



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

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## The Good Shepherd, the Pastors and the Sheep

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
(Good Shepherd Sunday)  
21 April 2024

Acts 4:8-12  
1 Jn 3:1-2  
Jn 10:11-18

Sheep are silly, stubborn creatures. Do not think of them as cuddly, passive and obedient, content merely to graze passively at the green pastures that they are led to. No, they wander off in wrong directions to rocky cliffs and loose boulders, find themselves threatened by wild animals and marauders, and get themselves into all kinds of thickets and brambles. A shepherd's job, then, is not simply a matter of sitting idly on a rock playing his pipe. He must constantly be on guard to save his sheep – be it from their own foolishness or from external predators.

In this Sunday's Gospel, when Jesus proclaims himself as the Good Shepherd, he declares his constant vigilance and care for us, even as his disciples failed to stay awake with him at Gethsemane.

We can reflect on two further points. First, Adam was a gardener and a shepherd. In Genesis, the plants were not made insofar as "there was no man to till the ground" (Gen 2:5) and all creatures were brought to him to be named. As Ephrem the Syrian says, "the animals came to Adam as a loving shepherd."

Throughout the Old Testament, major biblical figures such as Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David were also shepherds. Just as Adam fell, so were these shepherds flawed and fallen. In fact, in biblical times, it was common for shepherds to be hired hands. Many villagers owned only a few sheep, and thus entrusted their animals to one shepherd to pasture the whole village flock. Jesus distinguishes himself from a mere "hired man" who "abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming" because the "sheep do not belong to him". Instead, Jesus claims us as his "own" whom he will "lay down [his] life for". Just as Jesus is the New Adam who redeems the fallen man, he is also the Good Shepherd who epitomises the pastor. CCC 896 thus states, "The Good Shepherd ought to be the model and 'form' of the bishop's pastoral office."

This leads us to the second point of reflection: the Church continues Christ's work of shepherding his flock. At the end of John's Gospel (Jn 21:15-17), Jesus instructs Peter – the rock on whom Jesus has built his church – to feed his lambs and tend his sheep. CCC 1564 holds, "in virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, after the image of Christ, the supreme and eternal priest, [priests] are consecrated in order to preach the Gospel and shepherd the faithful as well as to celebrate divine worship as true priests of the New Testament." Similarly, CCC 1465 states that in celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, "the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep".

Good Shepherd Sunday is thus also known as Vocation Sunday. This Sunday, we celebrate our pastors who



*"This I ask you: be shepherds, with the 'odour of the sheep', make it real, as shepherds among your flock, fishers of men."*

– Pope Francis, *Chrism Mass Homily*, 28 March 2013

have laid down their lives for us, their flock. And they have their work cut out for them. As St John Chrysostom reminded the Church, "The Lord said clearly that concern for his flock was proof of love for him." In his first Chrism Mass in 2013, Pope Francis also appealed to his fellow pastors, "This I ask you: be shepherds, with the 'odour of the sheep', make it real, as shepherds among your flock, fishers of men."

This Sunday, let us pray especially for our shepherds – that they may take on the odour of their sheep, no matter how stubborn and foolish we are, and that they, in turn, will be led by the Good Shepherd. Let us pray also for more vocations – for the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few. And let us pray for ourselves too – that the staff of the Good Shepherd will always comfort us through our valleys of darkness.

## 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)

## FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church?

Scan the QR code to share with us at [tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport](http://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport)



## SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$6,582.95** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities. 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 Altar Servers will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPll Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

## THE WAY OF LIGHT: STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Come join us **every Thursday in Eastertide, 7.15pm** for our Outdoor Stations of the Resurrection. Meet outside Kindergarten. All are welcome!

## INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 22 Apr, 8pm - 9.30pm** at **Mount Tabor Adoration Room**.

## CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 22 Apr**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim. All are welcome!

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

## GIFT (GIVING IN FAITH & THANKFULNESS) COLLECTION

This weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT programme. GIFT is a regular giving programme to rally support for and fund the Archdiocese's organisations and initiatives for youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation and others. Please bring your contributions or GIFT envelopes to drop them into the collection box. Visit [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg) to contribute online or find out more.

## THE CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: BELONGING TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY

The third session will be held on **Sun 21 Apr, 3pm to 4.30pm** at JPll Hall. Come and listen to shared experiences on how belonging to a parish community fosters and fulfils our need to grow and mature in our faith.

## AUDIO VISUAL LIGHTING MINISTRY: ALIVE, VICTORIOUS, FREE

You're invited to "Alive, Victorious, Free" – a celebratory night of worship with music and movement on **Sat 27 Apr, 7.30pm** at **SFX Auditorium**. Join us to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. As the harmony of music intertwines with the grace of movement, we express our freedom this Easter through 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! Register at [tinyurl.com/alivefree](http://tinyurl.com/alivefree).

## 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 monthly session will be on **Tue 23 Apr, 7.30pm - 9.15pm**. The venue is the **Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, unit LG-01, Singapore 549102** (next to the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary). Please email us for directions.

## ACMI: FREE MOVIE SCREENING AND REFLECTION FOR LOCALS AND MIGRANTS

ACMI will be holding a free movie screening on **Sun 28 Apr, 2-5pm**, at **Novena Church!** The movie "Hello, Love, Goodbye" features a domestic helper in Hong Kong and how she navigates both life and love in a foreign land. There will also be a post-movie session by Sr Yna Onate, RC, to help participants reflect on life's choices and listen to God's invitation toward fullness of life. This event is open to our migrant brothers and sisters and Singaporean residents are welcome to join and bring your migrant friends, co-workers, employees and extended family along. The original movie audio is in Tagalog with English subtitles. Scan the QR code to register.



## CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY LUNCHTIME TALK: WHY MUST WE WORK?

Join Rev Fr David Garcia as he introduces the Church's social teachings and helps us understand why work is a necessary aspect of our lives, and how do different perceptions of work influences our approach to it and its role in society.

**Dates:** 6, 20 & 27 May 2024 (Mondays)

**Time:** 12.30pm – 1.30pm

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

**Register:** <http://tinyurl.com/CSTWhyMustWeWork>



## ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL: INTERCESSORY PRAYERS 2024

Join us to pray for God's guidance as we discern a 10-year pastoral plan for the Archdiocese. The next prayer session will be for the following intention:

### COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

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

## CTIS: CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

Registration is now open for the Second Semester, 2024 for the Certificate in Theology programme in Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore (CTIS). You are invited to join the Info Session on **Thu 16 May, 8pm** in **St Ignatius Room (Basement), SFX Seminary, 618 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S678214**. For all your enquiries, visit [www.ctis.sg](http://www.ctis.sg) for more information.

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: TRUST ONLY OFFICIAL WEBSITES FOR INFORMATION ON PAPAL VISIT AND MASS**

The Catholic Church in Singapore is excited to welcome His Holiness Pope Francis to Singapore. We have received reports of individuals/groups attempting to phish/acquire personal information by misrepresenting themselves as being associated with the ticketing process for the Papal Mass. We urge the public to remain vigilant and not to fall prey to these scams. Tickets for the Papal Mass, when available, will be free of charge.

We strongly advise the public not to share personal information with any other websites or individuals claiming to offer tickets or information about the Papal visit. For more information on the Papal visit, please visit [www.popefrancis2024.sg](http://www.popefrancis2024.sg).

Please note that the only legitimate sources for information related to Pope Francis' visit are our official websites:

- [www.popefrancis2024.sg](http://www.popefrancis2024.sg)
- [www.catholic.sg](http://www.catholic.sg)
- [www.mycatholic.sg](http://www.mycatholic.sg)
- [www.catholicnews.sg](http://www.catholicnews.sg)
- [www.catholicfoundation.sg](http://www.catholicfoundation.sg)

## *Easter Vigil Baptism & Confirmation 2024*

*We continue to praise the Lord for the gift of Faith. Our newly baptised and confirmed brothers and sisters-in-Christ share more on their journeys towards baptism and confirmation.*



**Eleora Tan Yi Lin** (2nd from right)

*"The journey towards baptism has been nothing short of transformative, shaping my understanding of faith, deepening my relationship with God, and strengthening my connection to the Catholic Church. At the start of this journey, I grappled with doubts, fears, and uncertainties about joining RCIA. I repeatedly questioned myself if I was truly ready for such a profound commitment, and whether I can amass enough knowledge of the Bible in a short span of nine months to call myself a Catholic.*

*The support and encouragement of the RCIA ministry were instrumental for my growth. Their prayers, guidance, and unwavering faith inspired me to carry on this path. It was a long process of introspection, prayer and seeking guidance from Christian friends and spiritual leaders. Through the weekly encounter, I gained a deeper understanding of the significance of baptism and the transformative power of God's grace.*

*One of the most profound aspects of my RCIA experience was the sense of belonging and community that I found within the group. We shared our life experiences without judgement, wrestled with doubts, and celebrated milestones together. The support and camaraderie helped me navigate challenges and deepen my commitment to living out my faith. I was finally not alone on this journey.*

*As I approached the culmination of the RCIA journey with the Rite of Christian Initiation, I felt a conflicting sense of gratitude and apprehension. The decision to be baptised was not an easy one; it was a conscious choice to declare my commitment to living a life aligned with my newfound beliefs and values. The act of baptism symbolised a moment of surrender, letting go of past burdens (fears and anxieties), and embracing a new beginning filled with hope and purpose.*

*Despite these struggles, I eventually found the courage and faith to move forward with my decision to be baptised. Looking back, I can now see that my struggles surrounding baptism were an essential part of my spiritual growth. They taught me valuable lessons about humility, trust and perseverance. My journey to baptism was not easy, but it was incredibly rewarding.*

*Today, I can proudly say that being baptised has brought immense peace into my life. I hope to encourage others who may be facing similar struggles — to trust in God's timing and embrace the journey with courage and faith."*

**- Eleora Tan Yi Lin**



**Kayla Rae Foong** (left)

*"Through the past year in RCIA, I have deepened my understanding of my faith and embraced my commitment to God and the church.*

*After the first retreat in RCIA, I started to look forward to the day I'd receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. As I walked into the church on Saturday, I felt eager yet nervous. I was not sure if I would be able to focus during the prolonged mass, but in that span of four hours, I had learnt so much.*

*I enjoyed passing the light from our candles to others and cheering my friends who were getting baptised. Confirmation is a transformative milestone in my spiritual journey as it strengthened my relationship with God, instilled a sense of belonging within our church community, as well as empowered me to live out my faith more intentionally in my daily life.*

*I am grateful for the guidance and support of my church family, RCIA facilitators and mentors throughout this process. Their encouragement and wisdom have been invaluable as I navigate through this journey of faith. I am confident that God will continue to guide and bless me on this journey, and I am filled with hope for the future."*

**- Kayla Rae Foong**



**Franz Matthew Paul Reyes**

*"As I was being confirmed, I felt both unworthy and joyful – unworthy, because after having reflected on my whole life and even after I discovered the truth of Catholicism, I was unfaithful to God's graces for me to grow in virtue and holiness; joy, because I know that after Confirmation, I am now experiencing the full life of the Church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as poured out in Pentecost.*

*I deeply appreciate the warmth and kindness shown by my godparent and secondary school form teacher, who wholeheartedly supported me in my decision to become Catholic, and were open to hearing about my experience and offered me advice. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the service team for giving up their time to form us in the faith, and for accompanying us.*

*I have come to love Eucharistic Adoration, as it allowed me to lay my problems before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, after which I would experience deep peace in my heart.*

*Throughout my journey, I have faced opposition from my Protestant family and have lost some friendships. I see these as crosses which God sends us to bear, especially new converts, in order to purify us from excessive attachment to creatures, necessary for us to love God above all, and adhere to his revelation without compromise.*

*For those who feel called to embrace the Catholic Faith, I want to assure you that it is indeed God who is calling you out of this world, to be in a relationship with him and his family in the Church, rooted in divine love. However this journey is not easy, as our Lord lived a life of complete self-giving, so too is this demanded of his disciples. We must be willing to renounce, no matter how deep in it is in our heart, what is opposed to God's will. God is calling us to renounce all these in our heart, so as to make way for himself, who alone can make man truly happy."*

**- Franz Matthew Paul Reyes**

*Stay tuned for more sharings in the weeks to come.*

## ***Diaconate Ordination of Shawn Wong***

On Sat, 13 April 2024, Brother Shawn, son of our parish, was ordained as a deacon in Malta. The ceremony was held at the St John's Co-Cathedral, and the newly-ordained deacons included two students of the Institute for World Evangelisation-ICPE Mission. Deacon Shawn Dominic Wong has been assigned to Church of the Assumption at Malta. Let us continue to pray for him on his new journey of priesthood.



Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta laying of hands and prayer of consecration over Brother Shaun.



Deacon Shawn's Family together with our parish priest, Fr Benedict.

### **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*

### **ANOINTING 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)