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 **Online Mass Offering:**
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

**Disciples
Making Disciples**

We Can Be Free!

3rd Sunday in Lent
23 Mar 2025

Ex 3:1-8,13-15
1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12
Lk 13:1-9

How convicted are we of the changing power of God in our lives?

As we have reflected over the past two weeks, Lent is a season of preparation, of change, and of freedom from the things that enslave us. But as we have realised from going through many seasons of Lent, change is never easy, and we find ourselves running back to the same 'comfortable' sins that enslave us. But we are not meant to surrender to failure, for there is a way forward.

In our Gospel, we can identify two sides of the same coin. The first part speaks of how suffering is not only given to those who are guilty or have sinned, but it could come to anyone. Here, Jesus breaks the notion that calamity only comes to people who are deserving of it, while those who live good and just lives are spared. The reality, as I am sure we have all experienced, is that we may face challenges and hardships even when we try our best to remain close to the Lord. This does not mean that our attempts at holiness are futile, but it serves as a reminder of the presence of sin and evil in our world.

The second part of the Gospel responds to the first: "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can

cut it down" (Lk 13:9). Who do we identify as Jesus in the exchange? Do we see Jesus as the one who is asking for the fig tree to be cut down, while we are pleading for another year? Or do we see Jesus as the one who protects us from being cut down? Pope Francis, in his *Angelus*, highlights that "[God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear" (2022). Even while we may be in a difficult season, we are not cut off from God's mercy. We are called to move with the Lord and grow in holiness as we move, rather than stay in our struggles.

Our struggles and sins should not serve as judgements that we are bad people, but reminders of who God has made us to be and how far we have strayed from that identity. Like what St Paul wrote in the Second Reading, the mistakes made by their ancestors serve as warnings for them (cf. 1 Cor 10:11). In the same way, our sins, past and present, should serve as warnings to us on how far we are straying from God. Likewise, even if we feel that we are close to God, we should remain alert, as "The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall" (1 Cor 10:12).

Our freedom from the sins that enslave us can only be redeemed through God. This assurance echoes in the First Reading and should echo in our hearts today: "And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land

where milk and honey flow" (Ex 3:7-8). The Lord knows the challenges and hardships that we are in, and he desires to free us. But we can only be free from the sins that enslave us when we desire to do so and rely on God's strength. Our free will allows us to also choose our own sinfulness, as much as we can also choose God.

We can only turn away from sin when we place our lives in God's hands and be convicted of his power. The same God who changed the hearts of the sinners to become saints is the same God who is calling for us to return home.

"...we can only be free from the sins that enslave us when we desire to do so and rely on God's strength"



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.



MINISTRY AWARENESS & OUTREACH DRIVE

This weekend, join us after Mass outside JP11 Hall to explore the ministries of **Anawim**, **Infant Baptism**, **1Cor12** and **Altar Servers Society**. Come discover how you can be a part of our vibrant parish community!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Friends of SFX will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JP11 Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

SUNDAY CATECHISM NOTICE

Please note that Sunday Catechism sessions will be held from 6 Apr to 25 May, with no sessions on 20 Apr (Easter Celebration) and 4 May (Office for Catechesis Retreat), and Term 3 will commence on 29 Jun.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us **every Friday** during the Lenten season as we contemplate the love and sacrifice of Jesus at **8pm** for Stations of the Cross, followed by Mass.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 24 Mar, 8pm** at the **Auditorium**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 24 Mar, 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.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEVEL 1 TOILET FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Level 1 toilet for the handicapped at the Parsonage is closed for repairs until the end of June. Please use the Level 2 toilet, accessible via the lift. We apologise for the inconvenience.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (SERANGOON DISTRICT)



- Tue 1 Apr, 8pm: Church of St Vincent de Paul
- Wed 2 Apr, 8pm: Church of Transfiguration
- **Thu 3 Apr, 8pm: Church of St Francis Xavier**
- Mon 7 Apr, 8pm: Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Tue 8 Apr, 8pm: Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Wed 9 Apr, 8.15pm: St Anne's Church

BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM (BAT) THE PASSION OF CHRIST IN LIGHT OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Join us for a fascinating deep-dive into the world's most studied religious artifact. Discover what modern forensics, medical analysis, and advanced imaging reveal about this mysterious cloth. Learn of the latest revelations that add to the mountain of evidence that continues to challenge scientists and theologians today. Limited seats available. No registration required.

Date: Sun 23 Mar
Time: 9am
Venue: Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre, Level 2
Join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JSmZoA9fsT8FIZP61slcl9>



PARENTING FOR PURITY, LIVE WITH JASON EVERT

Do you want to be the #1 influence on your child's sexual morality? In this special event, Jason Evert will be speaking to us LIVE by Zoom right from his hometown in Arizona, USA. He will enlighten us on 10 powerful strategies to safeguard the innocence of your children. There will also be a dedicated Q&A segment right after the talk, where you can submit your anonymous questions live to Jason.

Date: Sat 29 Mar
Time: 10am - 11.20am
Venue: Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXPP2025>



BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

1Cor12 (BASIC) invites parishioners of all ages to a Lenten half-day of recollection. Come spend some time this Lent 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)



CPS LUNCHTIME TALK - THE SERVANT KINGSHIP OF JESUS

Join us as Rev Fr. Krish Mathavan guides us in meditating more deeply on the Servant Kingship of Jesus in this season of Lent.

Dates: 1 & 8 Apr (Tuesdays)
Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Venue: GB Building (143 Cecil Street, Level 11, Singapore 069542)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksKing2>



The transition of faith

Rites of Sending and Election

Across two Sundays in March, 40 catechumens and candidates from the SFX RCIA and RCIY, together with their godparents, underwent and witnessed the Rites of Sending and Election on 2nd and 9th March respectively.

The Rite of Sending, marking the transition in one's faith journey from catechumen to Elect, was incorporated into the Sunday mass celebrated by Father Ben. The Rite involved the godparents of catechumens and candidates affirming their readiness to be presented to His Eminence William Cardinal Goh.

The Rite of Election was hosted by the Church of the Holy Family and Blessed Sacrament Church this year. SFX and other parishes descended on The Church of the Holy Family, where catechumens, after being affirmed by their godparents and the community, were presented to His Eminence and had the opportunity to sign their names in the Book of Elect.

These twin Rites represent an important crossing in the journey towards baptism and signify a growing spiritual depth and maturity in our now-Elect and candidates. Let us, as a community in Christ, continue our prayers for them!



Rite of Sending, 2 Mar 2025



Rite of Election, 9 Mar 2025

"It was a very memorable and significant experience having my godparent witness my growth and commitment in my faith journey. The support from someone who has greatly helped me in my life and encouraged me to grow my faith to be more grounded meant a lot to me."

- Debbie Rose Yee, Elect, RCIA

"After spending years away from church and knowing I would have failed to appreciate this when I was younger, I am now one step closer to becoming part of God's whole family. We watched people who have come from everywhere stand together, chosen to be called as God's elect. It was lovely knowing I was being prayed for as well, while being asked to pray for others. What a blessing!"

- Andre Chua, Candidate, RCIY

"Seeing William Cardinal Goh was a highlight for me, as receiving his blessing as a candidate made me feel closer to God."

- Eunice Chang, Candidate, RCIA

"I felt peace and deep encouragement from the parish. My godfather expressed his confidence in my preparations. During the Rites, I felt a sense of belonging and a stronger connection with God."

- Aden Lee, Candidate, RCIA

"A highlight for me was His Eminence Cardinal William Goh's message encouraging all Elects to firmly believe and pursue the teachings of Christ and to become committed Catholics."

- Leong Chee Keong, Elect, RCIA



"The Rite of Sending was a meaningful experience as my parish community affirmed and supported my journey of faith. It was humbling to stand before them and receive their prayers. The Rite of Election was an even more profound moment. Being welcomed by our Cardinal and seeing so many others from different parishes made me feel part of something much greater - the universal Church. The rite, the prayers, and the official enrollment of names deepened my commitment. Overall, both rites were deeply spiritual and affirming, strengthening my resolve to continue preparing for the sacraments at Easter. The highlight of my experience at the Rite of Election was when I signed my name in the Book of Elect, as it marked a significant step in my journey toward baptism."

- Bessie Lim, Elect, RCIA



"I felt a deep sense of commitment during the Rites of Sending and Election. As I signed my name in the Book of Elect, I felt honoured to be part of this ceremony."

- Jeffrey Wang, Elect, RCIA

"Through the Rites, I felt like I have been transformed into a new person with God's guidance, as I feel that Jesus is with me."

- Serene Ng, Elect, RCIA



"The Rite of Election was a meaningful and a wonderful celebration. Progressing from catechumens to elect, I feel that I am continually chosen by God. Witnessing catechumens and candidates from various churches coming together, all called by the Archbishop and supported by our godparents made me feel the unity in a large community. It further deepened my faith and process of experiencing God. Signing in the Book of Elect during the Rite was very special for me too."

- Chee Teck Huei, Elect, RCIA



"I was really honoured and privileged to engage in conversation with William Cardinal Goh during the Rite of Election - his encouragement and blessing have become one of my most unforgettable moments in my journey of faith."

- Tan Min Min, Elect, RCIA

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT AND CANDIDATES

As our RCIA and RCII Elect/Candidates prepare for the Easter sacraments, let us spiritually accompany them. Pick a name and pray daily for that person. Prayer cards are available at the back of Church.



Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Lenten Fri:
Stations of the Cross
8pm
followed by Mass

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

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