



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings



Church Donation/ Mass Offering: UEN: T08CC4033J

Forgiveness and Patient Suffering

Palm Sunday
13 Apr 2025

Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Lk 22:14-23:56

When we are betrayed by someone, the natural response might be to take revenge or hold a grudge. In today's readings, we see that Jesus was also betrayed. When he entered Jerusalem, the crowds praised and honoured him (cf. Lk 19:37). But when they realised he was not the 'king' that had come to overthrow the Romans, they wanted him killed (cf. Lk 23:23). Jesus responded to this in a radically different way from what many of us would probably have done: He loved and forgave them. Let us look at today's readings to see how we can imitate Jesus' response in our daily lives.

Firstly, we can express our feelings in prayer. We catch a glimpse into Jesus' human nature in the Gospel when he experienced great anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane (cf. Lk 22:44). Jesus, being truly human, understands our plight; and being truly God, wants to grant us strength to face such ordeals. However, we can only receive his strength if we fully rely on him through prayer. The importance of prayer was also reiterated twice by Jesus to his disciples on Maundy Thursday: "... pray not to be put to the test" (Lk 22:40; 22:46). He cautions us not to become overconfident in our own strength, but rather to rely entirely on him. We can do so by faithfully

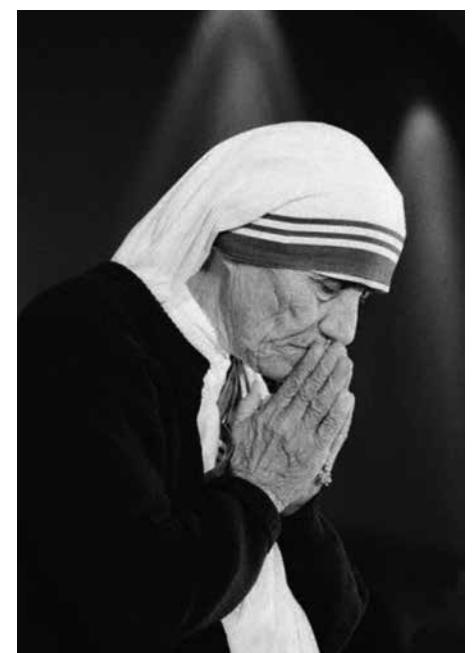
meditating on the Word of God daily. It is then that we can be a true disciple, fully ready to listen to the Lord so that we may live our lives in full communion with him (cf. Is 50:4). We can also end off our prayer like he did, entrusting the situation to him: "Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine" (Lk 22:42).

Secondly, we can choose to forgive those who have hurt us. Remarkably, after being mocked and crucified, he still chose to forgive his torturers: "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing" (Lk 23:34). While forgiveness is a difficult decision, it is nonetheless a necessary one if we want to experience inner healing. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that God's "outpouring of mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us" (CCC 2840). When we choose to forgive, we make a conscious decision to see those who have hurt us as brothers and sisters in Christ who need God's love and mercy just as much as we do. This sentiment was shared by Mother Teresa: "If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive." However, this is easier said than done, and thus we can pray for the grace of humility to be able to do so. By imitating Jesus' humility, we will be able to take up our crosses and receive the necessary strength and courage to endure the suffering that comes with it (cf. Is 50:7; Phil 2:5-8).

After a moment of betrayal, the aftermath of the situation can be dreadful. It is likely that we will encounter the person again in our daily lives if it occurs at home, school, or the workplace. Rather

than stressing over how we can deal with the other party, perhaps we can view these interactions as opportunities to accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary. In sharing in Jesus' suffering, we learn to be as patient and persevering as he is. This was what Fr Henri Nouwen shared in *Waiting for God*: "The word 'patience' means the willingness to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in the belief that something hidden there will manifest itself to us." This 'hidden manifestation' is Christ's Resurrection, which brings hope that hardened hearts may be transformed and that suffering does not have the final word. As we enter Holy Week, we can look forward to this renewal in Christ.

May we "heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection" (Palm Sunday Collect).



"If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive"
Mother Teresa

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.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The 1Cor12 (In One Spirit) Community will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 14 Apr, 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.

CLOSURE OF ADORATION ROOM

The Mount Tabor Adoration Room will be closed from **Maundy Thursday, 17 Apr, 8.30pm** to **Easter Sunday, 20 Apr, 7am**.

NO CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

There will be no candlelight rosary procession this month.

CATECHISM NOTICE

There is no Catechism session on **Easter Sunday, 20 Apr**. Session shall resume on **27 Apr**.

COLLECTION PRO TERRA SANCTA (FOR THE HOLY LAND)

Collections from Holy Thursday Mass will go towards the Holy Land. Please donate generously.

SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul (SSVP) 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. For cheque payments or PayNow, pay to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)
• **OCBC Bank Account No:**
686 596 768 001
• **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Maundy Thursday:**
17 Apr, 7.30pm
(No morning mass)
*Livestreaming at JPII Hall
(Altar of Repose until 12am)*
- **Good Friday:**
18 Apr: 9am, 12pm, 3pm
- **Easter Vigil:**
19 Apr, 7pm
(No morning mass)
(Internal Livestreaming)
- **Easter Sunday*:**
20 Apr: 7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm
**There will be fellowship at
JPII Hall after Morning Masses*



Please note:

- *Due to fire safety regulations, standing is not allowed along walkways inside the Church during services to avoid overcrowding. As we are expecting higher attendance during Holy Week, please comply with this and follow the guidance of the Wardens.*
- *Be alert and stay safe. If you notice anything suspicious or require any assistance, please approach our Wardens.*

GOOD FRIDAY PASSION PLAY

Join us for a powerful Good Friday Passion Play led by our Altar Servers on **Fri 18 Apr, 8pm** at the **Auditorium**. Experience the moving reenactment of the final hours of Jesus' life. All are welcome! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/SFxFPassionPlay2025>



PRAY FOR OUR RCIA AND RCIY ELECT AND CONFIRMANDS

Our RCIA and RCIY Elect and Confirmands are inching closer to the Sacrament of Baptism. Let us continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord as they journey towards Baptism this Easter!

SYMBOLON: THE FAITH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Unlock the profound beauty and depth of the Catholic faith with Symbolon: The Faith of the Catholic Church, and delve into Catholicism's rich history, core teachings and spiritual practices. This series, guided by the Creed, explores everything from the sacraments to inspiring saintly stories, empowering you to understand, live and share your faith confidently. The LiFE ministry will be embarking on the first five episodes.

- 25 April** - Seeking the face of God
- 9 May** - I believe in God, the Father Almighty
- 16 May** - Creator of heaven and earth
- 23 May** - I believe in Jesus Christ
- 30 May** - His only Son, Our Lord

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: JPII Hall
Register: Brian Rezel (9789 2253) or Monica Yap (9669 6781)



ARK OF THE COVENANT - BYZANTINE ICON ART EXHIBITION

You're invited to a unique event jointly organised by the Archdiocesan Commission for Apostolate of Mandarin-Speaking (ACAMS), Carlo Catholic Services, and the Diocese of Tainan Catholic Church Studium. There will be guided tours, talks, a three-day Sacred Icon workshop by renowned iconographer Theresa Tung from Taiwan. All are welcome! Do invite friends, regardless of their beliefs! Visit www.acams.org.sg/acams/byz-icon-eng to find out more.

Dates: 1 to 31 May 2025
Venue: Carlo Catholic Services, Level 2,
225B Queen Street Singapore 188552
Admission is Free for the Exhibition and Talks



CHARIS: APPEAL FOR MYANMAR AND THAILAND EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS), is making an appeal for those affected by the recent earthquake that struck Myanmar. The disaster has caused significant structural damage and hardship for many communities in Myanmar and their neighbouring countries, leaving families in urgent need of assistance.

You can donate via credit card or PayNow through the CHARIS website. Alternatively, you can send a crossed cheque payable to "**Humanitarian Aid Fund**," indicating "Myanmar-Thailand Earthquake Relief" at the back of the cheque, and mail it to:

CHARIS - 55 Waterloo Street, #07-02 Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954

For more information, please contact CHARIS at 6337 4119 or scan the QR code to visit <https://go.charis-singapore.org/MMTHrelief>. Your generosity will provide critical aid to those in need.



TREASURE #17: RETREAT FOR YOUNG WORKING ADULTS

Have you ever longed to simply rest in the Father's love? Sometimes, all it takes is one word — "Abba!" A cry from the depths of your heart, and he hears you. He sees you. He calls you his own. No matter where you are in life, God is waiting to lavish his love, mercy, and freedom upon you. Come and encounter him in a personal way at Treasure #17, a stay-in Catholic Encounter Retreat specially for young working adults (ages 21–35) in Singapore. If you know any young working adults, invite them to come and join us! If you have any enquiries, please write to Joel at joel.oyp@catholic.org.sg

Date: Fri 9 May - Mon 12 May (Stay-in)
Venue: Office for Young People (2 Lorong Low Koon, S536449)
Retreat fee: \$163.50 (incl. 9% GST)
Register: tinyurl.com/oyp-treasure17



PIETA PRAYER SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to meet every fourth Tuesday of the month to pray and support each other.

Date/Time: Tue 22 Apr, 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (2 Highland Road, unit LG-01, S549102)
Enquiries: pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit <https://pieta.familylife.sg>

Jason Evert: Parenting For Purity, Live-By-Zoom

Renowned speaker Jason Evert shared his expertise on parenting for purity with 150 parents at SFX on Sat 29 Mar. The event, organised by the Catechetical - Family Apostolate, aimed to equip parents with practical tips and best practices to guide their children towards purity. This event marked the first session of the "SFX Chastity Roadmap" series, designed to support parents in nurturing their children's spiritual growth and purity.



Jason Evert, founder of the Chastity Project, emphasised the importance of parents as their children's primary intercessors. He encouraged parents to pray, fast, and offer sacrifices for their children's purity. The event was well-received, with parents expressing a renewed commitment to praying,

fasting, and offering sacrifices for their children. The event concluded with a book sale, and refreshments at the JPPI Hall. Here are some testimonies:

"I was engaged and bitter towards God, viewing chastity as a prison. But attending Jason Evert's 'Love Matters' talk in 2017 transformed my perspective. I learnt that chastity is the key to true happiness, and I felt at peace, ready to commit to my marriage. Six years later, my husband and I attended Jason's 'Parenting for Purity' talk, seeking guidance on raising our three young kids. Inspired by Jason's message to fast, pray, and



About Jason Evert

Jason Evert has travelled to six continents to bring the message of purity to millions of people for more than 25 years. He has lectured at dozens of universities and is a best-selling author of 20 books. He is a frequent guest on radio programmes throughout the country, and his television appearances include MSNBC, Fox News, BBC, and EWTN. Jason runs Chastity Project and its website chastity.com, hosts the podcast "Lust is Boring," and leads an international alliance of young people who promote purity in more than 40 countries.





offer sacrifices for our children, we started anew and were determined to commit to praying and offering up sacrifices for their purity, and trusting in God's plan for our family." - Mother of three

"We are always grateful for the opportunity to attend events that help us as young parents navigate this increasingly secularised world with our kids. We didn't only benefit from hearing Jason speak during the talk, but also from other parents when they shared their questions and concerns. It's good to know we are not alone on this journey!" - Bridget and Daniel (Parents of two young kids)

"The session was engaging, offering practical tips for parents, supported by data and lively examples. Jason's clear, concise communication and spot-on answers during the live Q&A were impressive. It's inspiring to see him authentically embody the principles he teaches." - Mother of three young kids



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

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