



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

God's Word and Holiness

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
24 Jan 2021

Jon 3:1-5, 10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is celebrated as "Sunday of the Word of God." Pope Francis instituted this in his Apostolic Letter *"Aperuit Illis"* on 30 September 2019 - the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, the 4th century saint who reverently translated the Greek and Hebrew biblical texts into Latin and gave us the *"Vulgate"*. St Jerome is often quoted to have said "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Our Holy Father says this is true because "without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible." (AI 1)

Aperuit Illis begins with the Emmaus event when the disciples' hearts "burned" as Jesus opened the scriptures to them and they "recognized" him at the breaking of the bread (cf Lk24). Luke's account of "the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture" demonstrates "the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist." (AI 8) This is because "the word of God sacramentally takes flesh in the event of the Eucharist"; "the divine word, read and proclaimed by the Church, has as its one purpose the sacrifice of the new covenant and the banquet of grace...the Eucharist." (*Verbum Domini* 55)

We partake of the Eucharist to be more conformed to Christ and to grow in holiness. Today's second reading offers radical proposals in being holy and interestingly, the Catechism on this verse picks up on the radicality

of the "Josephite marriage" which is akin to the marriage of St Joseph and the Virgin Mary. Here, Christ has the primal place: "Virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven is an unfolding of baptismal grace, a powerful sign of the supremacy of the bond with Christ and of the ardent expectation of his return, a sign which also recalls that marriage is a reality of this present age which is passing away." (CCC 1619)

In 2015, Pope Francis canonized the Church's first married couple, Louis and Marie-Azélie Martin - parents of five nuns including St Thérèse of Lisieux and Servant of God Léonie Martin. The couple were unsuccessful in entering religious life and remained celibate for a year into their marriage until a priest advised them on the great good of conjugal love. After their daughters were born, the couple returned to living as celibates creating an environment of

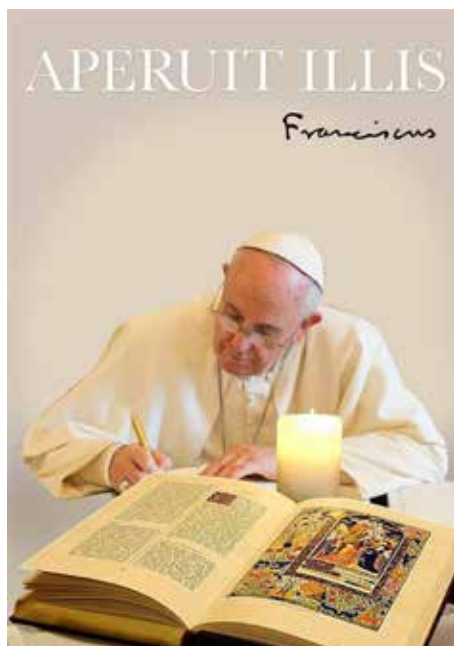
prayer and devotion at home which nurtured their daughters' vocations.

In 2001, Pope St John Paul II beatified Luigi and Maria Quattrocchi. They had four children before committing themselves to a Josephite marriage. Cardinal José Martins, Prefect of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints called their family "an authentic domestic Church, open to life, prayer, witness of the Gospel, the social apostolate, solidarity with the poor, and to friendship." The Quattrocchis founded many Catholic organisations and three of their children became Religious in the Benedictine and Trappist Orders. The cause of beatification for their youngest child, Enrichetta, has also been opened.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says a Josephite Marriage is often misconstrued as "a contempt for corporeality and sexuality." In fact, such marriages were "altogether normal" in the first centuries of the Church, "There were a sufficient number of men and women who considered it reasonable and possible to live in this way while together dedicating themselves to the Lord." (*From the Depths of Our Hearts - Priesthood, Celibacy, and the Crisis of the Catholic Church*, p42)

The Martins and the Quattrocchis are among the Saints whose lives we can study as an additional "interpretation" of how to live God's Word: "The interpretation of sacred Scripture would remain incomplete were it not to include listening to those who have truly lived the word of God: namely, the saints...The most profound interpretation of Scripture comes precisely from those who let themselves be shaped by the word of God through listening, reading and assiduous meditation." (VD 48)

On this grace-filled Sunday of the Word of God, may God shape us by his holy word and make our hearts "burn" to do his will.



"...without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible." (Aperuit Illis 1)

Announcements

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

BLESSING OF CANDLES (2 FEB)

Bring your own candles for blessing on **Tue, 2 Feb**, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 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**). Your intentions will be offered up during our priests' private masses.

RETURNING OF OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of Main Church by **31 Jan**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at its weekly prayer sessions. Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

You can also join us online **every Fri, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are joining us for the first time, please email intercessory@sfxchurch.sg for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
861 5125 7252
Password:
SFX29JAN



CATHOLIC200SG: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

You are invited to join us at **8pm on the first Tuesday of every month**. Come join us as we pray for the **200th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Singapore**, that God's love and grace may ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that once again we may be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary church.

Scan to Register:



BOOKING OF MASSES IN FEBRUARY 2021

Our Main Church can now accommodate 150 parishioners for both weekday and weekend Masses.

MARS BOOKING SCHEDULE via myCatholic.sg

Tue 26 Jan, 12pm:

Booking for first weekend mass for Feb, Ash Wednesday and unlimited weekday masses.

Tue 2 Feb, 12pm:

Booking for a second weekend Mass.

Tue 9 Feb, 12pm:

Booking for a third weekend Mass.

Tue 16 Feb, 12pm:

Booking for a fourth weekend Mass.

LUNAR NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

There will be distribution and blessing of oranges for all the Lunar New Year Masses and for masses on 13/14 Feb; you may also bring your own oranges to be blessed.

LUNAR NEW YEAR EVE

Thu 11 Feb: 4pm *No evening mass on 11/12 Feb

LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY 1

Fri 12 Feb (Day 1): 9am, 11am

MASS SCHEDULE DURING LENT

Ash Wednesday: 17 Feb

6.30pm, 8.30pm

Stations of the Cross + Mass

Tue & Thu: 6.30pm

Fri: 8pm

**Please note - you are obligated to attend both Stations and Mass TOGETHER; do not come for just one or the other. No late arrivals will be entertained once Stations have started.*

MASS COLLECTION

Mass collections can be made via:

- 1. 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**.
- 2. Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL AT THE HEART OF EVANGELIZATION

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 25 Jan, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk 'Charismatic Renewal at the Heart of Evangelization' by Jessica Francisco based on the theme 'Building a Vibrant, Evangelizing and Missionary Church'. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPIRIT



THANK YOU, FR ANTONY!

Fr Antony will be leaving the Archdiocese of Singapore on **Mon 25 Jan** to return to India. As a parish, we would like to thank him for being with us for the past 6 months and give thanks to God for his pastoral heart. Please keep Fr Antony in our prayers.

Sunday of The Word of God



POPE FRANCIS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



To help the church grow in love and faithful witness to God, Pope Francis has declared the third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be dedicated to the Word of God.

The declaration to have a “Sunday of the Word of God” was made in a new document, given “*motu proprio*,” on the pope’s own initiative. Its title, “*Aperuit Illis*,” is based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Luke, “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”

Devoting a special day “to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God” will help the church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world,” the Pope said.

“The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words,” the Pope wrote.

“The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division toward unity” as well as come to understand God’s love and become inspired to share it with others, he added.

Pope Francis said in the letter, “A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his Word and to break bread in the community of believers.”

“We need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness,” he wrote.

Adapted from: Catholic News Service/U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019.

Why is attending Mass important?



*"Do this in
memory of me."
- Jesus
(Luke: 22:19)*

At Mass, God speaks to us through His Word, we offer our prayers, gifts, and sacrifices, symbolized by the bread and wine laid on the altar, we share in the sacrificial offering of Jesus to the Father through His death and resurrection, and we receive the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life, the living presence of God in our midst.

Watching a live-streamed Mass and making a spiritual communion are pious practices, necessary during these months of the pandemic, but they serve only as substitutes for the wonder, power and grace of the actual reality. Watching Mass virtually can never replace the grace received when we are there physically in person.

Why Come Back to Church?



MEANING

Our society can sometimes leave us with a sense of confusion which makes it difficult to find meaning and purpose in our lives. In the face of the modern world, Christ fulfils our lives, He gives us meaning and purpose.



HEALING

There are many things that we carry on our shoulders; the burden of our own sinfulness over the years, guilt, unforgiveness, or perhaps other spiritual wounds. Genuine contrition or the graces from the sacrament of reconciliation can bring us great comfort, healing and peace in the midst of our daily struggles and problems.



BELONGING

The Catholic Church is a community of people united in Christ. It is more than just a building. Together, Catholics offer whatever is going on in their lives - joys and sorrows - to God. Together, as a community, they receive God's help and support to live their lives.



THE EUCHARIST

Perhaps the most wonderful reason for returning to Church is that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus is made truly present and we are given the immense privilege of receiving Him in Holy Communion. Everyone has a longing in their hearts to meet Jesus. Receiving Him in this way satisfies our hunger and helps us to unite ourselves to the Lord, and receive the graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Adapted from Bishop Hying's Column; <https://www.banburycatholicchurches.org.uk/making-the-first-move.html>



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thur:
6.30pm

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