



**Disciples
Making Disciples**

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 **Online Mass Offering:**
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings

 **Church Donation/ Mass Offering:**
UEN: T08CC403J

Ambassadors for Christ

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
30 Mar 2025

Josh 5:9-12
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

As we reflect on the readings this weekend, we hear the familiar story of the Prodigal Son in St Luke's gospel and of the Israelites finally entering the promised land. Let us reflect on what the readings mean for us this Lenten season.

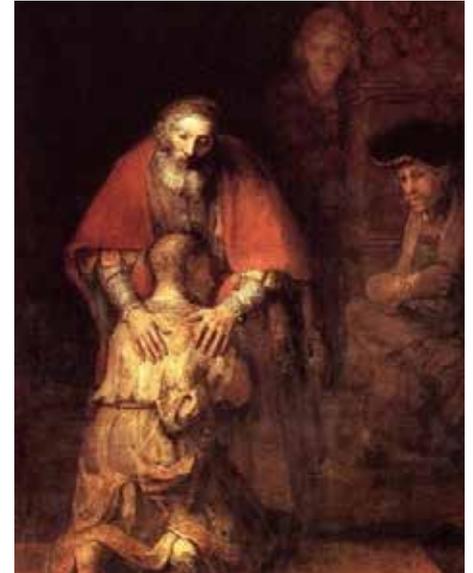
In the First Reading, "the manna stopped falling" signifies the end of the Israelites' desert wandering, while the eating of "unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn" marks the fulfilment of God's promised land of Canaan (Josh 5:12). We are reminded and comforted by God's promise to us as well. God says to Joshua, "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you" (Josh 5:9). These words are being spoken to us too. Today, he has taken away the shame of all our past hurts and painful traumas. Today, we step into a new place of reconciliation and a renewed relationship with our creator. We are being called back to the one who knows us best and loves us unconditionally.

In the Second Reading, St Paul reminds us that we are now a "new creation; the old creation has gone" (2 Cor 5:17), and that our newness is God's work. We are now "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor 5:20), charged with this immense

and beautiful task of telling people that they are reconciled to God. We bring this reconciliation with us when we speak with others who are broken and need to hear God's word. St Paul explains that God made the "sinless one into sin" (2 Cor 5:21), so that we may become the "goodness of God" (2 Cor 5:21). It is through the cross of Christ that reconciles us to God, that engenders goodness in us.

For us who have fallen away and have sinned against God, the "sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification" (CCC 1446). Then, we must ask ourselves: How have we been ambassadors for Christ? Have we reached out to our friends and family members who need to hear these words of reconciliation? Let us pray and reflect deeply on how we can be effective ambassadors. Let us live a renewed life ourselves, courageously proclaim that we are ambassadors for Christ, and invite our friends and family back to God and to the church.

In St Luke's Gospel reading, we come to the parable that we are all familiar with. We rejoice when the father in the parable welcomes back his younger son who had squandered his money and went far away from his home. But many of us also feel like the older son in this parable who was "angry then and refused to go in" (Lk 15:28) when he found out that his brother was being celebrated for returning home. We can reason with God and ask why others who were far from him receive a similar celebration when they return to God after living a life that was far away from God's will for



*"My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours"
(Lk 15:31).*

them. The key here is to listen to the words of the father in the parable, "[Y]ou are always with me and all I have is yours" (Lk 15:31). The older son was living the life of a servant and not one of a son because of his perspective. How often do we doubt God's goodness and his gifts for us? Many times, we look at others with envy, not realising that God has given us bountiful graces each day. If only we could realise that we are already living in God's abundant love for us.

This weekend, let us reflect on the joy of living in God's love. Let us become ambassadors for Christ to bring his love and reconciliation to those who have strayed. The moment God sees us returning to him, he does not walk, he runs to meet us. Let us also run back to the one who loves us and awaits our return.

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.



PUBLIC HOLIDAY (HARI RAYA PUASA)

The Parish Office will be closed on **Mon 31 Mar (Hari Raya Puasa)**. Please note that there will be **one mass at 9am only**.

MINISTRY AWARENESS & OUTREACH DRIVE

This weekend, join us after Mass outside JP11 Hall to explore the ministries of **St Jerome Library, Lectors, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Charismatic Prayer Group, Catechetical, Legion of Mary, Communion Ministers** and the **Altar Servers Society**. Come discover how you can be a part of our vibrant parish community!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Lectors Ministry 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.

CRUCIS SINGAPURA BY JESUS YOUTH

Jesus Youth invites you to join Crucis Singapura, a unique 'Way of the Cross' experience, where participants walk barefoot (optional) across the island, marking the sign of the Cross. Participants can choose from one of four predefined routes, ranging from 6km to 18 km. The event is scheduled for 12 Apr, and registration is free. Register at singapore.jesusyouth.org by 6 Apr. For any inquiries, contact Aji George at 8339 1887.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (SERANGOON DISTRICT)



- Tue 1 Apr, 8pm: Church of St Vincent de Paul
- Wed 2 Apr, 8pm: Church of the 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

THE LAST SUPPER AND THE LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Discover how Jesus' ministry connects to one of the Bible's most frequent prophecies: the return of Israel's "lost ten tribes." Learn why He chose twelve disciples, how the feeding of the multitudes is tied to tribal restoration, and why the Last Supper holds the key. Explore this overlooked fulfilment of prophecy that strengthens our faith through biblical promises fulfilled.

Date: Sun 6 Apr
Time: 9am
Venue: Jeremiah (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KM6BWs3v45i8DfT5Nlnr8>



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE : WAFFLES & SPAGHETTI

Ever wonder why men focus on one thing at a time while women seem to connect everything at once? It's not just you — it's how we're wired! Man and woman, the masterpiece of God's creation, were created for each other, to complete each other in the most profound way. Equal in dignity, yet as different as waffles are from spaghetti. How can we make it work in marriage? Come and enjoy a light-hearted exchange of ideas peppered with exercises to celebrate our differences and complementarity as male and female.

Date: Wed 30 Apr
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Catholic Centre, Level 3 (St Mary's Room)
Cost: \$20 per pax, \$35 for two
Register: bit.ly/WAFFSPAG_REG



CHARIS & ANAK: HEALING POWER OF THE EUCHARIST

In this Jubilee Year and as Pilgrims of Hope, let us open our hearts to the wisdom of Rev Fr Matthieu Dauchez as he shares his encounters with the destitute and the profound lessons learnt from the poorest of the poor. Hear stories that inspire us to deepen our faith, strengthen our hope, and grow in love for God and our neighbours. Join CHARIS and ANAK on a Journey of Faith & Hope this Lent!

Date: Sat 5 Apr
Time: 9am - 12pm
Venue: Caritas Agape Village (Hall 1 & Hall 2)
Register: <https://makehopehappen.charis-singapore.org/Activities/healing-power-of-the-eucharist>
(Registration closes on 4 Apr 2025)



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

Faithfulness to the Gospel is more than going to church and being nice. We are called to build God's kingdom and transform our world. Join us as we explore how the Church's social teaching can help us put our faith into concrete practice in daily life! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org.

Dates: 23 Apr - 28 May (Wednesdays)
Time: 7.45pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Church of the Holy Family, Level 4 Function Room
Register: bit.ly/cstapr2025



CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE**Heart-to-Heart Conversations**

Do you desire to be a better leader or a better companion in journeying with others? Start with being a better listener as listening is the foundation of accompaniment. This Listening Recollection provides participants a sacred time and safe space to reflect silently and listen to God in His Word. Thereafter they are invited to listen to one another without judgment and receive the gift of being listened to with undivided attention, within small groups.

Date: 5 Apr or 3 May (Saturday)**Time:** 9.30am – 3.30pm**Venue:** Kingsmead Centre**Cost:** \$100/- per pax
(including GST & lunch)**Register:** <https://catholicleader.sg/heart-to-heart-convos-h2h/>**Companions**

As baptised followers of Jesus, we are all called to accompany one another in our journey towards holiness. Experience a taster of what it means to be walked with and to walk alongside another within a mutually enriching relationship, each supporting the other to grow in faith and holiness together.

**Dates:** 12 Apr & 17 May (Saturdays)**Time:** 9.30am – 12:30pm**Venue:** Agape Village**Cost:** \$60/- per pax**Register:** <https://catholicleader.sg/companions-comp/>

Examination of Conscience for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

The 2025 Jubilee Year, centered on hope, invites us to reflect on our relationship with God, with others, and with creation. This examination of conscience, illuminated by the Synod's call to walk together as a synodal Church, seeks to help us deepen our faith, our communion with others, and our mission in the world.

1 Reflection on my relationship with God

1. Hope in God

- Do I fully trust in God's promise of salvation, even in times of difficulty?
- Do I seek to strengthen my faith and hope through prayer and the sacraments?
- Have I neglected my participation in the Sunday Eucharist and in times of personal prayer?

2. Listening to the Word

- Do I make an effort to listen to the Word of God and put it into practice in my daily life?
- Do I allow the Word of God to enlighten my decisions and guide my path?

3. Gratitude and praise

- Do I thank God for daily blessings, recognizing his presence in my life?
- Have I been indifferent or ungrateful to the gifts I receive?

2 Reflection on my relationship with others

1. Walking together as a community

- Do I value and actively participate in my parish or ecclesial community?

- Have I been welcoming and understanding to those who have opinions or experiences different from mine?

2. Synodality: Listening and dialoguing

- Have I listened attentively and without prejudice to the people around me?
- Have I promoted dialogue and reconciliation in my family, community or work?

3. Love and Service

- Have I shown compassion and solidarity with the poor, the marginalized and the needy?
- Have I acted with justice, avoiding all forms of discrimination or exclusion?

3 Reflection on my relationship with creation

1. Custodians of creation

- Am I aware of my responsibility to care for the environment as an expression of my faith?
- Have I adopted habits that promote sustainability and reduce my ecological impact?

2. Hope for future generations

- Have I worked to leave a better world for future generations?
- Have I promoted a culture of care, respect and hope in my environment?

4 Reflection on my mission in the world

1. Christian witness

- Have I witnessed Christian hope in my environment, especially in times of crisis?



- Am I ashamed of my faith, or do I live it with courage and joy?

2. Commitment to justice and peace

- Have I contributed to building a more just and peaceful world?
- Have I been indifferent to injustice, or have I passively tolerated it?

3. Evangelisation

- Do I share the hope of the Gospel with those around me?
- Do I strive to be an instrument of unity in the Church and in the world?

Closing prayer

Lord, source of our hope, help me to walk with you and with my brothers and sisters in a spirit of communion, participation and mission. Forgive my sins and strengthen my faith, so that I may be a faithful witness of your love in the world. May this Jubilee Year renew my heart and inspire me to live with joy and hope, always trusting in your mercy. Amen.



Three Qualities of a Good Confession according to St Faustina Kowalska

So how can a soul that is determined to strive for sanctity and to derive fruit benefit from confession? Saint Faustina highlights three qualities for a Good Confession in her diary (*Entry 113*):



1. Complete Sincerity and Openness: Even the holiest and wisest confessor cannot forcibly pour into the soul what he desires if it is not sincere and open. An insincere, secretive soul risks great dangers in the spiritual life, and even the Lord Jesus Himself does not give Himself to such a soul on a higher level, because He knows it would derive no benefit from these special graces.

2. Humility: A soul does not benefit as it should from the sacrament of confession if it is not humble. Pride keeps it in darkness. The soul neither knows how, nor is it willing, to probe with precision the depths of its own misery. It puts on a mask and avoids everything that might bring it recovery.

3. Obedience: A disobedient soul will win no victory, even if the Lord Jesus himself, in person, were to hear its confession. The most experienced confessor will be of no help whatsoever to such a soul. The disobedient soul exposes itself to great misfortunes; it will make no progress toward perfection, nor will it succeed in the spiritual life. God lavishes His graces most generously upon the soul, but it must be an obedient soul.

Source: www.catholic.sg/three-qualities-of-a-good-confession-st-faustina

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 - 12am
*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

RCIY: Youth Reflect on Christ's Passion

On 15th March, our Catechumens and Candidates from the RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation of Youth) gathered at St. Joseph's Church (Bukit Timah) to pray the Stations of the Cross. Led in prayer, they reflected on Christ's passion and death, immersing themselves in the outdoor stations surrounding the Church.



A Personal Reflection

Catechumen Joanne shared her moving experience: *"During the outdoor Stations of the Cross, I was immensely moved by its physical aspect. By kneeling on the sharp rocky floor, I faced difficulties in focusing on the scripture reading and reflection, as I was too focused on the physical pain I felt. However, this served as a reminder to me of the ordeals that Jesus endured during His passion. I remember distinctly that during His way to Golgotha, Jesus stopped to comfort the Women of Jerusalem despite the agony He was facing, and I only began to realise the profound love of this act during the outdoor Stations experience, as His compassion extended far beyond His own physical pain. I believe that the experience was a wonderful learning opportunity for me to gain a deeper understanding of His love for me."*

A Journey of Faith

As our Catechumens and Candidates journey towards Baptism and Confirmation, we pray that they will continue to reflect on Christ's ultimate act of love.