your own waxless candle.

THE WAY OF LIGHT: STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Come join us every **Easter Thursday, 7.15pm**. Meet outside Kindergarten. All are welcome!

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 15 Apr, 8pm - 9.30pm at SFX Auditorium**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on "How to live Christian holiness?" by Sr Monika T. Punan (VDMF) based on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate". The call to holiness is ultimately the call to walk in the light of the Master, Jesus himself. Pope Francis, in his writings, presents us with the daily concrete ways and means to live out this call in today's world as Christians so that we can enjoy the true life Jesus offers us, 'the happiness for which we were created' (Pope Francis). Individual praying over is available after the session upon special request. All are welcome!

ALIVE, VICTORIOUS, FREE

You're invited to "Alive, Victorious, Free" – a celebratory night of worship with music and movement. Join us to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, where the harmonies of music and grace of movement intertwine as we express our freedom this Easter using song and dance. This night promises to ignite hearts, lift spirits, and draw us closer to the eternal truth of Easter. Come Alive in Christ, be Victorious in Resurrection!

Date: Sat 27 Apr
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium
Register: tinyurl.com/alivefree

LOVE, SEX AND THE MYSTERY OF GENDER

This seminar is organised by the Catechetical Ministry and the Family Apostolate to try and clarify the increasing confusion about sex and gender in today's culture. This seminar will delve into these issues through the lens of science and faith, and help participants understand better God's plan for love, marriage and sex, so that we can have more fruitful discussions with our children, students and contemporaries. Seats are limited. A love offering of \$5 is requested to defray the cost of tea break and cover the utilities.

Date: Sat 25 May
Time: 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/LSMG2024>

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 why we ask Mary and the Saints to pray for us.

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

ASSISI FUN DAY

Don't miss the most fun and meaningful activity this June holidays! Bond with your family and friends at the biggest charity carnival of the year – Assisi Fun Day. With over 100 stalls offering exciting rides, games, activities, and delicious treats, there is something for everyone.

Ticket sales will be available outside JPIL Hall. All proceeds will go towards supporting care for patients with terminal illnesses and their families.

Date: Sun 9 Jun
Time: 10am - 4pm
Venue: St Joseph's Institution International School (SJII)
19 Toa Payoh West Singapore 318876

Easter Vigil Baptism 2024

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians: 3:26-27)

On 30 March, the Church was once again illuminated and abounding in joy as we welcomed 31 brothers and sisters who walked into the waters of baptism, as well as 38 who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here are some reflections of their faith journey and encounters with the Lord.

“My RCIA experience was a beautiful and memorable one as I found myself drawing closer to the Lord and saying YES to him! — my facils organised thoughtful activities, retreats and weekly sessions that taught me tremendous lessons. I can see how much I’ve grown getting to know God as my Father through their care and guidance. I’ve also made lifelong friends that I will forever be grateful for. The gifts I’d received from my fellow parishioners at SFX after my baptism and confirmation on Easter Vigil felt like the warmest welcome embrace into God’s family that I could’ve asked for! The celebration was wonderful and meaningful. I will never forget the love and joy that radiated through me as I became a part of God’s family.”
– Janelle Frances Yeo

“God came knocking on my door many years ago, but I could not see or hear. As I looked back on my life, I realised that he was there with me at every high and held me up at every low. My winding road to baptism was a long one coming. Deep down I knew that somehow all my roads would lead to him.

I tried to sign up for RCIA many times, but each time I tried, it never felt right. There was always something in the way, or something that didn’t feel right. But his timing is perfect. It

never felt like the right time before because it was the right time now.

When my faith journey began and when I decided to commit my life to the Lord, he opened my eyes and heart to so much love, peace, and pure, unadulterated joy that to deny his existence or presence, was simply unthinkable. I thought I understood happiness but he gave me real joy. I searched everywhere for calm, but it is only through him that I discovered peace. And as I emerged from the waters of baptism, I experienced what it truly meant to be loved by our heavenly father.

They say that God works through people, and it is indeed through these people whom he placed in my RCIA journey that I have come to encounter the Lord. We bonded through sharing our stories, lives, tears of pain and smiles of joy, and they have since become my new family.”
– Magdalene Heidi Boon

“Going through baptism was part of the beautiful celebration on Easter Vigil. It was a culmination of the past nine months of the RCIA journey.

As I stepped into the waters of baptism, I felt a warm and calming sensation that was like a welcoming embrace. When I emerged, I felt a renewed sense of rejuvenation and vitality, as if all the weight of this world was washed away. In its place were feelings of freshness, joy, love, and a vigour to face any challenge that will come my way as I begin my journey as a newly baptised Catholic. God will give us strength and encouragement to persevere. What a milestone and a truly blessed experience.” – Shaun Lu



Magdalene Heidi Boon



Janelle Frances Yeo





Shaun Lu



Theresa Clare Nai

"For many years, my faith was like a quiet current running beneath the surface of my life. I attended Sunday Mass, raised my daughters in the Catholic tradition and even walked alongside them during their catechism and Confirmation. Yet, a deeper connection, a formal embrace of the Church, remained a yearning in my heart.

Finally, at a more than respectable age, that yearning found its fulfilment. My recent baptism wasn't simply a ceremony; it was a moment of a new me. Looking back on the blessings that have filled my life – my family, experiences and the person I've become – a wave of gratitude washed over me. Baptism wasn't just about entering the faith; it was about solidifying my commitment to walk God's path. This means actively loving my neighbour through kindness and compassion, practicing forgiveness to let go of burdens and embrace peace, serving others by offering my time and talents to those in need, and seeking guidance to navigate this journey with God. The ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter – one where I found myself part of a supportive community that inspires me to become the best version of myself." – Theresa Clare Nai

Stay tuned for more sharings in the weeks to come.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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

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 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