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

Disciples
Making Disciples

Living as New Creations

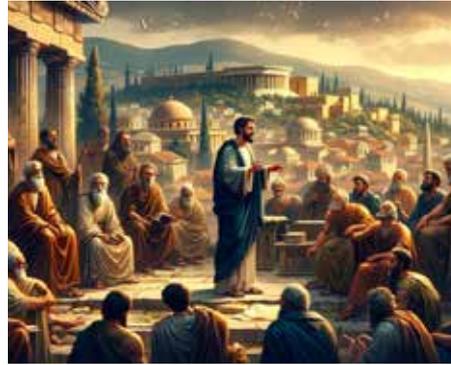
5th Sunday of Easter
18 May 2025

Acts 14: 21-27
Rev 21: 1-5
Jn 13: 31-35

Every year during Lent, we strengthen our resolve to walk closer to the Lord, so that when Easter comes around, we can emerge stronger in our faith and deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. This is also when new Catholics are born of the Spirit and begin their new life in Christ as his new creations. They, and all of us take (and retake) our Baptismal vows – to reject Satan and all his empty promises. We are an Easter people, because we have died to our old sinful selves and become God's new creations.

But, how are we living as new creations beyond the climax of Easter celebrations at Mass? If we are stumped with how to love deeper and forgive more, we can certainly take a leaf out of the unstoppable passion and courage of the early Church. In the First Reading, St. Paul and St. Barnabas travelled far and wide braving persecution, imprisonment, even death, to spread the Gospel, and their sure-footed steadfastness "put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith" (Acts 14:22).

If we think evangelising is difficult these days, let's be reminded that the apostles and their followers had to endure many hardships as



"By keeping ourselves holy and pure, as worthy temples, and having an active relationship with the Spirit, we will be able to discern how God wants us to show his light to others as new creations."

missionaries too. Through fervent prayer, detachment from worldliness through fasting, they boldly gave testimony to God's love and mercy in their lives (cf. Acts 14:23-25). They were only able to give witness to Christ's teachings and share their conversion stories through the grace of the Holy Spirit. As a result, how the Church grew!

News flash: Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit too, in the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation. How are we harnessing God's power within us to grow his Church as his new creations? "[H]ow [are we opening] the door of faith to the pagans" (cf. Acts 14:27)?

On our own strengths and intellect, we can do nothing. As the Spirit leads the Church, we need to open our hearts and minds to its direction and guidance. By keeping ourselves holy and pure, as worthy temples, and having an active relationship with the Spirit, we will be able to discern how God wants us to show his light to others as new creations. Daily Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditating on the mysteries of Christ's most sacred life through the Rosary, praying with the Word through Lectio Divina, and fasting as a means to mortify our fleshly appetites, help us build a solid foundation of faith,

and nurtures our relationship with Jesus. We do this faithfully, and our lives will change because our hearts will change. We will become more and more like who we consume, converse with, and contemplate. Our hearts will slowly but progressively burn for Jesus, to bring more souls to him.

Doing so MEANS we will receive the Lord's promise of "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev 21: 1) in St. John's vision of the ultimate kingdom of God in the Parousia (Christ's Second Coming) in the Second Reading. There, in the New Jerusalem will also be where "[h]e will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness" (Rev 21: 4).

Indeed, the beatific vision and being in perfect communion with the Holy Trinity can be ours for eternity one day, for God's promises are certain. Where we are in our lives, imperfect yet hopeful, we continue to glorify God, our King, blessing his name forever (cf. Ps 144). We will give glory to God when we follow Jesus, who said to his apostles, "I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you must also love one another" (Jn 13: 34).

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

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 bags. 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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (DAY OF OBLIGATION)

- **Wed 28 May (Vigil):** 6.30pm
- **Thu 29 May:** 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8pm

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION DINNER 2025

Support the Catholic Foundation Dinner to be held on **Wed 22 Oct** at the Fullerton Hotel! This annual fundraising dinner hosted by our Archbishop, Cardinal William Goh, is fully sponsored. All funds raised from table sales and direct contributions will support the building of the Catholic Hub — our Archdiocesan spiritual oasis and a centre for forming disciples, building community and empowering mission. Scan the QR code, visit catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner, or contact us at 6338 0348 or cfdinner@catholic.org.sg.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The LiFE Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 19 May, 8pm - 9.30pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on "Imitating Christ". All are welcome!



INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 19 May, 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.

PIETA: MAY PRAYER SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. A monthly session led by bereaved parents is held to pray, reflect and break open the WORD OF GOD. We invite any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) to unite with us in faith. Our next session on **Tue 20 May** will be on Zoom and will be from **7.30pm to 9.15pm**. (Please note that for May it is not on the usual 4th Tuesday of the month). If you wish to join us, please email us directly at pieta.singapore@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

PARISH RECOLLECTION

In our busy lives, it's easy to lose sight of our connection with God. God's question – "Where are you?" – offers a gentle invitation to pause, reflect and re-centre ourselves on him. Join Deacon Sherman Kuek for a reflection on the Luminous Mysteries, exploring what these mysteries reveal about our Catholic life and find rest in the Lord. **Registration closes on Sun 13 Jul**. Find out more on page 4.

Dates: 25 – 27 Jul **Venue:** SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)
Fee: \$50 **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/SFXPR25>

OYP KICKSTART: STAY-IN RETREAT

Beginning your university journey this year? Come join us at **Kickstart25**, a stay-in retreat with fellowship and formation for all incoming university freshmen (studying locally or overseas). You can look forward to hearing the faith stories of other university students and learn more about the universities you are entering from the seniors who will be there to welcome you! The Lord desires much for you, young friend. Take a leap of faith to discover more. For more information, please contact Dennis via email dennis.oyp@catholic.org.sg or Telegram [@jeremiahlo](https://t.me/jeremiahlo).

Dates & Times: Sat 28 Jun, 10am to Sun 29 Jun, 7pm
Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lor Low Koon, S536449
Fee: \$21.80 (inclusive of 9% GST) **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/Kickstart25P>

HUMANITARIAN FORUM AND FAIR 2025

Join us for a day of inspiring talks, interactive experiences and vibrant booths by CHARIS Member Organisations. Whether you're exploring, learning, or looking for opportunities to get involved, the event invites us to reflect on how we can serve with our Heart, Head and Hands. Come connect, be moved and discover how your actions – big or small – can create real-world impact. Together, we can do more. For more information, visit charis-singapore.org/hff2025.

Date & Time: Sat 14 Jun, 9am – 6.30pm **Venue:** St Joseph's Institution (Junior)

CENACLE SISTERS: A SPRING DAY FOR OUR DIS-EASE: SPIRITUALITY FOR BUSY PEOPLE

"Is this all there is to life?"

Maybe you've been running on autopilot? Keeping up, pushing through, but something feels... missing. What if the answer isn't in doing more, but in slowing down? In a world obsessed with hustle and high efficiency, this weekend retreat offers a sacred pause. Through stillness, silence and solitude, discover the peace that your heart longs for.

Dates: 5 – 6 Jul
Venue: La Salle House
Register: <https://forms.gle/xmHXNhMkX5ZFMjju6>



CENACLE SISTERS: RENEW, REIGNITE, REDISCOVER!

This retreat, guided by Sr. Kriz, RC and Fr. Jerome SJ, is designed to help participants deepen their relationship with the self, others and God. Through a mix of rest, simple leisure activities, prayer and reflection, we hope to provide a safe space for self-discovery, self-acceptance and emotional growth as we evaluate: Why do I do the things I do? Due to peak season (school holidays), we need to confirm registrations early for accommodation and ferry arrangements.

Dates: 11 – 14 Sep
Venue: Bintan, Beach Resort
Register: <https://forms.gle/JBXbA6KvE6QvuQmK6>





PREPARATORY CAMP FOR THE L8 & L9 Catechetical Camps 2025

2-4
MAY
2025

The parishes of **St Bernadette**, **Risen Christ** and **St Francis Xavier** will be collaborating for the L8 and L9 camps in June. 84 service team members responded to this weekend of formation and prayer. Some testimonies from the participants:

“ I went in feeling a little nervous, especially about meeting new people, but that uneasiness quickly faded. Everyone was so welcoming that it created a warm environment, which led me to being open as well. Throughout the camp, I was deeply nourished both spiritually and personally. I learned more about the Holy Family, how to pray the Josary (Rosary to St Joseph) and discovered many new ways to grow in faith and service. It was a beautiful reminder of the joy that comes from community, learning and serving together in Christ.
- Alyx



“ Spiritually, it was a time of great healing for me, it's been years since I attended a retreat due to COVID. I've quite forgotten the sheer power of group prayer, and I'm glad to have experienced that again during this retreat.
- Jesselyn



“ During the camp, I regained my love for the beauty of the Mass. The first session was on the 'Unholy Family'. I learnt that my past does not define me, one of the things I have been struggling with throughout my life. The most meaningful time I had was when we said the St Joseph rosary when I decided to let go of everything and just give it up to the Lord.
- Ashish

“ Entering the camp, I felt quite lost and unsure of what the Lord wanted me to do with my life. There were so many things happening, and I felt like I was drifting away from Him. One of the sessions that struck me the most was the last session, during which everyone was affirming one another and praising the Lord. This was powerful because I hadn't been able to clearly listen to the Lord and what He wanted for me. But hearing someone else's affirmation felt like it came from the Holy Spirit, comforting me. One sentence that struck me was, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't sit on the fence." As I reflected on my life, I realized that God had actually given me so many opportunities, but I wasn't willing to take them because I doubted Him and His plans for me. This camp was something I truly needed, and it turned out to be one of the best camps I've ever attended. - Jordan



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg



25 TO 27 JULY 2025

Parish Recollection

FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME

there am I with them

MATTHEW 18:20

Do you want to grow in your faith?

Do you want to be part of a vibrant parish community?

Do you want to deepen your appreciation and understanding of the Rosary?

Spend the weekend fruitfully, filling up your spiritual tanks in community with your brothers and sisters-in-Christ at this non stay-in retreat conducted by Rev Deacon Sherman Kuek. Deacon is now at the final set of mysteries - **The Luminous Mysteries** - in his series on the Rosary, so don't miss out on it! Three participants of the previous Parish Recollections share their testimonies below:



“Deacon draws upon his very varied life experiences to flesh out the different mysteries. He shows how we can connect with those mysteries to pray our own unique circumstances through them. As a Protestant convert he shares through personal stories his own journey to the Catholic Church and how its traditions – like the rosary, shaped his own faith and continue to anchor his prayer life.

Engaging and frank, Deacon brings the words of Scripture to life. He shows how, in practical ways, we can enter more deeply into prayer. Meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, we are drawn to the mind and heart of our Lord which brings a new intimacy to our relationship with Him. The retreat offers us a fresh way, through this ancient devotion, to connect our lives with God, who is as present with us today as He was two thousand years ago.

As the late Pope Francis said, “this simple prayer... helps us to contemplate all that God in His love has done for us and for our salvation, and allows us to understand that our life is united to that of Christ. In prayer, we bring

everything to God, our struggles, our wounds, our fears, but also our joys, our gifts, our loved ones... all to God. By praying, we allow God to enter our time, to welcome and transfigure all that we experience.
- **Corinne Cheok**

“The previous parish recollections on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary were spiritually enriching for all who attended. The session we participated in focused on deepening our understanding of the Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries, inspiring us into a more contemplative prayerful life.

Deacon led us through each set of mysteries with biblical insights, historical context and practical reflections. These allowed us to connect the life of Christ and the Blessed Mother with our own daily struggles and joys in a deep personal way.

The recollection was warmly received and served as a reminder of the beauty, richness and transformative power of the Marian prayer.

- **Jimmy and Marivie De Borja**

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

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