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Disciples
Making Disciples

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Assistant Priest:
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 **Online Mass Offering:**
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
 **Church Donation/ Mass Offering: UEN: T08CC4033J**

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia!

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection
20 Apr 2025

Acts 10:34, 37- 43
Col 3:1-4
Jn 20:1-9

Jesus Christ is risen today; *A-lle-lu-ia!* This all-familiar hymn of joyful jubilation rings out across churches as we celebrate the triumph of Jesus' resurrection and victory over death. So, let us reawaken our senses as the readings are proclaimed. Do not become desensitised to the wonders of Easter.

The gospel begins purposefully and meaningfully: "It was very early on the **first day** of the week and still dark" (Jn 20:1). This exterior darkness symbolises the interior sadness in Mary Magdalene's heart since her beloved Jesus, 'the light of the human race' (Jn 1: 4), has died. It is an allusion that the darkness of sin in the human heart has snuffed out the 'Light of the World', resulting in utter sombreness. It was in this pre-dawn darkness and woefulness that Mary Magdalene made her solitary journey to the tomb.

But 'the first day of the week' brings hope and points to a new beginning. It draws us back to the first day of creation in Genesis when "God created the heavens and the earth" out of nothingness (cf. Gen 1:1-5). John's emphasis on the 'first day' helps us make the connection that Mary Magdalene was placed in the setting of the '**first day**' of a new creation. Dramatically, the empty tomb unveils the start of the

'new creation' sparked by the risen Christ. For us, we too become new creations at our baptisms where we die to our old selves with Christ and share in his resurrection and rebirth to new life.

What does this really mean? How does it tie in with what we profess in the Apostles' Creed at mass - that our Lord 'suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and rose again on the third day'? Do we truly believe what we profess?

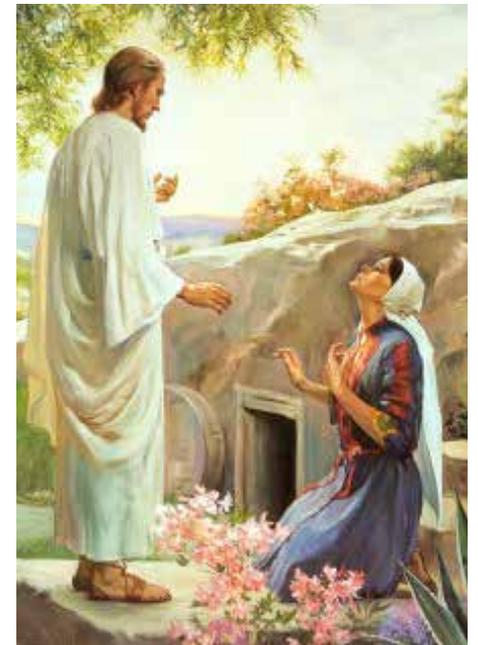
It all boils down to whether or not our own lives have changed in the light of this truth, as it did for the disciples and Mary Magdalene after they discovered the empty tomb. Over the next 40 days, they would slowly learn the real significance of Jesus' resurrection, opening their eyes to how the cross and tomb, initially signs of failure and defeat, would become symbols of the triumph of truth, goodness and love over sin and death. Their lives were dramatically changed and they began to fearlessly and zealously proclaim the Good News. Have our eyes too been opened to what the resurrection can do for our own broken lives, or are we still buried in our tombs?

Let us be rejuvenated by this poem: "And every year the dull and dead in us meets our Easter challenge: to be open to the unexpected, to believe beyond our security, to welcome God in every form, and trust in our own greening." (Excerpt: *Out of the Ordinary - Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season* - Joyce Rupp)

In truth, we do not merely celebrate Christ's resurrection as just a historical event of more than 2,000 years ago. Rather, Easter orients our messy, broken lives towards God, so that we begin to "look for the

things that are in heaven" (Col 3:1). Beyond the celebration, it must also be a day of decision as to whether or not we too will rise from the ashes of our lives by allowing the risen Lord to create us anew. We want to echo with the psalmist, "The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds" (Ps 117:16-17).

Easter celebrates the paschal mystery that made possible our own salvation here and now, not just in the afterlife. It is, in the fullest sense, the feast of God's extravagant and total love for us. Today, let us ask for the grace to come to see and believe as John did, that we too, might live as Easter people.



*"I shall not die,
I shall live and
recount his deeds"
(Ps 117:17).*

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.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Mon 21 Apr**.

EASTER CELEBRATION

Come and celebrate Easter with us in a joyful gathering! Enjoy a delightful breakfast and lunch served by our Small Christian Communities outside JPll Hall. Kids can look forward to a variety of fun activities at Mount Horeb (next to the library), including temporary tattoos, button making, crafts, ice lollies, and games from 9.45am to 1pm.

SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$12,784.10** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

CATECHISM NOTICE

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

CHARISMATIC PRAYER

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 21 Apr, 8pm - 9.30pm** at **Auditorium**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Our Easter Hope' by Michelle Voo. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 21 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.



The Lord is Truly Risen, Alleluia!

Wishing all parishioners a blessed Easter and may you come to believe and experience the living hope and joy of Christ in these extraordinary times.

THE WAY OF LIGHT: STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Come join us **every Easter Wednesday** after the evening Mass at **7pm**. Meet outside JPll Hall. All are welcome!

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a 2nd collection for Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) 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 drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection box. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit catholicfoundation.sg to contribute online or find out more.

CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: EMBRACING OUR BELOVEDNESS @ CATHEDRAL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

We are Beloved. This half-day recollection invites mothers to a journey of coming home to the reality of the First Love in their lives; that Love that has existed from eternity and abides for eternity. In the uniqueness of their life and role, mothers are called to reclaim the truth of their Belovedness and to celebrate it. As Henri Nouwen said, "Our true spiritual work has to do with letting ourselves be loved fully, completely by God and to trust that in this Love, we come to the fulfilment of our vocation."

About the Speaker: Sr. Maria Nerissa "Bubbles" Bandojo, rc.

Sr. Bubbles, rc is a Cenacle Sister from the Philippines. She has been a religious for 37 years. As a Cenacle Sister she has journeyed with people and various groups through the ministry of retreats and spiritual accompaniment. She is happy and grateful to be missioned in Singapore at this time.

Date & Time: Sat 3 May, 10am - 3.30pm
Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Annex Building, Level 3
Cost: \$20 participation fee (lunch not included)
Register: bit.ly/CFL_EOB



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: "I AM MADE FOR MORE" PROGRAMME VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Made for More is a programme consisting of 4 themes, its content developed with Rev. Fr. David Garcia, OP. in 2013 as a response to the needs of our time. It seeks to re-centre the focus of sexuality on upholding the dignity of each human person, in understanding what it means to love responsibly, and to live a truly free, dignified, and fulfilling life!

We are looking for volunteer facilitators for group discussions with teens & youths! We are looking for volunteers who:

1. Enjoy facilitating small group sharing
2. 18 years old and above
3. Have good listening skills
4. Are comfortable discussing life and sexuality

Please do register your interest by 18 May at: bit.ly/MFMvolunteerform or scan the QR code.



5 Important Facts

About Easter

Every Catholic Should Know

"Easter is the most important liturgical time for Catholics. It celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death and salvation for mankind. It is God's greatest act of love to redeem mankind."

2. THE WORD "EASTER" HOLDS MEANING

"The word 'Easter' comes from Old English, meaning simply the 'East.' The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a **symbol** for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true **Light** of the world." (USCCB)

churchpop.com

1. EASTER ISN'T A SIMPLE HOLIDAY, IT'S AN ENTIRE SEASON!

The liturgical season of Easter lasts for **50 days!** It is the second longest in the Church calendar.

Each year, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox and ends with the celebration of Pentecost.

churchpop.com



3. THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

The period of Easter Sunday **until** Divine Mercy Sunday (or, the second Sunday of Easter) is called the Octave of Easter.

Eastertide is considered to be the time after the octave of Easter.



4. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the **second Sunday** of Easter.

Jesus himself expressed His desire for a feast celebrating his mercy and told Sr. Faustina that it was to be the Sunday after Easter.

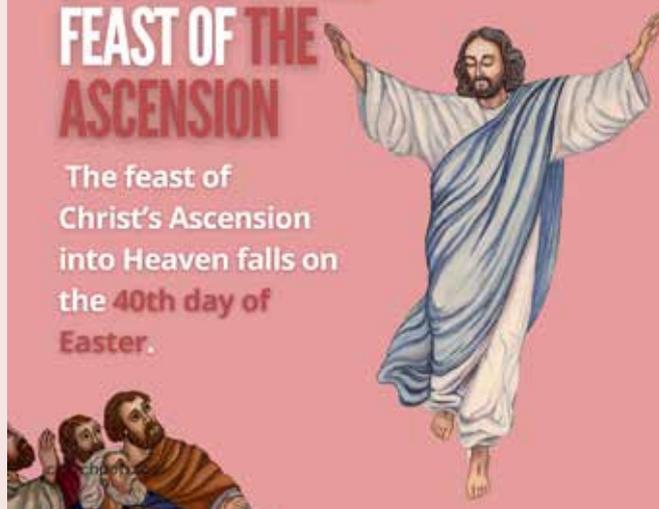
"Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."
— St. John Paul II, Divine Mercy Sunday Homily, April 22, 2001

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5. INCLUDES THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The feast of Christ's Ascension into Heaven falls on the **40th day of Easter.**





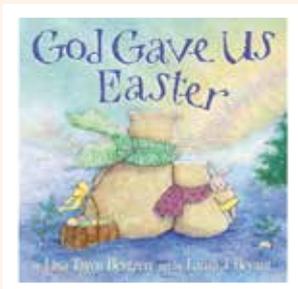
Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

St Jerome's Library Books

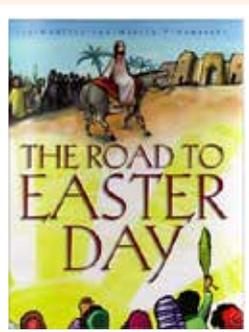
Easter is "the most important and beautiful day of history... for today our hopes no longer come up against the wall of death, for the Lord has built us a bridge to life" - Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi 2023.

What exactly happened on Easter morning that made Jesus' disciples fearless even when threatened with torture and death for talking about Jesus? How has Christ's resurrection changed human history? What does it mean to have eternal life even as we live here on earth?

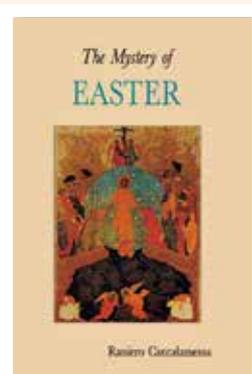
Make this 50-day Easter season count! Pick up any of these recommended reads for your family today to know why Easter is the most important feast in the liturgical year and why that matters in human history!



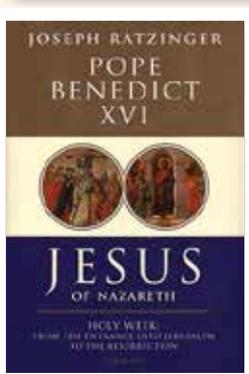
God Gave Us Easter



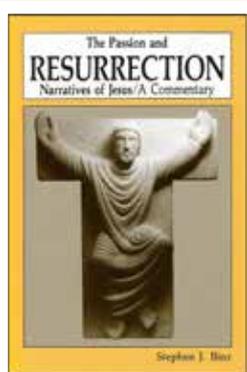
The Road to Easter Day



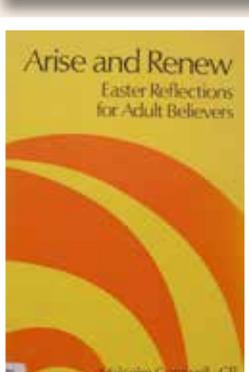
The Mystery of Easter



Jesus of Nazareth - Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection



The Passion and Resurrection: Narratives of Jesus / A Commentary



Arise and Renew: Easter Reflections for Adult Believers

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 - 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