



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Mercy and Justice Meet

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
13 Sep 2026

Ecclus 27: 30-28:7
Rom 14: 7-9
Mt 18: 21-35

Forgiveness lies at the heart of this Sunday's readings. We must forgive others when they wrong us. Through the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus warns that it is a great injustice to withhold mercy from our neighbour, when we are forgiven unceasingly, especially when the debt owed to us is hardly comparable to what we owe God.

This raises a deeper question: if God forgives so generously, how are we to understand his justice? How can God be both perfectly just and perfectly merciful? God's attributes are never in contradiction or tension with one another. St Thomas Aquinas defines justice as rendering "to each one his right" (ST II-II, q. 58, a. 1). God's justice puts right what sin has disordered and restores us to a right relationship with him. God made man to know him and love him, and to share in his blessed life (cf. CCC 1). He desires, above all, our redemption, not our punishment. He seeks the lost sheep, welcomes the prodigal son and nullifies the effects of Adam's fall. As he says through Prophet Ezekiel: "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone ... Turn, then, and live" (Ez 18:32).

Seen in this light, mercy is not a relaxation of God's justice, but its fulfilment in restoring what sin has broken. Yet, for mercy to bear fruit in us, it requires our cooperation.

God's mercy can soften and convert the sinner, but we can also resist the transformation it demands.

The reaction of the elder son in the parable of the prodigal son illustrates a resistance to mercy (Lk 15:11-32). The story concludes with him remaining outside the father's house. His resentment reveals that he is distant from the father in heart. He cannot rejoice at his brother's restoration and refuses to enter the feast. Yet the father goes out to him as well, inviting him to share in his mercy. His refusal reminds us that mercy bears its fullest fruit when we allow God's compassion to convert our hearts, freeing us from resentment and teaching us to rejoice in the restoration of others.

This is why the warning in the First Reading is important: "Resentment and anger, these are foul things" (Ecclus 27:30). Our own need for mercy should lead us to show compassion towards others who

share the same human frailty and brokenness. If God looks upon our weakness with mercy, we must learn to look compassionately upon the weakness of others. We should try, where possible, to understand why another might have wronged us, intentionally or not. We should not think the worst of others, justifying and feeding our own vengefulness, for by doing so we "nurse anger" and resentment.

Such mercy, however, should not be confused with ignoring or enabling wrongdoing. Forgiveness means refusing to let resentment have the final word and desiring ultimately the restoration of the person who has wronged us. To forgive is to allow God's desire for redemption to shape our own response. In doing so, even the wounds caused by others can become opportunities to participate in his redemptive work.

And we can attempt such forgiveness only because we ourselves have first been forgiven. "Remember the covenant of the Most High" (Ecclus 28:7) — remember how good God has been to each of us! Despite our wretchedness, our poor choices, our inability to love him fully, he gives his greatest treasure without reserve. The mercy we are called to give begins with remembering the mercy we have received.

That mercy reaches its fullest expression in Christ himself. As we gaze this Sunday upon the chalice of our salvation, containing the blood poured out for our redemption, let us beg for the grace to forgive our neighbour. At the altar, we encounter the One in whom justice and mercy truly meet: sin is not ignored, yet the sinner is redeemed through love. Let us imitate him in his goodness, his justice, and his mercy.



*"He desires,
above all,
our redemption,
not our
punishment."*

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.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Lectors will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JP II Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

CATECHISM NOTICE

Sessions will resume for Term 4 on **Sun 13 Sep.**

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 14 Sep**, 8pm – 9.30pm at Mount Tabor Adoration Room.

PIETA'S MONTHLY SESSION (ZOOM)

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 for parents 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 join us. Please email pieta.singapore@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Date: Tue 22 Sep

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

EXPERIENCE "IN CHRISTO UNION"

The St Pio Devotion Singapore warmly invites you, your family, and your friends to join us for a powerful time of grace, healing, and spiritual unity at the upcoming Padre Pio Triduum & Feast Day! Come as you are, experience God's mercy, and leave deeply renewed in faith, hope, and love. All are welcome! Tag your family and friends below to invite them along.

Dates: 20 – 23 Sep

Venue: Church of Our Lady of Lourdes (50 Ophir Road Singapore 188690)

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 & Time : (Fridays) 18, 25 Sep, 2 Oct, 8pm - 10pm

Venue : JP II Hall

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

EXHIBITION ON POPE LEO'S CATECHESSES ON THE 16 DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN COUNCIL II - LUMEN GENTIUM



In his second catechesis on Lumen Gentium, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Pope Leo surprised many when he said "An ideal and pure Church, separated from the earth, does not exist..." He highlighted that the Church has human and divine dimensions where "we discover a human dimension made up of real people, who sometimes manifest the beauty of the Gospel and other times struggle and make mistakes like everyone else." (para 6) Why does God allow sinners into his Church and do sinners have a place in God's plan of perfection?

St Jerome Library has put together our Holy Father's catechesis on Lumen Gentium in an exhibition outside JP II Hall. Kids can also have fun at the exhibition doing word search and other activities with mini prizes to be won. Do drop by and be enlightened, enriched & feel "prized"!

GETTING MARRIED: IN CHURCH OR AS CHURCH

Organised by Catholic Family Life, this session by Fr Ambrose Vaz explores the Catholic understanding of marriage as both a sacrament celebrated within the Church and as a lifelong commitment that embodies the Church's mission. Participants will delve into the significance of marriage in the Catholic tradition, examining how the sacrament of matrimony not only unites a couple but also calls them to live out their faith as a "domestic church."

What does it mean to be married "as the Church"? How can marriages become a living sacrament? What's the difference between a wedding in the church and a marriage that lives out of the church's mission?

Date & Time : Fri 2 Oct, 8pm - 10pm

Venue : The Catholic Centre, Level 2
(55, Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954)

Cost : \$20 per pax or \$35 per couple

Register : familylife.sg/GM



APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC TRUTH (ACT): LOVE, MARRIAGE AND THE MYSTERY OF SEX - A DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Why do we have sexual desire? What is eros all about? What is marriage for? What is God's plan for us? What does marriage point us to? What issues trouble us in our married life or our sex life? Do we sometimes feel the fuel in our "love tank" is running on empty? How can we refuel our "love tank" to bring back the passion into our marriage? Come and find out the answers to these questions and more as we explore them through the lens of the Theology of the Body at a day of prayer and recollection, where we not only seek to be informed, but more importantly, be transformed by our Lord.

Date & Time : Sat 17 Oct, 9am - 4.30pm

Venue : Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

Cost : Love Offering

For more information and to register for this day of recollection, visit <https://tinyurl.com/LMMS-oct2026>



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

Faithfulness to the Gospel is more than going to church and being nice. We are called to build God's kingdom and transform our world. Join us as we explore how the Church's social teaching can help us put our faith to concrete practice in daily life! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org

Dates: 28 Sep - 26 Oct (Mondays)
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Fr Francisco Maia's Hall,
 St Joseph's Church (Victoria Street)
Register: bit.ly/cstsep2026

AT THE FEET OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD RETREAT

Step away from the busyness of life and encounter the healing love of the Good Shepherd. This stay-in retreat invites participants to understand and surrender their inner wounds to Jesus, our Divine Healer, through guided sessions, personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and one-to-one spiritual direction. The Eucharist will be celebrated by Fr Eugene Vaz on both days, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction available on Sunday.

Date & Time: Sat 24 Oct, 9am – Sun 25 Oct, 5pm
Venue: SFX Punggol Retreat Centre
Fee: \$390 (inclusive of GST, ensuite accommodation and meals)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/6aesct9>

L7 Camp: Putting God at the centre of our lives

Forty-four 13-year-olds attended the L7 camp at SFX, held over the weekend of 5-6 Sep. The camp theme was based on the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Mt 7: 24-27) with the hope that these young hearts would put God at the centre of their lives. Sessions were centered at building their lives on a firm foundation and developing a 'friendship' with Jesus.

Apart from sessions, there was an introduction to worship and adoration and it was great to see participants opening up and enjoying the experience. There were also outdoor games organised which provided them with a bonding opportunity.

TESTIMONIES:

The L7 camp taught me a lot about God and helped me understand my faith in a deeper way. I realised that God may not always solve my problems or make them disappear. Instead, he stays by my side, gives me strength and helps me through the difficult times.

Through this camp, I have come to experience Jesus and God as close friends whom I can trust and talk to openly, knowing that they will always listen without judging me. This has encouraged me to embrace my faith more fully, trust God more, and continue growing closer to him.

Aanya Ranjan

I had a great experience at the L7 camp and I now feel closer to God. Before the camp, praying and going for Mass



felt like a chore for me but now, I feel motivated to pray and go for Mass. I think I did experience God in a new way. At first, I was afraid to pray to God and tell him about all my sins but now I can tell him everything. I used to try and fix all my problems by myself but now, the first thing I do is to approach him in prayer first with all my problems, big or small.

The sharings really encouraged me to trust God as the experiences the speakers shared were meaningful and relatable. One of the sharers said, "If God is in your boat, it doesn't mean that you won't face storms, it means that your boat will not sink", and this was the turning point that helped me change my mindset of God. All in all, this camp made me a lot more open to God and helped me understand that we should put our whole life into his hands, trusting him fully always.

Charlotte Lim

L7 camp was a new meaningful experience for me that helped me grow closer to God. It also gave me the opportunity to make new friends and bond with them through the different activities and experiences that were planned for us. I also experienced God in a new way through Adoration. It helped me slow down and see the true beauty of God in a way I had never experienced before.

Christopher Ang



I found the L7 camp fun and I loved the games that we played. In this camp, I experienced God in a new way. The experience of Mass and those who gave the talks, helped me in my faith in God, reminding me that I should always trust in him.

Charlotte Teo

I enjoyed the praise and worship and spending time with my friends as we grow our faith together.

Christian d'Penha



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

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 JPPII Hall. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.



Beyond the Pew

Bite-sized
Catholic catechesis

Why do we stand, sit and kneel at different times during Mass?

Our posture is part of our prayer.

- Standing expresses respect and readiness.
- Sitting helps us listen attentively.
- Kneeling is a sign of adoration before Christ in the Eucharist.

Together, these gestures reflect our active participation in the liturgy.

Word Meaning

Liturgy comes from the Greek *leitourgia*, meaning "the work of the people."

THIS WEEK'S INVITATION

This Sunday, let each posture become a conscious act of prayer.



A Simple Prayer

"Lord, help me worship you with my whole heart, mind and body."

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg