

Do You Love Me?

The first disciples of Jesus were fishermen. But one day, Jesus came along and convinced them to leave their boats and nets and follow him.

They followed Jesus as he went around sharing a dream – the Kingdom of God. A society based on love, justice, equality and a world where there would be no more suffering. But in the end, this dream was beyond most people. They didn't understand and Jesus was rejected and put to death. Jesus was dead, the dream was dead, the mission, a failure. The apostles, overcome by fear, ran away, but they also felt a terrible despair. They had left fishing behind to follow Jesus but now all they could do was go back to fishing again. Life had returned to normal.

But it seems they have forgotten how to fish. They fish all night and catch nothing. The mission of Jesus had been a failure, and now their return to fishing is a failure as well.

We are no strangers to failure. So many of our hopes, dreams and ambitions have come to nothing. We do our best and still fail, we have the best of intentions and things don't work out, we yearn for peace in our world but things seem to be getting worse. We fish all night and catch nothing. It's nice when the dream lasts but soon life returns to normal.

To many, Jesus' mission looks like a failure. But we believe that Jesus is risen. He is not dead, he is alive. And if Jesus is alive, then the dream of the Kingdom is still alive. Life is anything but normal.

The Risen Jesus asks us, "Do you love me?" We can answer: "Yes Lord, you know all things, you know we love you." But what does it mean to say that we love the Lord?

To love the Lord is to be a witness of hope. When they had lost hope, Jesus appears to the disciples and tells them to cast their nets on the other side and they catch a multitude of fish. We often feel disappointed when our efforts come to nothing, when we experience failure. We can have hope in the Kingdom because it is not ours, it is God's Kingdom and it is God who will make the Kingdom happen.

The Acts of the Apostles, tells us of how the disciples shared this message of hope. Peter speaks boldly to the high priest: "*God has now raised Jesus to be leader and savior. We are witnesses to this.*"

To love the Lord is to share the Good News that he is risen, to be witnesses of hope.

Reflection by Gerard Louis CSSR

Novena notes

3rd Sunday of Easter
Year C
5th May 2019

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 5 May	Ac 5:27-32,40-41; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.
Mon, 6 May	Ac 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29 They are happy whose life is blameless.
Tue, 7 May	Ac 7:51-8:1; Jn 6:30-35 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Wed, 8 May	Ac 8:1-8; Jn 6:35-40 Cry out with joy to God all the earth.
Thu, 9 May	Ac 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51 Cry out with joy to God all the earth.
Fri, 10 May	Ac 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59 Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
Sat, 11 May	Ac 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
Mandarin: 2.30pm
Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

3 May 2019, Feast of Sts. Philip & James

Why do we celebrate the feast of St. Philip and St. James the Less on the same day? Because they were both apostles? No, we celebrate them on the same day because their relics were brought to Rome together on the same day in early May.

You may be wondering why this apostle James is called "the Lesser." It is to distinguish him from the other apostle, James, the son of Zebedee, the brother of John, and the one known as "James the Greater," whose feast day is July 25.

James was martyred in Jerusalem around Passover during the time Nero was Emperor of Rome. He was arrested and ordered to stand atop a wall in Jerusalem and preach against Christ. James climbed the wall as ordered and then preached the death and resurrection of Christ. Soldiers threw him off the wall. When the fall did not kill him, they began to stone him until he died, a faithful follower of the Christ who called him to be one of the twelve pillars of the Church.

We know Philip from the Gospel of John. Jesus himself called Philip, saying, "Follow me." And Philip followed. Then, Philip began to call others. He told Nathanael, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets. Jesus son of Joseph from Galilee."

Nathanael asks, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip doesn't argue. He simply says, "Come and see," trusting that all who come and see will discover the Lord.

Philip was killed in Greece during the reign of the Roman emperor, Domitian.

Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30pm evening Mass from Monday to Friday in the month of May.

Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be a Tagalog Mass on 12th May 2019 at 12 noon.

"DAWN Skill Development Programme for foreign domestic workers"

Registration is open for Baking & Cooking (Basic & Advance), Basic Cake Decoration, Sewing & Handicraft from July 2019 till December 2019.

The 2nd Batch 2019 Care-Giving Course is scheduled to begin on 5 May 2019.

Classes will be conducted on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month from May 2019 till November 2019.

Dates : 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May 2019, 2nd & 9th June 2019.

Time : 10 am to 2 pm

Venue: DAWN,
Good Shepherd Place,
9, Lorong 8, Toa Payoh,
Singapore 319253.

Contact: 96702880 (Suzeth),
82694546 (Rowena), or 82333728
(Sr. Barbara)

Good Shepherd Sunday

There will be a second collection at Masses on 11th and 12th May for ongoing formation of Clergy and the expenses relating to the St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary.

Youth Retreat

Our Redemptorist Mission Team is conducting a Retreat for Youth aged 14-17 to which all are welcome to learn about leadership qualities from the Gospels.

Come and experience a Pilgrim leadership Retreat. Learn how to become an authentic witness. Learn how to share the joy of knowing Jesus. Return renewed with faith, hope and love and hearts ready for action.

RCIA Chinese Programme

The New Chinese RCIA programme (2019/2020) for Adults will begin on 29th June 2019. Application forms can be obtained at the Church Office.

RCIA English Programme

We will be starting our new RCIA Programme. It will begin on 2nd July 2019 to 19th May 2020. RCIA is for adults - 18 years and above, who are interested to know more about the Catholic faith. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office. The closing date for application is on 18th May 2019.