



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Get Behind Me

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
30 Aug 2026

Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

Last Sunday, Peter proclaimed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Today, when Jesus reveals that the Messiah must suffer and be killed, Peter cannot accept it. Taking Jesus aside, he begins to correct him. Jesus' reply is startling: "Get behind me, Satan! ... the way you think is not God's way but man's" (Mt 16:23).

Peter loved Jesus, but he loved him according to his expectations. He wanted a victorious Messiah, not a suffering one. He could recognise Jesus as the Christ, but he could not accept what it meant to follow Christ. In trying to spare Jesus from the cross, Peter unknowingly stood in the way of God's saving plan.

Perhaps this is why Jesus says, "Get behind me." A disciple does not walk ahead of the Master, deciding the way. A disciple walks behind, trusting the One who is the Way. To follow Christ means letting him lead, even when the path is challenging.

There are moments when we, like Peter, tell God how life should unfold. We pray for healing, but sickness remains. We long for reconciliation, but relationships stay broken. We make plans for our families, our work, and our future, only to discover that the road ahead is different from what we imagined. We may find ourselves asking, "God, why this? Why now? Why me?"

Sometimes, without realising it, we want God to work according to our plans. We want the resurrection without the cross, victory without

the struggle. Yet faith asks something deeper: not that we understand everything God is doing, but that we trust the One who leads us.

Jeremiah knew this struggle. He felt misunderstood, rejected, and even deceived by the mission entrusted to him. Yet he discovered that God's word had become "like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones" (Jer 20:9). His suffering did not mean that God had abandoned him. Even in his anguish, Jeremiah remained with God who had first called him.

The cross, then, is not a sign that God has left us. Rather, it can become a place where he draws us closer into communion with his Son. The Catechism reminds us that Christ calls his disciples to take up their cross because, through his suffering, he opened the way of

salvation; united to his sacrifice, our own suffering can become a participation in his saving work (cf. CCC 618).

This does not mean that we seek suffering or accept every hardship without question. Rather, we embrace with love the crosses we encounter in faithful discipleship: forgiving instead of retaliating, remaining honest when compromise is easier, persevering in prayer when God seems silent, or quietly serving without recognition.

These acts of love may seem insignificant, yet they are often where discipleship becomes real. It is easy to follow Christ when life is comfortable. It is harder when forgiveness costs us our pride, when faithfulness requires perseverance, or when doing right brings no recognition. In such moments, we are invited to take our place behind Christ and allow him to lead.

St Paul urges us, "Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind" (Rom 12:2). The world teaches us to protect ourselves, pursue success, and avoid suffering. Jesus teaches us to surrender in love, trusting God to bring new life from our losses.

Perhaps the question for us is not, "Why is this cross in my life?" but, "Lord, am I walking ahead of you, or am I following behind you?" Am I asking God to follow my plans, or am I willing to trust his plans for me?

To walk behind Christ is to listen, discern, and follow, trusting him step by step.

May we have the humility to set our plans aside and take our rightful place behind Christ. Even when the path leads through suffering, we can walk confidently, knowing that Christ walks ahead and leads us into the fullness of life.



"A disciple does not walk ahead of the Master, deciding the way. A disciple walks behind, trusting the One who is the Way."

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.



NOTICE: MT HOREB DOORS ACCESS

Due to bat activity around the church basement area outside St Jerome Library after dusk, **the Mt Horeb doors will remain closed after dusk.** Parishioners may still enter and exit through the doors as they will not be locked. Thank you for your cooperation.

BOYS' TOWN CHURCH COLLECTION 2026

Share from the abundance of your heart! Staff/volunteers from Boys' Town will be in our parish this weekend to fundraise. All funds raised will go towards their programmes and operations. Together, let us impact precious lives. Thank you for your kindness and support!

CATECHISM NOTICE

There will be no Catechism session on **Sun 6 Sep**. Sessions will resume for Term 4 on Sun 13 Sep.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The 1Cor12 Community will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII 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 31 Aug, 8pm – 9.30pm** at Mount Tabor Adoration Room.

NOVENA YOUTH RALLY

At Novena Youth Rally 2026, you are invited to Mass and the Main Rally, with highlights of creative elements, input by keynote speaker, reflection, praise and worship and various flea markets. End the night with Eucharistic adoration.

Date & Time: Fri 4 Sep

- Flea market: 6.30pm - 10.30pm
- Rally & Mass: 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Venue: Novena Church
(300 Thomson Road)

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 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: JPII Hall
Enquiries: Raymond (9752 9723) or Ignatius (9664 2127)

HEARTS FOR THE LORD(HFTL): CANVAS OF CREATION (DAY OF PRAYER)

HFTL is a collaborative effort between various Religious Orders/Congregations – we welcome all single males & females, Catholic young adults aged between 18 to 35+ years old, who are open and looking to explore and discern the possibility of a vocation to religious life.

Date: Sun 6 Sep
Time: 9.30am - 5pm
Venue: Kingsmead Hall, Singapore 266492
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/HFTL-DOR>



CENACLE SISTERS: BECOMING TRULY MYSELF - PRAYING MY PERSONAL VOCATION

The notion of personal vocation (as articulated by theologians like Herbert Alphonso) is the understanding that God has a unique, unrepeatable calling for every individual — a fundamental purpose that transcends professional identity or temporary roles. It's not a list of tasks, but a specific way of being and loving that only one can offer to the world.

Dates: 12 - 13 Sep (stay-in retreat for adults)
Venue: SFX Retreat Center
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/r6ps68pz>



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTUALLY TEACHES ABOUT DIVORCE, SEPARATION & ANNULMENT

Couples enter into marriage with faith and hope that it will be a happy union that lasts. However, there are occasions when a couple faces an unhappy end to their married life together. How can Catholics in such a situation continue their life journey in a way that keeps them in full communion with the Church? This Symposium will help participants gain an insight into the complexity of the issues related to divorce, separation and annulment.

Date: (Part 1) Mon 5 Oct ; (Part 2) Mon 19 Oct (Via Zoom)
Time: 8pm to 10pm
Fee: Love Offering
Register: bit.ly/DSAOct26



CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE: INTRODUCTION TO ACCOMPANIMENT (ACOM)

This introductory course explains the meaning and purpose of accompaniment in the Christian tradition, and involves a purposeful direction in which one person accompanies the other towards growth in love of God, conformity to Christ, and attention to the work of the Holy Spirit. Participants learn the lifestyle, demands, choices, and actions involved in being accompanied and accompanying others. A collaboration with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council to support parishes, ministries, apostolates, AOs, communities and working executives in their journey of accompaniment among their members and others.

Date & Time: Sat 7 Nov, 9am – 5pm
Venue: Lifesprings Spirituality Centre
Fee: \$140/pax
Register: <https://bit.ly/acom-intro>





SEASON OF CREATION

1 September - 4 October
Caring for Our Common Home

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Oh God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.



The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is *Living Water* (Ez 47:9,12). Let us all give thanks for the gift of water and do our part to bring the living waters of Christ's love to regenerate all creation. Find out more and join our events at tinyurl.com/SOC2026-Singapore



A Time to Unite in Prayer, Action and Voice for our Common Home



Each year, the Season of Creation begins with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September 2026, and ends on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October 2026.

The Grief of an Ecological Crisis

Prophet Ezekiel was called by God during a time of catastrophe. Jerusalem had been destroyed and the people were grieving and weeping in exile.



We face a similar predicament today. As climate disasters become more frequent and intense, and biodiversity continues to decline, many people are experiencing loss, displacement, and suffering.

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing"

EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Reflecting on Our Relationship with Creation

Through your actions or inaction, have you contributed to the degradation of the environment? Do you treat creation as a sacred gift from God? Have you done your part to promote justice, care, and the flourishing of all life?

An Invitation to Step into Living Waters

To bring back life to dead areas and to heal damaged ecosystems, we must become part of God's river of life and take part in the healing of creation.



Hope begins in our prayer, worship, and sacrificial charity. Let us restore our relationship with God and care for God's creation.

Living Water



In Ezekiel's vision, water is a divine agent of renewal, justice, and hope - a life-giving force flowing from God's Sanctuary, into the dead and desolate areas.

Global Water Bankruptcy

A global crisis of severe irreversible loss to natural water capital.

Our challenges:

1. Unaffordability of water for the poor
2. Industrial discharge of pollution
3. Over-extraction by agriculture, data centres and other industrial use.
4. Water-borne diseases.
5. Droughts, Floods, Desertification.
6. Sea level rise and salination of soil.
7. Conflicts over water scarcity



Let Us Pray

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

May God our Father, who brought water from the rock, sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord, who is Living Water, refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit, carry us on currents of grace, until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. **Amen**



What did Jesus say that the people
would have to do to be His disciples?
Find your way through the maze and then use
the letters from that path to fill in the blanks.

Source: The Kids' Bulletin

Answer to maze on Front. Take up your cross and follow me.

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 - 11pmClosed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

BACK GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pmClosed 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

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 JP II 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