



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

The Lamb who Shepherds

4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
11 May 2025

Acts 13:14,43-52
Rev 7:9,14-17
Jn 10:27-30

Out of the many symbols that the Church uses to express truths about Jesus, two of them seem to be at odds. The second reading from the book of Revelations describes Jesus as “the Lamb” (Rev 7:17), while John’s Gospel records Jesus describing himself as “the Good Shepherd” (Jn 10:11). The latter leads the flock, while the other is part of it. How might we make sense of this apparent contradiction?

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus was like us in every way but sin (cf. Heb 2:17, Heb 4:15). St Paul explains also that Jesus “did not consider equality with God to be used to his own advantage”, by “taking the very nature of a servant” (Phil 2:6-7). The Good Shepherd leads his flock precisely as a head that has been completely immersed in the conditions of the lowest member of the flock. And lower still, for “he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8). The Shepherd became a Lamb to be sacrificed. Divinity has taken on suffering humanity; the Word has become flesh, with all its weaknesses and sufferings.

This is a beautiful truth to contemplate, one that speaks to the greatness of God’s love. It is precisely by Jesus’ humanity that

he can lead all of humanity, both in the moral sense, as an archetype of servant leadership whom we might imitate in behaviour (cf. Jn 13:13-14), as well as in a mystical sense – to draw close to those who have rejected him by their sin. He comes to be with us, to pour out his very blood on us and re-establish union between God and man.

Jesus is our supreme role model, the Shepherd of the flock of Israel who has also become the sacrificial Lamb. The purifying power of his love is expressed by the irony of clashing colours, in the description of the saints in the second reading, who have “washed their robes white again in the blood of the lamb” (Rev 7:14). Their example encourages us to respond to God’s love. Having been edified for their faith, they “now stand in front of God’s throne” (Rev 7:14-15).

How do we follow Jesus? In the



*“How crucial it is then,
that we strive to hear
the voice of the Good
Shepherd.”*

Gospel, Jesus says that the “sheep that belong to [him] listen to [his] voice; [he] know[s] them and they follow [him]” (cf. Jn 10:27). The Church explains that “[i]n Sacred Scripture, God speaks to man in a human way” (CCC 109). We see this in the parables and metaphors that Jesus uses in the Gospels to express profound truths that we can relate to. If we belong to his flock – the Church – we must check ourselves on two points: (1) Can we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, and if we can; (2) are we following him? These conditions signal our very belonging to God, and this belonging to God, as Jesus teaches, ensures our eternal life, and excludes the possibility of us becoming lost. How crucial it is then, that we strive to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, who leads us always to green pastures and to still waters, feeding and refreshing our souls (cf. Ps 23:2-3). If we feel lost and starved in life, it is urgent then that we turn to our Shepherd, that we take seriously his counsel in our lives, which comes through his Word, and sometimes through those around us who are also walking this path. If we are truly convicted in the goodness of the Shepherd, there will be no fear, no other need (cf. Ps 23:1), except his will for our lives.

This feast also holds special significance for the Archdiocese of Singapore, whose Cathedral has been dedicated to the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. For those of us called to positions of leadership and responsibility in the Church, we are especially reminded today to model ourselves upon the one who gives his life for others, on this standard and no other.

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

The Parish Office will be closed on **Mon 12 May (Vesak Day)**. Please note that there will be one Mass at **9am** only.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Society of St Vincent de Paul will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPll Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY COLLECTION

All Mass collections on the weekend of **10 & 11 May (4th Sunday of Easter)** will be set aside for the ongoing formation of our Seminarians and expenses relating to the St Francis Xavier Major Seminary. Please give generously.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for our monthly outdoor candlelight rosary procession on **Tue 13 May, 8pm** at the **Grotto**. The procession will take place within the church grounds. Bring your own waxless candle and join us in prayers as we honour our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL VOCATION RETREAT 2025

For any young men who feel called to the diocesan priesthood, we encourage them to reach out through the seminary's website or social media channels for more information. Please also save the dates **22 to 24 Aug** for this year's Vocation Retreat, registration sign-ups will be given nearing the date. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the seminary.

Habemus Papam!

With great joy, the Church proclaims Habemus Papam - we have a Pope! We give thanks to God for the election of **Pope Leo XIV** and lift him up in our prayers as he begins his sacred ministry as the Vicar of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide him with wisdom, strength, and compassion as he shepherds the faithful around the world.



MAY - MONTH OF MARY

Come join us to pray the rosary as a parish community to honour our Blessed Mother at the following timings:

ROSARY (by Lectors)

<https://bit.ly/SundayRosary>

Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm **Meeting ID:** 840 7232 7379 **Passcode:** 3059464132

ROSARY

Dates & Time: Tue, Wed, Fri, 8.30pm **Meeting ID:** 681 479 6504 **Passcode:** Rosary7

DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

Date & Time: Weekdays, 3pm **Meeting ID:** 845 8298 0708

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."
- Proverbs 31:28

Wishing all the incredible mother figures who have nurtured and loved with a mother's heart, a day filled with love, appreciation, and joy. Come celebrate Mother's Day by purchasing a beautiful carnation, and giving it to our Blessed Mother, your mother, grandmother, or godmother. Flowers will be available for purchase before and after Masses at the Church Foyer and choir entrance. Love offerings are welcome and appreciated!

SACERDOTAL ORDINATION OF DEACON SHAWN DOMINIC WONG (ICPE)

We're thrilled to announce the ordination of a "son" of our Parish, Shawn Dominic Wong, to the Priesthood! Join us in celebrating this momentous occasion via livestream:



Date: Sat 17 May, 2025
Time: 3:30pm (Singapore Time)
Livestream Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@knisjamalta>

FIRST SOLEMN THANKSGIVING MASS:

Date: Mon 19 May, 2025
Time: 12:30am (midnight, Singapore Time)
Livestream Link: <https://www.facebook.com/parroccamqabba>

Please join us in prayer and celebration as we mark this significant milestone in Shawn's life and ministry.

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE: FACILITATE PARTICIPATIVE MEETINGS

Have you ever left a meeting feeling a bit disappointed that it wasn't as fruitful as it should have been, and that you weren't able to draw the best out of those participating? This interactive workshop is designed to equip leaders with key skills in facilitating effective group discussions or meetings in ministries and small communities. The course is especially useful for leadership teams in Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Executive Councils, ministries or Archdiocesan Organisations.

Dates: 17 May / 14 Jun
Venue: Agape Village
Cost: \$100 per pax
Register: www.catholicleader.sg

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE: AT THE FEET OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD RETREAT

A personalised, directed retreat for leaders to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his voice, allowing our Good Shepherd to tend to our inner wounds and restore our soul.

Dates: 24 - 25 May / 1 - 2 Nov
Venue: Punggol Retreat Centre
Cost: \$320 per pax (including accommodation, meals and spiritual direction session.)
Register: www.catholicleader.sg

Easter Vigil Baptism 2025

On Saturday, April 19, the Easter Vigil celebration marked a momentous occasion as 39 Elects and Candidates from RCIA and RCIY received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. Let's warmly welcome our new Neophytes into our faith community! Over the coming weeks, may their testimonies inspire and enrich your own spiritual journey with God.

"My journey to Confirmation was filled with curiosity and also doubts I had about my faith as a Protestant. Burnt out from my church ministry, I decided to reassess what I believed in as a Christian. Concurrently, as my fiancé and I were preparing for marriage, conversations about our faith came up quite frequently and we quickly realised that even though we believed in the same God, our church practices and doctrines were quite different. This sparked a curiosity in me and drove my desire to seek the truth.

What started out as 'I'm never becoming Catholic, I'm going to read up and show you why Protestantism is the way', quickly became 'I'm curious about what it is that Catholics believe in; why do you do it this way? Tell me more.' Interestingly, my partner has a number of friends in the religious life and I bombarded a priest friend of his with so many questions about the Catholic faith. He was very patient in answering my questions and together with my fiancé, I was encouraged to go for RCIA.

Even prior to my Confirmation, I thank God for the journey he brought me on. He has remained steadfast, loving and patient with me. God has brought so many people into my life since embarking on this journey. It was as if a veil was lifted! My eyes were opened to the beauty of the Catholic Church (the liturgy, the history, the intentional and intricate architecture and design - there is purpose in everything done in the Church!) Once this veil was lifted, everything about the faith made sense to me - there is now a deep appreciation because there is so much depth and richness in the Catholic Church. It made me want to know God even more and have a deeper reverence towards him.

The concept of venerating our Blessed Mother was especially difficult for me as I had been taught from young that Catholics were 'idol worshippers/Mary worshippers'. I couldn't be more wrong! Of course, there were doubts and fears when it came to the Marian doctrines during RCIA. I was going through a rough patch in my job search at that time and asked Our Lady to intercede for me (I eventually did end up being offered a job). Since then, I started praying the rosary and grew in my personal relationship with our Blessed Mother. I believe she appeared to me once in my sleep and though it was for a split second, the image of her still remains etched in my mind. Not a word was said - she merely smiled lovingly at me; I felt so much love, warmth and peace all in that short moment. I couldn't help but wonder, 'If this is what it's like with our Blessed Mother, what more our Lord Jesus?' This was definitely pivotal in continuing my journey towards Confirmation.

My journey is ongoing and I still have my questions, but the Catholic faith is by far one that has the most credible answers and evidence against all my doubts. Purgatory makes sense to me as it holds me accountable for ongoing sins. Confession was very hard as it requires one to humble oneself and examine one's heart with sincerity. My first confession was very liberating. It has made me think twice before sinning as I know I will be held accountable. This made me take sin more seriously than I ever did before while I was a Protestant. The Catholic Church has taught me to be a better Christian, giving me the tools that I need to keep on this journey on earth - praying the rosary, seeking help from the saints and our Blessed Mother, the universal understanding of scripture and doctrine, a much more ethnically diverse church, deep respect and reverence during Mass.

Both the simplicity and reverence have brought much comfort to my soul. In an unpredictable and distracting world, all the more do we need something unshakeable that has withstood the test of time. The sacraments have definitely brought me much closer to Christ and my faith feels complete now. I truly feel I have found what my heart and soul have been searching for all this while - one filled with real peace, love, joy, acceptance and hope. Thanks be to God." -

Mandy Elizabeth Ann Wong



"I come from a broken family and was abandoned by my parents at 16. Life wasn't easy, and I carried a lot of pain and loneliness. When I was 10, I first encountered Jesus and it planted a seed of hope that stayed with me. Over the years, I drifted in and out of faith. A schoolmate once brought me to church, and I even worked there as a nursery teacher. However, after entering a relationship with a non-Christian boyfriend, I felt unwelcome in church and that pushed me further away.



Despite the distance, I always knew I would return to our Heavenly Father one day. In 2024, my sister asked if I wanted to join RCIA. I was so grateful that my sister and two of my brothers-in-law decided to join. We did not invite my husband but, to my surprise, he said he wanted to join too.

The journey wasn't easy for him — he struggled a lot due to language barriers and unfamiliarity. But we faced those challenges together, with help from the RCIA team and the grace of God. This experience helped me grow in patience, understanding, and trust in God's timing.

Looking back, I can clearly see how God never gave up on me — even when I turned away, even when I felt unworthy. He was always there, gently leading me back, through people or situations that didn't make sense at the time. My baptism is not just a personal milestone but a testimony to God's patience, mercy, and never-ending love.

My relationship with God has become more intimate and real. I feel more anchored and more secure, knowing that I am his child. I no longer carry my burdens alone. I've seen how God not only worked in me but also touched my husband's heart and is now working in our son's life too. That's the miracle of God's work — he doesn't just save one; he restores families.

One key moment was when my husband — who had always been distant from faith — volunteered to join RCIA on his own. It showed me that God was truly working behind the scenes. Another was hearing my husband say, "Why didn't you bring me to God earlier?" That broke me and lifted me at the same time. It reminded me that God had a plan even when I couldn't see it.

Also, seeing my son excited to attend bridging classes to prepare for baptism was something I never imagined. It confirmed for me that God is not only writing my story but my family's as well.

This journey has been emotional, humbling, and full of grace. There were times I felt unworthy, and times I questioned if I was doing enough. But God kept showing me that his love is not something to be earned — it's something to be received. There were struggles — rejection, spiritual dryness, language barriers for my husband, moments of doubt — but there was also overwhelming peace, support from the Church, and a deeper sense of purpose. I feel incredibly blessed. I used to pray alone. Now, I pray with my husband and my son. And I know this is only the beginning of our walk with God. My heart is full of gratitude, and I'm excited to continue growing in faith and serving in the Church as a family." -

Beatrice Bessie Lim

"Joining RCIA a year ago was the beginning of my journey to baptism. My wife and children are cradle Catholics but I was raised in a Buddhist family. I had been thinking about becoming a Catholic but for some reason, I didn't make a move till a call from God last year strongly moved me to begin this journey.

The challenges I faced were mainly in understanding the scriptures, Catholic practices, and to be able to connect with and experience God. Attending RCIA with the support of the priests, RCIA community and my family members helped me to overcome these challenges. I want to thank God for his grace, mercy and love. Daily prayer to God is now part of my life. Through baptism, I am now a son of God, I have been purified from my sins and have renewed my life. Jesus is always in me.

Key moments include journeying through various stages in the RCIA, from an inquirer, a Catechumen, an Elect to a Neophyte. A continued calling by God was really a blessing. The RCIA retreat where we lived, prayed, reflected, shared and experienced God together was a wonderful and valuable experience. Signing my name on the Book of Elect during the Rite of Election was a meaningful and significant milestone for me as well. Baptism, Confirmation and my first Holy Communion were very significant moments in my life. I felt very happy after my baptism. Thank you Jesus for loving me. Every moment has further strengthened my trust in our Catholic faith and deepened my relationship with God.

I had a great and wonderful experience throughout the RCIA journey. I feel that the RCIA is a good way of helping people understand and practice the Catholic faith and bringing people closer to God. Our priests and RCIA community are always there to help us in search of our faith, give encouragement and provide great help, support and guidance. The learning and sharing sessions were often beneficial to attendees, and also allowed us to know each other better and become friends."

- Daniel Chee Teck Huei



Being a witness to Jesus, our Good Shepherd

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last." - John 15:16

Good Shepherd Sunday is a special day in the Church's liturgical calendar dedicated to praying for and reflecting on vocations. It's typically celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Easter and we are called to be witnesses to Jesus, our Good Shepherd. As we mediate the effects of the Risen Lord in our lives, we took some time to speak with Br Kenneth Tham, a fourth-year seminarian who is doing his Regency attachment in our parish.

Where do you see God's presence in your vocation?

I see him in my everyday experiences, if I am sensitive enough to pick up on them. The Lord's promise that 'when we give, there will be gifts for us, a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap' (Lk 6:38) is something I hold close to my heart. The opportunities I've had to meet different people, go different places, be exposed to different experiences, and many more are all signs of God's faithfulness and blessing.

What inspired you in this vocation?

I felt drawn particularly to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. To be able to make Jesus present sacramentally, and bring him to others in a tangible way through the forgiveness of sins and to be the face of God's mercy, is something so awesome and beautiful.

What challenges do you face, and how do you overcome them?

The feelings of loneliness and unworthiness creep in from time to time. I realise that running back to the Lord in the Eucharist is the biggest help. It is also recognising that I can never be worthy enough, but trusting that if the Lord calls, he will provide the necessary graces.

What advice would you give to those discerning this vocation?

Pray. Grow your devotion to our Blessed Mother and she will show you the way. Know what you are getting yourself into. There are so many reasons to say no to this vocation, but there is one reason to say 'yes' – and that is for the love of Jesus Christ and his Church.



Interested in Learning More About Vocations?

Representatives will be sharing after Mass at the pulpit at the following times:

Daughters of St Paul:
Sun, 9am Mass

Disclaled Carmelites:
Sun, 5.30pm Mass

Diocesan Priesthood:
Come meet Br Kenneth after Mass

If you're interested in learning more, please take this opportunity to speak with them after Mass. For further enquiries on the diocesan priesthood, please visit <http://seminary.catholic.sg/>.



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

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

ANOIDTING 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 JPPII 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