



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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

Who is God to you?

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
23 Aug 2026

Is 22: 19-23
Rom 11: 33-36
Mt 16: 13-20

If you follow current events around the world, you often come across many questions repeatedly being asked: Will there ever be peace in the Middle East? When will there be a ceasefire in Iran? Can the rivalry between the US and China be resolved? Or nearer home: Will COE prices keep going up? Many of these issues are important because their outcomes might make a difference to the world we live in.

But most of these questions may only affect us indirectly, and life carries on no matter how they turn out. Yet too often we are preoccupied with them because they dominate the news headlines and social media.

If only we gave the same attention to the most important question, one that seldom makes the news but has the greatest and most personal impact on us: Who is God to us? It is a question we cannot run away from asking if life is to have any meaning and purpose.

The readings this week are about this question.

It was posed by our Lord to his disciples, but it really is directed to every one of us.

Simon Peter responded simply and unambiguously: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).

Now, 2,000 years later, his answer might seem obvious and



***"Faith is a gift of God,
a supernatural virtue
infused by him."
(CCC 153)***

unremarkable. At the time, it was anything but, as Jesus had not yet revealed himself fully and his plan of salvation was only beginning to unfold.

Though Peter seemed confident in his answer at the time, he would soon be tested again and fail badly. Next week, we will read about the severe rebuke Jesus gave him when he remonstrated with our Lord after Jesus revealed to the disciples the death and resurrection he was about to undergo in Jerusalem.

"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's" (Mt 16:23), Jesus said to Peter.

From hero to zero in a moment. What is the message here?

Isn't it so like us as well in our faith journey — sure one day, but full of doubts the next?

This happens when our relationship with God is not based on faith and love, but on what we believe to be knowledge and human experience.

Finding the answer to the question of who God is to us is not simply about gathering information about him or thinking through the issue, which is what we usually do when faced with a problem.

God has given us a gift that enables us to know him, and it is called faith.

Jesus said as much when he responded to Peter's heroic answer: "Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven" (Mt 16:17).

Affirming that Christ is our Saviour means accepting that we are his disciples, following his path and serving in his mission. Giving ourselves to him is an act of faith.

The discussion Christ had with his disciples on this question marked a turning point in his ministry because this was the first time someone had acknowledged him as the Son of God in response to a direct question from our Lord. There and then, he appointed Peter as leader of the group to build the Church, handing him "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19).

At the end of the day, it is not enough simply to give the right answer to the question. What matters is whether we put our faith in the God whom we profess to believe in. As the Church explains:

"Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth" (CCC 153).

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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You may contact the Parish Office to make an appointment at the following time slots:

- **Fridays:** 4pm - 6pm
- **Saturdays:** 10am - 12pm

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Agape Group will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPll Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 24 Aug, 8pm – 9.30pm** at Mount Tabor Adoration Room.

BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE TEAM: SCRIPTURAL ROSARY DEVOTION

Come and pray the Scriptural Rosary with the Biblical Apostolate Team - a beautiful devotion where each Hail Mary is preceded by a verse of Scripture, drawing us deeper into the life of Christ. What makes this evening special: we will pray all four Mysteries - Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious - journeying through the entire Gospel in prayer. All are welcome.

Date: Wed 26 Aug
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 2026

ME Weekend is an enrichment programme for couples who have been married for 3 or more years. Come and experience your marriage in a new light! Register for a Transformative Marriage Weekend. For more information, refer to: https://www.wmmesg.org/Weekend_Reg - and secure your Weekend today!

2026 Stay-in Weekends: Aug 28 - 30 | Oct 2 - 4 | Nov 6 - 8 | Dec 4 - 6

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

This weekend, the Archdiocese celebrates Catholic Education Sunday. Students and teachers from **CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC)** and **St Gabriel's Primary School** will join our parish community in prayer and worship. Together, let us celebrate the gift of Catholic education and pray for stronger partnerships between our homes, schools and parishes.

- **Sat 22 Aug, 5.30pm Mass:**
CHIJ Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC)
- **Sun 23 Aug, 9am Mass:**
St Gabriel's Primary School



MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY - THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

The tomb was not the end. It was the beginning of everything! When our Lord was taken down from the Cross and laid in the tomb, his mission appeared to end in failure. Yet, from that darkness, glorious light broke through, and he rose victorious. Our world is filled with complicated problems but God offers simple, yet powerful, solutions. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Join LiFE Ministry for the remaining 4 sessions on the Glorious Mysteries, and let your life become evidence of the Resurrection and proof of Pentecost.

Dates: (Fridays) 4, 18, 25 Sep; 2 Oct
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: JPll Hall
Enquiries: Raymond (9752 9723) or Ignatius (9664 2127)

PIETA – A SUPPORT GROUP FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who come together in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The monthly sessions, facilitated by bereaved parents, provide a space for prayer, reflection and breaking open the Word of God. Any parent who has lost a child, regardless of the child's age or how recent or long ago the loss occurred, is welcome to join us and journey together in faith.

Date & Time: Tue 25 Aug, 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Venue: Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, LG-01 (next to the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)
Enquiries: pieta.familylife.sg or email PIETA for directions

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION: GOD, MONEY & ME

God, Money & Me blends practical financial tools with Catholic principles, helping you build healthy habits, make values-based decisions, and experience the freedom of faithful stewardship.

Orientation: Sat 5 Sep, 10am - 12pm
Sessions: Every Sat, 3 - 31 Oct, 9am - 1pm
Venue: Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954
Register: catholicfoundation.sg/god-money-and-me



INTERCESSION RETREAT

Organised by the CSC Retreat Team. Have you ever felt called to pray more deeply for others but didn't know how? Do you sometimes feel helpless when those around you are suffering? Come discover how the gift of intercession can bring hope, healing and change as you learn to carry one another's burdens, intercede through various forms of prayer, and lead others in intercession.

Date: 5 - 6 Sep (Non Stay-In)
Time: 8.30am - 6.45pm
Venue: Catholic Spirituality Centre
Fee: \$109 (inclusive of 9% GST)
Register: <http://bit.ly/cscir11>



CARITAS SINGAPORE: REVIEW OF LIFE WORKSHOP - SEE JUDGE ACT METHOD

How can we integrate faith into real-life issues? How can we make decisions as a community with faith? In his catechesis on Lumen Gentium, Pope Leo invites us to show the beauty of Christian life wherever we are through our choices as missionary disciples. Such a life foretells here and now the justice and peace that will be accomplished in the Kingdom of God.

Join us at Catholic Centre to learn the See-Judge-Act method to integrate our faith into how we decide our actions. Used by popes and various Catholic movements, we will practise the method in facilitated discussions. Do bring friends and community members along! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org.

Date: Sat 12 Sep
Time: 9am – 1.30pm
Venue: Catholic Centre, Level 2
 (55 Waterloo St)
Register: bit.ly/reviewoflife



VERBUM DEI: BIBLE IN THE CITY - SCRIPTURE FOR THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

Don't just survive the urban rush, but root your life in the living Word of God. Organised by the Verbum Dei Missionaries, this symposium invites us to pause and allow Scripture to speak into our busy city routine.

Hear from our keynote speakers and panelists as they explore how God's Word can deepen and ground our faith. Event highlights include two talks, a panel discussion and the celebration of the Eucharist.

For enquiries, contact the Verbum Dei Missionaries at vdeisingapore@gmail.com.

Date: Mon 9 Nov (Public Holiday)
Time: 8.30am – 1pm
Venue: Novena Church Auditorium,
 Pastoral Block, Level 2
Fee: \$30 (single) / \$50 (pair)
 Light refreshments provided
Register: tinyurl.com/VdeiBibleSymposium
 (Registration closes by 18 Oct)



Week of 23 August 2026



The Confessions of St. Augustine | Littlest Saints

A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of St. Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3279961>



Feast of Saint Monica | Catholic Saints

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss this great Saint.

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/1050277>



Restless Heart

This film on the life of St. Augustine offers a message of conversion and redemption. It is the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth.

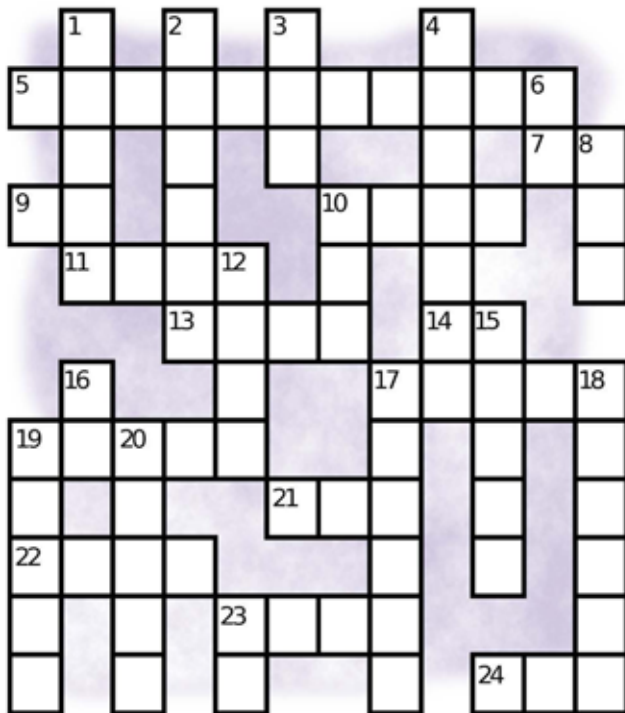
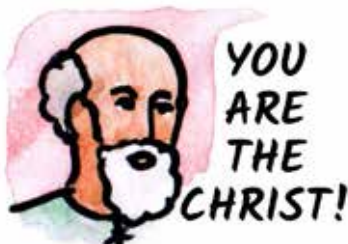
<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/106615>

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
 Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" CROSSWORD

See how well you know what
happened in today's Gospel story!



- ACROSS**
5. "...the gates of the _____ will not prevail..."
 7. "..._____ this rock I will build my Church..."
 9. "Whatever you bind on earth shall _____ bound in Heaven."
 10. "I will _____ you the keys of the kingdom..."
 11. "On this _____ I will build my Church."
 13. Jesus made Peter the _____ of the Church on earth.
 14. "Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed _____ Heaven."
 17. "_____ and blood have not revealed this to you..."
 19. _____ asked them, "Who do you say that I am?"
 21. God _____ Peter in charge of His Church on earth.
 22. Jesus changed Simon's _____ to Peter.
 23. "Flesh and blood _____ not revealed this to you..."
 24. "...You are the Christ, the _____ of the living God!"
- DOWN**
1. _____ said, "You are the Christ..."
 2. "On this rock I will build my _____."
 3. "Blessed _____ you, Simon..."
 4. "...the gates of the netherworld shall not _____"
 6. "Who _____ people say that the Son of Man is?"
 8. "Flesh and blood have _____ revealed this..."
 10. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living _____!"
 12. "I will give you the _____ to the kingdom of Heaven."
 15. When will the gates of the netherworld prevail against the Church?
 16. _____ belong to the Church that Jesus started.
 17. The Heavenly _____ revealed to Simon who Jesus was.
 18. "...the keys to the kingdom of _____"
 19. "Blessed are you, Simon, son of _____"
 20. Peter's name before Jesus changed it.
 23. Jesus ordered the disciples to tell no one that _____ was the Christ.

Source: The Kids' Bulletin



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 - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:

9.30am - 6.30pm

Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 1pm

Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sun: 8am - 1pm,
4pm - 5.30pm

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 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