





Disciples
Making Disciples

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Love is the fulfilment of God's mission

6th Sunday of Easter
9 May 2021

Ac 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 Jn 4: 7-10

Jn 15: 9-17

Even though love is central to our Christian faith, we often struggle with what it means and how we should live our lives according to it. Today's readings are an invaluable guide to help us understand it the way God wants us to.

The first few lines of the second reading are critical to this understanding: "My dear people, let us love one another, since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love." (1 Jn 4:7-8)

In other words, love comes from God and cannot be understood except through him.

If this seems too abstract, God has revealed it in the most dramatic and unambiguous way by sending his only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for us so that we may obtain eternal salvation.

But even this might be too much to comprehend. Who on earth would die, and in such a horrible and humiliating way, for another person, least of all for those who were responsible for his death? What sort of love can this be?

In the Greek translation of the reading, two words were used to define this love: *agape* and *philia*. The first is the highest and most perfect form of selfless love, for others and for God. Our Lord's sacrifice on the cross is *agape's* ultimate expression.

But John also uses the word *philia*



In the final days before his death, as Jesus prepares his disciples for the persecution that would follow, his commandment to them was not about fortifying their resolve or deepening their knowledge of the faith. Instead, it was a simple message about love.

to describe Jesus' relationship with his disciples. *Philia* is the root of the Greek word for "friend", and in using it, Jesus redefined man's relationship with God.

In the Hebrew scriptures, a God-fearing man saw himself as a servant of God. But in the Gospel reading Jesus saw it differently: "You are my friends if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father." (Jn 15: 14-15)

This transformation in man's relationship with God is absolutely necessary for what Jesus had in mind for his disciples. The mission - to spread the good news of God's saving plan - could only be achieved if his disciples had absolute trust in him. This he did by making known to them "everything I have learnt from my Father." There is no secret which Jesus kept away from his disciples, or from us. Everything that you need to know about the mission has been revealed.

But if we are to carry forth the plan, how do we equip ourselves for the task ahead?

The answer says as much about our faith as anything you can find in

the Holy Scripture, and Jesus says it as plainly as possible: "This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you." (Jn 15:11)

In the final days before his death, as Jesus prepares his disciples for the hardship and persecution that would follow, his commandment to them was not about fortifying their resolve or deepening their knowledge of the faith. Instead, it was a simple message about love.

When we love one another as Jesus loves us - in both the *agape* and *philia* sense - we are more than equipped for the mission he has for us.

There is one final insight about this love which is found in the second reading, and it is about accepting God's love. It requires us to open our hearts completely to him, revealing our true selves, including our weaknesses and faults. It is the real you whom God loves, not the front that you often put up in public. As pointed out in Rom 5:5, God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

When you are ready for God's love to be poured into your heart, you will be ready to love others, and to undertake the mission that you have been chosen for.

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION (MAY)

With your kind donations last weekend, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$6,390.40** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **ONE WEEK in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you.** They will provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

BAT: THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR OUR FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS - MARY'S PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

How could Mary have stayed a virgin all her life? Did Mary and Joseph have a real marriage? Did Mary have other children? The Bible mentions Jesus' brothers. Join SFX BAT online on **Sat 15 May, 9am - 10.30am** to find the answers to these questions and more!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 880 1767 6363
No password required



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 10 May, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'The Spirit of Light Project' by Timothy Wong. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

There will be no intercessory prayer on **Fri 14 May**. You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Parish Office will be closed on Hari Raya Puasa, Thu 13 May.

CLOSED

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

[HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)



All weekday Masses will begin with the Rosary.

TUE 11 MAY, 12PM

Booking for a 3rd weekend Mass*

* Weekday Mass bookings for the whole of May are open throughout the month and subject to availability.

Things to note:

- From 17 May, only either the TraceTogether Token or App will be accepted for entry into SFX Premises. Parishioners with tokens/batteries that are not working will be denied entry even if you have a valid booking.
- Entry is via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPll Hall).
- Please come at least **30 minutes before** Rosary/Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Rosary/Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 24 hours in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

RCIA AND RCIY 2021/2022: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles?

We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY.

RCIY journey (13 - 23 years old) 'Come and See' Session

Date: Sun 20 June 2021

Time: 10.15am - 12.30pm

Sessions start: Sun 27 June 2021
Every Sunday, 10.15am - 12.30pm

Venue: JPll hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup
or enquire at rciy@sfxchurch.sg

RCIA journey (24 years old and above)

Sessions start: Tue 6 Jul 2021

Every Tue, 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPll Hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup
or enquire at rcia@sfxchurch.sg

ONLINE ROSARY

Come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings

WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary

Date & Time: Mon to Fri, 3pm

Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708

No passcode required

EVENING ROSARY DEVOTION

tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp

Date & Time: Mon, Wed & Sat - 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 984 7131 7782

Password: 172017

ROSARY BY SALT

tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary

Date & Time: Tuesdays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234

Password: 465481

SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS

bit.ly/SundayRosary

Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379

Password: 305946

MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

- PayNow** - Launch the PayNow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity name - Church of St Francis Xavier, then key in amount. Lastly, key in the reference - Mass Collection.
- Cheque** - Payable to 'Church of St Francis Xavier' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

THE ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT

Come! Boys 8 to 13 years - you are invited to be an altar server. Training will be held weekly beginning on **Sat 5 Jun, 7pm - 9pm**. Register via tinyurl.com/SFXAltarServersRecruit2021. A hard copy of the registration form can be obtained from the Parish Office. Please submit the completed form by **Mon 31 May**.

9 DAYS NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join our Charismatic prayer group and Intercessory prayer ministry as we pray the 9 days novena to the Holy Spirit to prepare for Pentecost.

Dates: 12 May, 13 May, 14 May, 15 May, 16 May, 17 May (no session), 18 May, 19 May, 20 May, 21 May

Time: 8pm - 9pm

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:

854 3433 9146

Password: HOLYSPIRIT



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: JOYFUL PARENTING - THE GENTLE BIRTH WORKSHOP

This workshop will prepare you for the wondrous journey of natural birth and gentle parenting. This is for expectant parents who wish to learn how they can prepare for drug-free natural birth, breastfeeding, pre/post natal health and parenting, this information-packed workshop helps couples gain confidence and form new perspectives on their role as parents-to-be, stewards of a new life entrusted to them.



Date: 29 May, 1pm - 5pm

Venue: CAEC, St Michael Room (2 Highland Road #01-03, S549102)

Cost: \$40 (Couple) \$25 (Individual)

Register: Email to pamela@joyfulparenting.sg or contact 9271 3335

8 Beautiful Ways to Honour Mary Throughout the Month of May

May is such a beautiful month because we honour Mary! Some great tips for honouring Mary this month. However, keep in mind that these are also great tips for any time of the year!

Here's 8 beautiful ways to honour Mary throughout the month of May:

Tip 1: Put up an Image of Mary



You can decorate your home, office or workplace with an altar, a statue, a painting or any image of the Virgin Mary.

Tip 2: Read Bible passages about the Virgin Mary



You can read some bible passages such as the annunciation, the birth of Jesus, the presentation of Jesus in the temple, and Mary at the foot of the cross.

Tip 3: Pray the Rosary



Praying the Rosary is one of the main prayers of the church. Virgin Mary herself taught Saint Dominic how to do it.

Tip 4: Participate in a Marian procession



Marian processions are a tradition still alive in some countries. It involves walking with an image of Mary and saying Marian prayers and songs.

Tip 5: Receive the Sacraments



Make sure you receive the sacraments, especially confession and the Eucharist, where Jesus waits for us with open arms.

Tip 6: Perform the Works of Mercy



You can help a pregnant mother in need, or visit a nursing home, where you may find older women who feel lonely or abandoned.

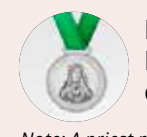
Tip 7: Evangelize



It is important to remind others how much the Virgin Mary loves them, and to teach them to pray to the Mother of God.

Let us honour Mary with all of our hearts!

Tip 8: Give someone a Marian gift

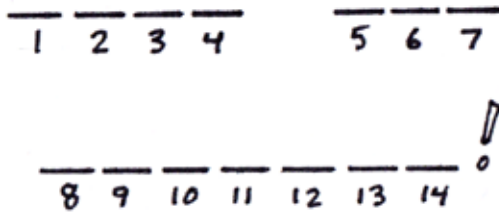


It is recommended to give someone a Marian medal, or the Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, blessed by a priest.

Note: A priest must enrol a person into the Brown Scapular Confraternity in order for the Scapular wearer to receive the scapular's blessings. Once enrolled, the Scapular-wearer already receives the blessings attached to the Scapular.



What does Jesus ask us to do in today's Gospel reading?
Put the letters in the spaces that match to find out!



Jesus wants us to love each other just like God the Father loves us. Can you think of some ways to show you love the people around you?



1. What can you do to show you love your parents?
2. How can you be loving to your brothers and sisters?



3. What can you do for your grandparents to show you love them?
4. How do you show your friends you love them?
5. What can you do to love someone that doesn't like you?

When someone is loving toward you, think of how that person is being like God the Father and try to be like them!



Answer to front page puzzle: Love one another!
Answer to Word-Find: To lay down one's life

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm
(There is currently no Novena at 4.45pm)

Sun: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm
(There is currently no Confession before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended until further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

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 Church. 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