






Disciples
Making Disciples

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Jesus, Tomb Raider

5th Sunday of Lent
26 Mar 2023

Ez 37:12-14
Rom 8: 8-11
Jn 11: 1-45

As we plunge deep into the core of Lent, we are once again presented with a Gospel text that's teeming with layers of meaning.

St. John's passage about the raising of Lazarus by Jesus four days after the former's death can be seen as Jesus' miracle for his beloved friends. At the sight of Mary's weeping over Lazarus' death, Jesus was in great distress and sighed deeply. He wept when he heard that Lazarus had been entombed. "See how much he loved him," (John 11:36) the Jews present at the time also remarked.

We are all Lazarus-es, Marys and Marthas. Oftentimes spiritually dead or asleep (cf Jn 11:11), entombed by the sinful strongholds that we let crawl into our lives; desperate and flailing for our Lord to get us out of grave situations over which we grieve and experience loss. Nevertheless, we are precious, priceless and greatly loved by the Lord.

The Gospel tells us that when Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days before going to him in Bethany. But, what sort of friend waits for your bad situation to become worse and then irreversible before coming to your aid? Why would a friend tarry in helping when he can easily and instantly swoop in?

As much as Jesus is our true friend, he is also our God. God who knows everything and who has a perfect plan for everyone and everything.



"I AM the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live" (Jn: 11:25)

God whose timing is perfect, who, in kairos, at his appointed time, will show us his purpose.

For, while Jesus the man grieved for Martha's and Mary's loss, and over the death of his dear friend Lazarus, nothing is impossible for Jesus who is God incarnate. He is never too late, and has power even over death (his own and ours). Through faith in God, who is our friend, there is hope in death, as long as we trust, surrender, and practise joyful reliance on Jesus, because even death cannot separate us from God.

In fact, a happy death leads us to new life with God, as Jesus tells Martha, "I AM the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live" – his direct reference to raising Lazarus to life, as well as to the fact that those who entrust themselves to Jesus will never see spiritual death. "He who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his spirit living in you." (Rom 8:11)

Jesus' raising of Lazarus and his words to Martha, an allusion to Baptism, the sacrament which the year's cohort of elect and candidates will receive in a fortnight, makes this Gospel particularly apt. For as St. Paul addressed the Romans, "So by our baptism into his death

we were buried with him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life." (Rom 6:4)

In raising Lazarus, in a macrocosmic way, Jesus desires also to call us out of our tombs; and we would have gotten it all wrong if we think we've been 'dead' in sin too long. Our God and Friend's longing is to roll away the stone to the crypts we trap ourselves in, call us out, and to send instruments to help unbind us from the shrouds that we are bound in, for often, we can be so mired and entangled that we are unable to unravel the sinful ties that bind us.

And even when at times it feels like we can only hear the echoes of our own pitiful cries in our personal sepulcher of iniquities, and that God has forgotten us, it isn't so. In his time, no sooner nor later, he gives us exactly what is needed for our salvation. This is always the best outcome because only he knows how our sufferings – sometimes necessarily prolonged – can give us fullness of life, to the glory of God.

As the prophet Ezekiel said in the first reading, "... when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people... I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live..." (Ez 37:13-14)

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/SFXFacilitiesReport



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Scan the QR Code or visit www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Palm Sunday processions will take place before all Masses. There will be outdoor processions for the **5.30pm Masses on Sat 1 Apr and Sun 2 Apr** subject to the weather condition. Palms will be available outside JPil Hall and Main Church Foyer.

CONFESSION SERVICES AT SERANGOON DISTRICT

Mon 27 Mar, 8pm:
Church of St Francis Xavier

Tue 28 Mar, 8.15pm:
St Anne's Church

Wed 29 Mar, 8pm:
Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thu 30 Mar, 8pm:
Church of St Vincent de Paul

"BATTLING PORNOGRAPHY" - A SEMINAR FOR CATHOLIC PARENTS

The TOB (Theology of the Body) parenting team of the Apostolate for Catholic Truth is organising a seminar for Catholic parents. Seats are limited. For more information and registration, visit catholicparents.online/BATTLEPORN

Date: Sat 20 May
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Venue: CANA The Catholic Centre, Level 3
Speakers: Dr Christopher Cheok, Dr John Hui

Holy Week Schedule



***Maundy Thu 6 Apr**
7.30pm
Altar of Repose until 12am



Good Fri 7 Apr
9am, 12pm, 3pm



***Easter Vigil 8 Apr**
7pm

**Livestream Mass also available via SFX YouTube Channel*



Easter Sunday 9 Apr
7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm

There will be fellowship at JPil Hall after Morning Masses.

WELCOME/PRAYER NOTE FOR OUR ELECT/CANDIDATES

You may drop it off in the box provided in the Church, with the recipient's name clearly marked, by **Palm Sunday**. All notes will be collected and given at Easter. Let this be our collective Easter gift to welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ into the Church.

SUNDAY MOVIE DATE: COURAGEOUS

In this movie, four men arrive at a better understanding of their role as fathers. All are welcome for our next movie screening, especially all parents of children attending catechetical sessions. Spend quality family time together while being entertained by a movie that is truly meaningful.

Date: Sun 26 Mar
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Venue: JPil Hall

ONE: LENTEN REFLECTION

Make this Lent special. Come join us during Lent and let the Word of God convict us of the change that needs to take place in our life. Let that change come from the love we have for the Lord. Bring your bibles.

Date: Tue 28 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Thessalonians (Parsonage, Level 2)

THE SHROUD OF TURIN

Is this the burial cloth of Jesus Christ or an elaborate medieval fake? What do the stains on the shroud reveal about this controversial cloth? In preparation for Holy Week, the evidence can help us reflect on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Date: Thu 30 Mar
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Jeremiah Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

SFX CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: THE MARRIAGE KIT

Inviting all married couples to experience the Marriage Kit to improve communication with your spouse, learn or relearn conflict resolution skills and strengthen your marriage bond. This is for Catholic or interfaith couples alike and is relevant at all stages of marriage. For details and registration, visit <http://shorturl.at/uEO04> or scan this QR code by **Sun 23 Apr**.

Dates: 26 Apr - 24 May (Every Wed)
Time: 7.15pm - 10pm
Venue: JPil Hall



PIETA SINGAPORE: MONTHLY SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly 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. For more information, visit www.PietaSingapore.org

Date: Tue 28 Mar
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Zoom

CRUCIS SINGAPURA: A BAREFOOT WAY OF THE CROSS

Jesus Youth invites you to join 'Crucis Singapura' - a unique 'Way of the Cross' prayed while walking barefoot across the island marking the sign of the cross. Participants will walk in pairs across four pre-defined routes, with a varying distance of about 8-15km. Registration is free. The confirmation email will include a route map, guided prayers, and other useful information. More information can be found on singapore.jesuyouth.org/crucis-singapura-2023

Dates: Sat 1 Apr 2023
Time: 6.30am - 3pm
Register: www.singapore.jesuyouth.org (before 26th March) or call Alex George (8233 2166)

COURAGE SG: FULLY ALIVE - INTEGRATING FAITH, LIFE AND LOVE

This four-session talk series is for all, regardless of sexual orientation, who want to live the Christian faith fully. The speaker is Catholic psychologist Nicholas Gabriel Lim. Participants will learn how to understand and accompany those who struggle to integrate sexuality and faith.

Dates: (Tuesdays) 28 Mar, 23 May, 25 Jul, 26 Sep
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Will be disclosed to confirmed participants
Register: www.tinyurl.com/Mar28-FullyAlive



L10 Retreat



On the weekend of 11 - 13 March 2023, our parish had a combined L10 Retreat conducted on the premises of St Francis Xavier. The planning team was a collaboration with St Bernadette's Church (SBC) and SFX. We had a total of 100 participants from SFX, SBC and also three from the Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The camp theme was based on Exodus 3:1-12, Moses at the burning bush.

Sessions included sub-themes like hearing the call of God, responding to discipleship and being empowered by the Holy Spirit. Participants were also introduced to different forms of prayer like the labyrinth prayer walk, journaling with the word of God and the rosary.

What was most moving was when the participants were called to take ownership of their faith in the final session. They were invited to hold the cross high and declare publicly that 'Jesus is my Lord and Saviour!' It was heartening to see the response as many teens took the challenge seriously. We pray that this is a step forward for the rest of their lives to follow Jesus after their burning bush experience.



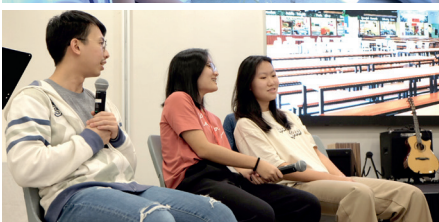
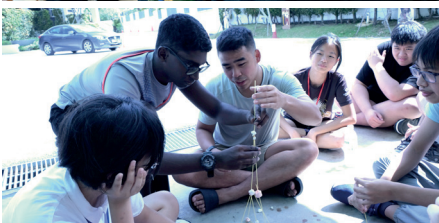
Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Here are some testimonies from our L10 retreatants:

"Before the retreat, I didn't know where God was in my life. Sometimes it felt as if he was non-existent. But through the retreat, I was able to take one step closer to God. One of the sessions presenters said that 'Confirmation is like you being an adult in the Church', I do still feel unprepared leading up to confirmation." - **Jacques Lim**

"Before the retreat, I felt tired and burned out after the school term. I was not willing to go for the camp and wanted to stay home and rest instead. Hence, going for camp with a reluctant heart. During the retreat, I shut myself away from the calling of the Holy Spirit that was so strong and tangible. I decided to be open to God's calling and slowly felt God's presence within me. This was especially so during the prayer ministry where I felt God's unconditional love for me. After the retreat, I felt sad that it ended but happy that my heart was filled with the Holy Spirit. I missed my group members and facilitators that were throughout this journey with me." - **Clare Lee**

"Going through the L10 retreat has been a refreshing experience for me. The retreat was a much-needed break from day-to-day life, the lack of distractions helped focus my attention towards God. Before the camp, I was feeling tired and frustrated. After it, I feel lighter and my mind is somewhat clearer. Although the retreat is not some magic which can instantaneously heal one's heart and soul, it is like that heart or soul has been comforted and been given the strength to keep going. I think this has helped me get closer to God and brought me closer to being ready for my confirmation." - **Dylan Tio**



MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8.30pm

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

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

Sun:
8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:
10am - 6pm

Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 6pm
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