



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Veni, Sancte Spiritus ...Come, Holy Spirit

Solemnity of Pentecost
9 Jun 2019

Ac 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23

Bernini's magnificent dove in the centre of a 12-sectioned Bohemian glass window, gently swooping over all who enter St Peter's Basilica and enfolding each and everyone in the warm glow of the love of the Trinity, has become iconic of the first Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago. Whatever image we may have of Pentecost, they often direct us to look heavenwards as if inviting us to say "yes" – to linger or perhaps remain steadfast in that Trinitarian bond of love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit which all men are called to share in.

Today we often hear Pentecost referred to as the "birthday" of the Church. While Pentecost is certainly cause for great rejoicing – it is a "birthday" with cosmic and eternal dimensions and hence, we must orient ourselves beyond an earthly manner of celebration. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says, "... if we want to prevent Pentecost from being reduced to a mere rite or even an evocative commemoration but want it to be an actual event of salvation, we must prepare ourselves in devout expectation for the gift of God through humble and silent listening to his Word" (Homily, 31 May 2009).

Pope Emeritus encourages us therefore, to have the "inner attitude" of the 120 disciples in the Upper Room so

that Pentecost can become for us too, a salvific event, "Scripture tells us...how we should be in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [Luke]...point[s] out the inner attitude of the disciples, 'All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer'. Harmony among the disciples is thus the condition for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and a presupposition of harmony is prayer".

As a parish, we have been devoutly observing a Novena to the Holy Spirit since our celebration of the Lord's Ascension, yearning everyday for a renewal to rouse up in us the fruits of the Spirit's fullness: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (cf Gal 5:22-23). As we review this list, we may be stung with regret that we have not borne some of these fruits due to our own weaknesses and fears.

Today's gospel reassures us of our Lord's forgiveness and also his desire that we trust in his Spirit to transform us and help us continue his mission of salvation. Already on the first day of his resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples not in disappointment that they had abandoned him but with the gift of his peace which is the Holy Spirit. He manifested this by breathing on them and saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit". He confirmed this favour by sharing his divine prerogative of forgiving sins which continues to be exercised today in the ministry of reconciliation, "For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained" (Jn 20:23, CCC 1461).

This gift of the Holy Spirit was sent "more strikingly" at Pentecost and the

Church exhorts us to call upon the Holy Spirit everyday especially at the beginning and end of every important action (cf CCC1287, 2670). A new form of existence in the Trinity is God's gift to everyone and we, the Church, have the mission to extend this invitation to the world. The Catechism therefore speaks of Pentecost also as "the opening of the Reign of God", "the revelation of the entire Trinity" and "the beginning of the 'age of the Church'" – the Church being the sign and instrument of receiving life in the Trinity through her sacraments (cf CCC 731, 732, 1076).

"Veni, Sancte Spiritus...Come Holy Spirit..." - may the fruits of your presence mature in us, may we be the glow and sweetness of the Trinitarian life to all whom the Father sends our way.



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- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Announcements

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

OLGC CARPARK CLOSURE

Please do note that the OLGC carpark will be closed due to school holidays.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags that will go around. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

TOTAL COLLECTED FOR SSVF 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **SGD13,567.75** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Tue 12 Jun, 8pm** in **St Francis Xavier Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. We welcome anyone who wants to rediscover some aspects of our faith and to live it more meaningfully and joyfully. If interested, please contact Theresa at 8261 7911.

ONE: HEY CATHOLICS! GO OUT INTO THE WHOLE WORLD!

Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Missionary Month Oct 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* - a document that touches on reinvigorating the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm. Rev Fr Kenson Koh will touch on the significance of *Maximum Illud* for today's Catholics.

Date: Sat 6 Jul
Time: 1.30pm - 3pm
Venue: PSB Academy @ Marina Sq, 6 Raffles Blvd
Register: www.one.org.sg/events

WELL-WISHES FOR FR DON

Fr Don will be leaving the Archdiocese of Singapore on **Mon 1 Jul** and returning to France. Following a period of discernment, he has requested to be reassigned to a mission post closer to his heart. Though he has only been in SFX a year, Fr Don, with his charming nature, warm smile and attempts in speaking English, has come to be liked by many.



As a parish, we would like to thank him and send him our best thoughts and blessings. We invite all parishioners who would like to pen their well wishes to him, to write them down on the paper provided at the Church Foyer and put it in the labelled box. All wishes will be gathered on **Sun 23 Jun**.

RCIY REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available on the SFX website and at the parish office. For more information, please contact 8322 1014 (Rebekah) or 9675 5698 (Corinne).

'Come and See' Information Session:

Date: Sun 9 Jun
Time: 10.30am - 12pm
Venue: St Francis Xavier Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

RCIY Journey:

Date: Sun 16 Jun 2019 - May 2020 (Every Sun)
Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm
Venue: St Francis Xavier Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup or enquire at rciy@sfxchurch.sg

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: LITURGICAL CALENDAR & YEAR

Year after year, we celebrate the entire life of Jesus through a sequence of seasons and feasts in the Liturgical Year. If you are curious about the significance of the liturgical calendar, how this cycle determines when holy days are observed and how this affects the mass readings, then this session is for you! Come make sense of it all on **Tue 11 Jun, 7.45pm - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are invited, so grab your family & friends and sign up now at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019!

A PRAYER CONCERT: KENNY NGO - THE LORD DESERVES ALL PRAISE

Experience a night of prayer, praise, and worship with SFX parishioner Kenneth Ngo as he performs unique renditions of familiar hymns as well as his original songs. Titled "A Prayer Concert: Kenny Ngo - The Lord Deserves All Praise", Kenneth showcases his personal faith journey, and more importantly, he centres it around praising God as one Church, as God alone deserves all praise! While sharing his beautiful talent with us in an interactive way, Kenneth is also giving back to the parish as 100% of concert profits will go towards SFX's renovation fundraising. Come support him and get your tickets today!

Date: Sat 6 Jul
Time: 8pm - 9.45pm (Free seating - Doors open at 7.30pm)
Venue: SFX Main Church
Cost: \$20
Register: Lloyd 9827 6893, Melissa 9363 6516, Michael 9182 5495
Starting this weekend, booths will be set up before and after each mass for the reservation and purchase of tickets.

GOSPEL OF JOHN BY MSGR. AMBROSE VAZ

Date: 16 Jul - 8 Oct (no session on 10 Sep)
Time: 9.30am - 11.30am (Tues)
Venue: CAEC Building (2 Highland Road #03-17 S549102)
Fees: \$70 (if paid by 16 July), \$80 (from 17 July)
Register: <https://bit.ly/2VFZg3R> or email aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg or call 6280 0354 (Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm)

Pentecost Sunday



What is Pentecost?

We celebrate our birthdays because they mark the day of the year in which we were born. But did you know you have a second birthday?

Because you are part of the body of the Church, Pentecost is the Church's birthday, and yours as well. And like any birthday, it's a cause for celebration.

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

What does the word "Pentecost" mean?

The word Pentecost is Greek and it means "50th day." Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers, and the beginning of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations.

Pentecost is also a Jewish holiday, which the Jews use to celebrate the end of Passover. Jews celebrate the gift of the law to Moses at Mt. Sinai on this day. But we, as Catholics celebrate the birth of our Church.

What actually happened on that day of Pentecost?

At Pentecost, the Apostles and their followers were gathered in a room. Jews from all over the world were gathered with Peter, the leader of the Apostles and the Eleven. At this time, a great wind blew and a flame appeared as a tongue of fire, which split itself into many individual flames above the heads of all those present. The Holy Spirit came upon these people and each began to speak in tongues. Despite the fact many had no common language, they were perfectly able to understand one another.

Others who were not so blessed, accused those speaking in tongues of being drunk, but Peter arose and addressed the crowd, explaining that it was only 9 o'clock, and that this phenomenon was not intoxication, but rather this was the work of the Holy Spirit, prophesized in the scripture. Peter then called all those present to be baptized and about three thousand people were baptized that day. These people were among the first Catholics, and Peter was the first pope of the Catholic Church.

The symbols of Pentecost are the flame, wind, and the dove, which represents the Holy Spirit. The colour of Pentecost is red and the priest wears red vestments on this day. Parishioners are also invited to wear red on this day. Red decorations as well as celebrations are appropriate, similar to any other birthday. Special prayers are often said just for Pentecost.



What Are The Seven Gifts Of The Holy Spirit?

Wisdom: We receive the gift of wisdom to help us understand the things of God, and to direct our whole life and all our actions to his honour and glory. Wisdom helps us see the world differently and from God's point of view. "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:33)

Understanding: The gift of understanding enables us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith. "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people and I will be their God" (Jeremiah 24:7).

Counsel (*also known as Right Judgment*): The gift of counsel helps us to discern what is right and what is wrong. It assists us in our ability to choose the path of God. "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7: 13-14).

Knowledge: When we receive the gift of knowledge, it enables us to discover God's will in all things. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Piety (*also known as Reverence*): The gift of piety helps us to love God, our merciful Father, and to obey his precepts out of love for him. It moves our heart from serving God out of duty and obligation into a relationship of love. "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

Fortitude (*also known as Courage*): While the gifts of knowledge and wisdom help us know what we should do, the gift of fortitude strengthens our will so that we can actually accomplish what is true, good and beautiful. It helps a person stand firm, even when persecuted, in doing the right thing. "[T]hey will lay their hands on you and persecute you ... This will be a time for you to bear testimony ... I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict ... you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish" (Luke 21:12-17).

Fear of the Lord (*also known as Wonder and Awe*): Commonly misunderstood as the fear of a wrathful God ready to smite us, the gift of fear of the Lord is actually more positive than negative. It consists of a recognition of the grandeur of God and his primacy over all things. Fear of the Lord recognizes that God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and we are his creatures. This gift helps us to understand how we must depend on God for everything. In other words, he is God, we are not. "[I]f God so clothes the grass which is alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you" (Luke 12:27).

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me Your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that You desire of me and to accept all that You permit to happen to me.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:

5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)

Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm

Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:

6.30am & 6.30pm

Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:

9am - 9pm

Sat: 9am - 7pm

Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

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

Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please check with the Parish Office.



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 St.Pio prayer group via 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. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.



MASS OFFERING

Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. 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