




 **Parish Office:**  
6280 6076, [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)

 **St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**  
6280 8929, [sfx\\_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg)

**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

 **Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484  
[FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg)

**Assistant Priests:**  
Rev Fr Jude David  
(on Study Leave)  
[Frjude@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:Frjude@sfxchurch.sg)

Rev Fr Vinukumar  
6280 8331  
[Vinukumar@catholic.org.sg](mailto:Vinukumar@catholic.org.sg)

**Priest in Residence:**  
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza  
6282 3151  
[FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg)

**“Listen to him”**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
8 Mar 2020

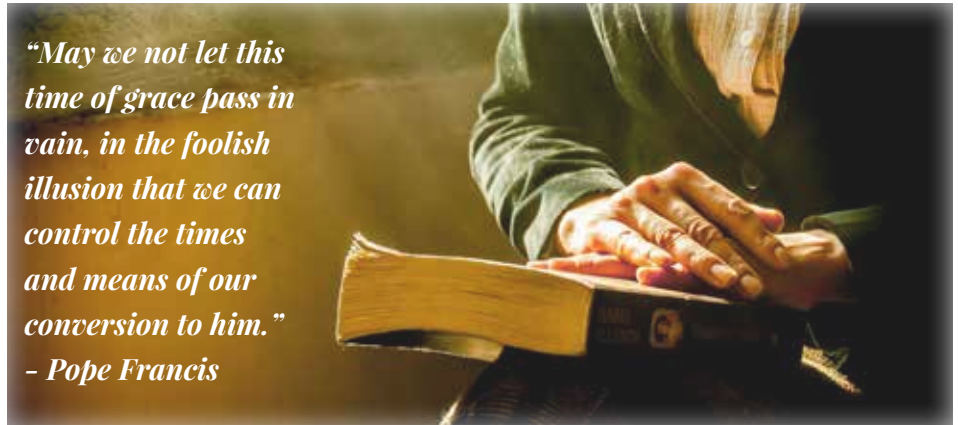
Gen 12:1-4  
2 Tim 1:8-10  
Mt 17:1-9

“The *Bible* is the great story of the marvels of God’s mercy. Every one of its pages is steeped in the love of the Father who from the moment of creation wished to impress the signs of his love on the universe.”

These words are from Pope Francis’ Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et Misera* issued on 20 November, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016.

We hear the call again to put ourselves prayerfully and attentively before God’s Word in today’s gospel. In the theophany of the Transfiguration in which Christ’s face “shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light”, the voice of God the Father came from the bright cloud and was heard to affirm Jesus’ divinity, “This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.” (Mt 17:5)

In scripture, to “listen” is one verb that entails a two-fold action: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says”; “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock”; “Today, if only you would hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah...” (Jas 1:22; Mt 7:24 ;Ps 95:7-8) To hear God’s word is to also obey them, put his words into practice and welcome his teachings in humility.



In the Catechism we find obedience and listening to be synonymous: “To obey (from the Latin *ob-audire*, to ‘hear or listen to’) in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself.” (CCC 144)

The Catechism goes on to put the spotlight on Abraham and our Blessed Mother as our models of such obedience to God’s word: “Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment.” (CCC 144)

Abraham’s obedience is highlighted for us in today’s first reading. He hears God’s plan to make him a great nation, bless him and also to bless all the people of the earth through him if he left his country for “the land” which the Lord will show him. Abraham responded by putting his faith in God’s word: “So Abraham went as the Lord told him.” (Gen 12:4)

The blessings God promised Abraham have all been fulfilled in Christ through his paschal mystery. The Transfiguration was the “threshold” of Christ’s voluntary Passover completed on the cross by which he conquered death and enabled all humanity to share in his resurrection “through the Spirit who acts in the sacraments

of the Body of Christ [the Church].” (CCC556) By carrying our own cross and faithfully living out our Christian life here on earth, we can have strong hope to enter the heavenly Promised Land and be in everlasting communion with the Trinity, our Blessed Mother and all the holy men and women who now intercede for us in heaven. (cf CCC 1026)

Our Holy Father’s Lenten Message calls us to “contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us.” He urges us to set aside time to ponder this mystery prayerfully in God’s word, “...prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us... The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us.” (Lenten Message 2020, 7 October 2019)

So let us put aside all the distractions that prevent us from experiencing God’s mercy and love in our hearts as we contemplate his words to us in *lectio divina* – the spiritual reading of scripture. As our Holy Father urges us, “May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.”

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### SFX FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SFX has raised a total of cash & pledges amounting to **\$2,064,571.12** as of **Jan 2020**. The priests and Fundraising Committee appreciate everyone's efforts and thank all parishioners for their contributions in funds and participation in fundraising activities.

**We look forward to your continued support as we work towards our \$2.3 million fundraising goal.**

### ONLINE CHILDREN'S MASS

Calling all parents with young children! There will be a prerecorded Children's Mass online at **Sun 8 Mar**, from 8am onwards! Watch it at [www.youtube.com/catholicsg](http://www.youtube.com/catholicsg).



### CARITAS SINGAPORE - CHARITIES WEEK 2020

"The season of Lent is the time when the Caritas Singapore conducts its annual Archdiocesan fundraising campaign - Charities Week 2020. Your donation will provide much-needed funding to support the work of the Caritas Singapore family to journey with the vulnerable and marginalised in our community such as low-income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and people with mental health issues.

Please pick up an appeal envelope outside the Parish Office and Community Hall, and do give generously. It will enable our Catholic charities to further their cause and do more to help our brothers and sisters in need."

All Donations are eligible for 250% Tax Deduction.

### SFX MASS COLLECTIONS (CASH/CHEQUE/PAYNOW)

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:11

With the indefinite suspension of Masses, income collection has greatly decreased. On top of utilities, staff salaries, etc. our church has the renovation to finance. As such, we would like to appeal to parishioners for your continued support. Mass collections can be made via:

- **Cash or Cheque** (made payable to **Church of St. Francis Xavier**). You can hand it to the Parish Office or use envelopes labelled **Mass Collection** and drop it into the Mass Offering Box outside the Parish Office. Envelopes can be found next to the Mass Offering Box.

You may mail the cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive S(558758)**

- **PayNow!**

1. Launch **PayNow** Service in your bank's app OR online banking website
2. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**"
3. Key in Parish UEN - **T08CC4033J**
4. Check Name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**
5. Key in Amount - \$XXX
6. Key in Ref - **Mass Collection**

Thank you for your kind generosity and understanding.

### PRAY FOR OUR RCIY PARTICIPANTS

Our RCIY catechumens and candidates are inching closer to the waters of baptism. We continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord. May we as a parish community continue to pray for our young people to keep them firm in their desire for union with Jesus as a Catholic and become holy disciples of Christ as they journey towards Baptism this Easter. Do look out for the photos of our elects and candidates for confirmation on the banner near the church entrance and keep them in prayer!

### *Prayer for Protection Against Coronavirus*

Praise You, Heavenly Father, Almighty Creator of the Universe. You appointed us stewards of all fauna and flora and gave us mastery over them. In so many ways, we have failed you and we ask for your forgiveness.

In these worrisome times, with the global Coronavirus pandemic threatening our health and existence, we humbly and confidently ask for Your protection, healing and restoration, especially of those who are already afflicted with it.

Father, keep safe all medical staff, all who comfort the sick, all border patrol personnel, and all who courageously take up the task of keeping our country and the world safe from this virus.

If it is Your will, bind this plague and take this suffering away from us. Holy Spirit, transform our fears into strength, resilience, steadfastness and fortitude, and help us bear fruits of faith, hope, charity and prudence.

Precious Blood of Jesus, purify the world of this pestilence. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Mother of Perpetual Succour, watch over us and intercede for us. St. Benedict and St. Raphael, pray for us. All our guardian angels, light and guard our way.

In Jesus' Most Holy name we pray. Amen.



## *Preparation for the Resumption of Masses*

Those who are not well or do not feel well, or are uncomfortable with attending Mass during this period, may fulfil their Sunday obligation by following the Mass online via [www.catholic.sg/mass](http://www.catholic.sg/mass)

### 1. CHANGE OF MASS SCHEDULES

Weekend Masses will resume from **14/15 March**:

**Time:** Sat Sunset: 5.30pm (No Novena)  
Sun: 9am and **11.30am** (instead of 11am)

**Venue:** JPPII Community Hall, St Mary's, Columbarium  
(across from the old canteen and where the old parish offices used to be)

**NO weekday Masses. No 7am and 5.30pm Masses on Sundays until further notice. Stations of the Cross and Novena have also been suspended for the time being.**

### 2. PROCEDURES BEFORE MASS

#### a. Temperature Screening

All worshippers will need to walk through a thermal scanner prior to entering the worship areas.

#### b. Registration and Contact Tracing

Some personal details (name as in NRIC, contact number etc) will be required to facilitate contact tracing. An online seat booking system has been implemented. You may register for your seats, which will be randomly assigned. A QR code is also available for online registration.

Online registration can be done ahead of coming for mass, or upon arrival. We strongly encourage you to opt for the former if you are able to.

For those without online access, hard copies of the registration forms will be made available on the day itself.

**Seating capacity is limited to a maximum of 390 worshippers per mass. Therefore, parishioners are requested to register/book for their preferred time slot.**

We seek your understanding and apologise in advance if we have to turn you away because we are unable to assign you a seat.

**We reserve the right to turn you (and your family members) away should you be visibly unwell or should**

**you indicate in the registration form that you have travelled to any of the countries specified by MOH.**

If you have registered as a family unit, please enter the worship area together. Please make an effort to keep to the same mass timing every weekend and to avoid church hopping.

**Wheelchair-bound parishioners will have a designated area but seats are limited.**

Once registration is done, sanitise your hands and follow the ushers to your seat. Do not swop seats and do minimise movement during mass.

Confessions will also be available at St Jerome's library before the 3 Masses. Otherwise, please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment. Please note that confessions will stop 15 minutes before mass.

**IMPORTANT: REGISTRATION CLOSES 15 MINUTES BEFORE MASS BEGINS AS ALL ARE TO BE SEATED 10 MINUTES BEFORE MASS. Please assist us by coming earlier for mass – registration begins 45 minutes before each mass.**

### 3. CHANGES TO THE LITURGY

Avoid physical contact (just a nod during the 'Sign of peace' will suffice). Holy Communion continues to be strictly received on the hand. Take the lead from the ushers during Holy Communion so as to 'contain' movement and contact between blocks during mass.

**There will be no collection during the offertory. Please drop your donations before Mass at the entrances.**

### 4. PROCEDURES POST MASS

Please promptly leave the premises once mass is over to expedite cleaning of the premises by the volunteers for the next mass.

**The protocols as laid down by MOH and the Archdiocese have to be observed. We seek your patience and charity.**

**Scan the QR Code or register for Mass at [www.sfxchurch.sg/resumption-of-masses](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/resumption-of-masses)**





# COVID-19: Continuing to walk in faith



Since 15 Feb, public Masses and all large gatherings have been suspended to minimize the risk of a cluster outbreak of the COVID-19 among our congregations and priests. Most of us have keenly felt the inability to attend Mass, receive Holy Communion, spend quiet time in contemplation in the Adoration Room and attend bible study sessions with our communities.

**“This crisis has challenged us all to be creative in coming up with ways to continue to walk in faith individually and as a community.”**

Many Catholics have been watching and participating in the online Masses that have been screened. Some make it a point to gather the whole family together on Sunday to do so. Here are some links you can visit:

- For online streaming of Masses conducted by our Archdiocese, go to [www.catholic.sg/visit-mass/livestream](http://www.catholic.sg/visit-mass/livestream).
- You can also find the Masses and homilies of our Archbishop on the channel maintained by our Archdiocese at [www.catholic.sg/mass](http://www.catholic.sg/mass).
- Novena devotions and homilies can be found on the YouTube channel of The Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church), [www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vK7wL3ZFCqKiQxhjr3wA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0vK7wL3ZFCqKiQxhjr3wA).
- As we are in the season of Lent, you can follow the recordings of the Stations of the Cross conducted at the Cathedral via [www.youtube.com/cathedralofthegoodshepherds](http://www.youtube.com/cathedralofthegoodshepherds)

Various parish ministries and communities have also been connecting on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to support each other on their faith journey.

For instance, as the post-SFX CER sessions have been indefinitely postponed, one group of retreatants, “Faithfulness”, has gathered on Skype every 2 weeks or so, to recite the rosary, read, reflect on and share on the Word. These sessions have been wonderful in keeping this little faith community together. Resources they have used for these gatherings include the FORMED app and ONE’s Lenten Reflection Booklet which can be found on [www.one.org.sg/resources](http://www.one.org.sg/resources).



As choir practice has also been suspended, the members of our St Maximilian Kolbe choir have divided themselves into smaller groups to do their own breaking of the Word - some meet in person, others via Skype. They recently held a prayer service for the whole choir. 9 members were in the Columbarium while another 7 members participated via Skype. As choir member, Sheryl Wong shared, “Although not all of us were in the same place, we were so happy to meet each other via Skype again and we had a spirit-filled session.”

## Mass Timings

### WEEKEND MASSES

Suspended until further notice

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Suspended until further notice

### MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

### HOLY HOUR

Suspended until further notice

## Opening Hours

### PARISH OFFICE

**Mon - Fri:**  
9am - 9pm  
**Sat:** 9am - 7pm  
**Sun:** 8am - 1pm

### ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

### LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

### COLUMBARIUM

7am - 7pm

### 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 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 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)