



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033
Reference: Mass Collection

The Enemy Within

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
23 Feb 2025

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
1 Cor 15:45-49
Lk 6:27-38

Today's readings have a lot to teach us about managing difficult relationships and trying situations.

In the sermon on the plain, Jesus articulates the values of the Kingdom of God. Love for enemies, mercy and forgiveness, the nature of true righteousness, judgment and generosity – these Christian paradigms shift attention away from blaming others. They challenge our inclination to retaliate or harbour resentment, to see love as a choice rather than an emotional response.

Is it plausible to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who mistreat us (cf. Lk 6:27-28)?

The 1st Reading shows it is possible even in matters of life and death. In a relationship gone sour, David incredibly spares Saul's life despite Saul's determination to kill him. David's refusal to take vengeance reflects a deep understanding and trust in God's authority, and the call to forgive even those who seek to harm us (cf. 1 Sam 26:9-11).

In life, we sometimes find ourselves in similar situations. When we are wronged, the sense of injustice and hurt can fuel rage and revenge. We are tempted to take justice into our own hands, a mis-justification and misnomer for rectifying wrongs.

But true justice has to be deeply rooted in love and forgiveness. Righteousness is not merely following the rule of law or

seeking redress. Doing so without compassion makes us treasure money, power, expectations, things, prestige and reputation over people. We lose sight of and disrespect the dignity of the human person and overlook individual circumstances, many of which we do not have full knowledge of.

But, what if we have forgiven but the relationship remains cold? While the Sacrament of Reconciliation is event-driven, absolute and complete, healing on the other hand takes time and effort, especially when painful memories resurface. To forgive does not mean to forget. We may not be able to erase memories of offences and pains, but we can accelerate healing by acknowledging the wounds we've sustained to God, asking him to heal us, and then not dwelling on them in an obsessive way.

Bad memories are like quicksand. Reliving a bad memory drags us back from reconciliation to resentment, from restoration to ruin. They rob us of peace and rekindle the desire for retaliation. The more we dwell on them, the more sordid they render all interactions, including actions with good intentions.



"Reliving a bad memory drags us back from reconciliation to resentment, from restoration to ruin."

Bad memories conceal another insidious danger. Not only do they impede the healing of relationships, they can be cancerous to our character by distorting our perception, and making us prejudiced and judgmental.

True forgiveness entails refraining from judgment and condemnation (cf. Lk 6:37). We need humility and grace to recognise our own susceptibility and vulnerability. Therefore, Jesus ends with the assertion that "the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back" (Lk 6:38). This implies that we will be treated the way we treat others. It underscores the interconnectedness and the reciprocal nature of generosity and kindness in human relationships.

Generosity and kindness are expressions of love and fruits of the Spirit. They enable us to value people and prevent us from engaging in fault-finding and exposing other people's weaknesses, thus engendering trust in people and God's providence. In generosity and kindness, we are not supporting people in their sin but building them up and creating space for reconciliation. David's refusal to harm Saul exemplifies this. He does not judge, blame or call out Saul's jealousy and hatred. He chooses to honour Saul as the Lord's anointed (cf. 1 Sam 26:11), thereby creating the opportunity for reconciliation.

Ultimately, difficult people and sticky situations give us powerful ways to share the Gospel. When things go bad, people need the Good News even more. It is through our behaviour, our generosity, our kindness and our forgiveness that we become witnesses of Christ's unconditional love and mercy. Anything less makes us hypocrites. It is only through grace and the desire to show love and mercy that we can become true disciples. In so doing, we recognise and overcome our relational blind spots.

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/SFXFacilitiesReport



COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, please drop off your old palms in the designated boxes Foyer/outside JPII Hall. **Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.**

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

There will be imposition of Ashes. Fasting and abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, **5 Mar.**

Mass Times:

6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The SFX Youth Choir will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 24 Feb, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 24 Feb, 8pm** at the Mount Tabor Adoration Room, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC)

The Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) is an affiliate of Catholic Family Life, under the Roman Archdiocese of Singapore. MPC is committed to supporting couples as they prepare for a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church. This comprehensive 6-weekend programme is designed to help couples establish a solid foundation for a lasting and fulfilling marriage, with a strong emphasis on faith. Couples planning to celebrate their union in the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend MPC well in advance of their wedding date. Registration is now open for Q2 to Q4 2025. For more details, scan the QR code or visit www.mpcsingapore.com



BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS: FACT OR FICTION

Was Jesus' resurrection real or made up? Join us at SFXBAT as we dive into the evidence! We'll explore what really happened after Jesus' crucifixion and tackle five common sceptical arguments about the resurrection story. Learn about Roman crucifixion and discover why this matters so much for our faith. As St. Paul said, without the resurrection, our faith means nothing!

Date: Sun 9 Mar
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre, Level 2
Join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JSmZoA9fsT8FlZP61slcl9>



LENTEN FAMILY INVITATION: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Join our Lenten programme, specially designed for children aged 7 and below. It features engaging crafts, child-friendly journaling activities, and Outdoor Stations of the Cross, helping families spiritually prepare for Easter and experience a transformative Lenten season. For enquiries, please contact Lynnette at 9690 0750. Scan the QR code or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CLenten2025>.



BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

1Cor12 (BASIC) invites parishioners of all ages are welcome to this Lenten half-day of recollection! Come take some time this Lent to spend time with Jesus through prayerful and fun art, music, and movement workshops, ending with Adoration. Rediscover the freedom and joy of coming to Jesus just like a child, just as you are. For enquiries, please contact Mary Ann at 9168 9602 or Matthew Lim at 9296 9687.

Date: Sat 5 Apr
Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm (refreshments will be provided after)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/sfxbasicdor25>
(Do dress comfortably as there will be lots of movement & Adoration)



ONE: LENT TO EASTER REFLECTION BOOKLET 2025

For the first time, the Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE) is launching a combined Lent to Easter Reflection Booklet for 2025! This booklet will journey with you through the Lenten season of detachment and renewal, into the newness of life at Easter. Our Lenten practices prepare us for the joy and renewal of Christ's resurrection, which the Church celebrates throughout the 50 days of Eastertide. It's essential, therefore, that our reflections do not end at Lent, but continue into the season of Easter. Get your copy today by scanning the QR code or visiting one.org.sg.



CBN MY JOURNEY SERIES TALK: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Come and be inspired by Jeffrey's faith journey, where he traversed between phases of doubt and inspirations of Faith, as he juggled volunteer work with the demands of running a legal practice, all while being a servant leader, loving husband and father to his 3 children.

Date: Thu 27 Feb
Time: 7pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Cana Centre (St Mary's Room)
Register: <http://tinyurl.com/ye2xswpc>



CHARIS: REBUILD HOPE, RESTORE LIVES - SUPPORT GAZA REBUILDING EFFORTS

In Gaza, countless families have lost everything — their homes, their schools, their safe spaces. Yet, even in the midst of devastation, hope remains. Together, we can help rebuild not just buildings, but lives, dreams, and futures. Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is appealing for donations to support the rebuilding efforts for those affected by the ongoing conflict. Your generosity can provide shelter, education, and a chance for these families to begin again. You can donate via credit card or PayNow through CHARIS website. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund", indicate "Gaza Rebuilding Efforts" at the back of the cheque. Send the cheque to: CHARIS, 55 Waterloo Street, #07-02 Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954. Please contact CHARIS at 6337 4119 or scan the QR code for more information at <http://go.charis-singapore.org/gaza-rebuild>. Together, let's help Gaza rise again.

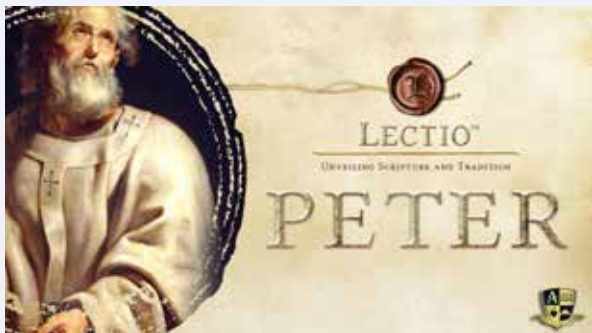


THIS WEEK ON **formed**[™]



The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary (aka the Servite Rosary) is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The prayers and meditations are accompanied by images of sacred art from many of the great masters as well as a lush, yet subtle, orchestral soundtrack.



Lectio: Peter: Cornerstone of Catholicism

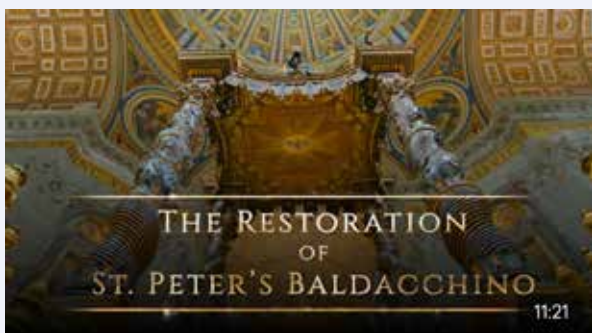
The character of St. Peter is both inspiring and confounding to many of us. How could a stubborn and impulsive fisherman become the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church? Bringing together biblical accounts, historical evidence, Church teaching, classical art, and personal insights, Dr. Tim Gray gives a fresh perspective on Simon Peter that is immediately informative and relevant to our lives. After all, if Jesus could bring out the very best in someone like Peter, then there is hope for the rest of us.



The Pope | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Christopher Mooney, assistant professor of theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as he answers some of the internet's most popular questions about the pope and the papacy.

Why does the Catholic Church have a pope? Is the pope Catholic? Do Catholics have to obey everything the pope says? What is an anti-pope?



The Restoration of the Baldacchino

The Baldacchino of St. Peter's Basilica rises over the tomb of Saint Peter. This monumental structure is undergoing a meticulous restoration. This effort, supported by the Knights of Columbus, honors a timeless link to Christianity's roots and preserves a spiritual landmark for future generations.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

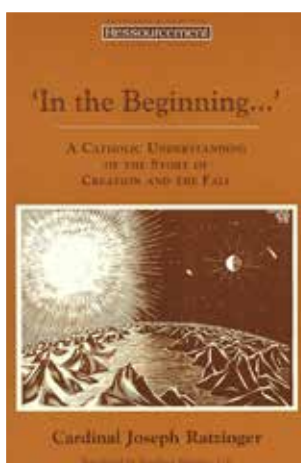
St Jerome's Library

BOOKS ON GENESIS

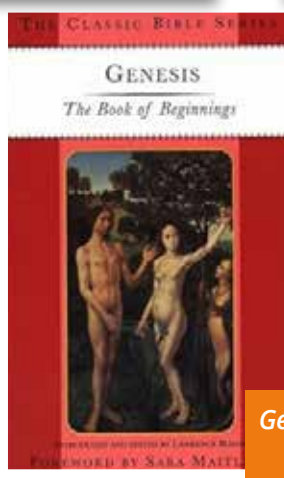
Over the past two weeks, the first readings of the weekday liturgy have been taken from Genesis, the first book of the Bible. The title, "Genesis", comes from the Greek word found in Gen 2:4 which translates as "the book of the generation (genesis) of the heavens and earth". In the selected readings at Mass, we recalled God's creation of the world as the beautiful habitation for man to enjoy his life with his Creator. Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were expelled from their Edenic paradise (Gen 3:23). The horrifying account of the first murder ever committed in mankind by Cain (Gen 4:8) began the spiral of sin which led to the great flood that cleansed the world of sin. Out of His great love and mercy, God begins the renewal of humanity with Noah. It is with Noah that the word "covenant" is used for the first time in the Bible and surprisingly, the first proclamation of the gospel or "Good News" (Protoevangelium) is made by God immediately after The Fall in Gen 3:15.



Genesis: In The Beginning
by Dianne Bergant



'In the Beginning...'
by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger



Genesis: The Book of Beginnings
by Lawrence Boadt

St Jerome Library has a collection of books that delve into the theological meaning of the tragic as well as the salvific events in Genesis. Drop by the library today to pick up any of these titles and be enriched!

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

Sat: 4.20pm - 5.20pm

Sun: 8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:

10am - 7.30pm

Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 7.30pm

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