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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)  
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Rev Fr Vinukumar  
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[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)

**“I am well”**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
15 Mar 2020

Ex 17:3-7  
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8  
Jn 4:5-42

This Lenten season is a particularly testing one with the unprecedented suspension of all Masses over the past few weeks as a result of the Covid-19 virus infections. Largely denied access to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the faithful will undoubtedly suffer “withdrawal symptoms” from being denied their spiritual nourishment from the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

Perhaps, the suspension of Masses is a reminder and also a test. A reminder that we in Singapore should not take for granted that we are able to go to Mass every day to celebrate and partake of the Eucharist. In many places around the world (for example, in Paitan, Sabah, where SFX used to send mission teams to), the lack of priests means that the faithful can at best partake of the Eucharist only once or twice over the course of three or so months. It could also be a test of our faith in the promise of the Word that in everything (good or bad), God works for good with those who love him (cf Rom 8:28). In other words, in every bad situation, for those who hold fast to their faith in him, God can and will use it to bring about a good, even if at the time we are unable to perceive or comprehend it.

In the first reading today, the Israelites were similarly put to the test when they ran short of water in the desert. Their focus on their present sufferings drowned out any thoughts of trusting in God and made them doubt that God is still with them. But God not



*“God thirsts that we may thirst for him.” CCC 2560*

only tolerated the irritable pilgrims, but turned the incident into a good. Now, when we read this passage of Moses striking the rock and causing drinkable water to flow from it, we can see its typology to Jesus Christ. Indeed it was St Paul who first saw the typology when he wrote that the Israelites drank the supernatural drink from the supernatural Rock which is Christ (cf 1 Cor 10:4). We can also extend the typology to Jesus on the cross, when we struck his side with the lance - blood and water flowed out, completing the transformation of the Last Supper meal into Baptism and the Eucharist - the sacramental life we have been blessed to partake in.

The water gushing out from the Rock which is Christ is the Holy Spirit. “Since the beginning of the world, water, so humble and wonderful a creature, has been the source of life and fruitfulness.” (CCC 1218) We begin our first life in the waters of our mother’s womb; we are then born again into divine life by the power of the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism;

and now we are also “made to drink of one Spirit” from the one source which is Christ crucified (CCC 694). The Holy Spirit is the living water that Jesus gives us.

Like the Samaritan woman in today’s gospel reading, we all come to the well seeking water when we have a need. It is reassuring to know that Jesus is already at the well waiting for us - he comes to meet every human being. It is in prayer that we come to the well, but it is Jesus who first seeks us and ask us for a drink because he thirsts - God thirsts that we may thirst for him (cf CCC 2560). The Holy Spirit is the living water “welling up to eternal life” in the heart that prays. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to accept this living water at its source: Christ (CCC 2652).

So in the midst of Covid-19 this Lenten season, regardless of whether we can or cannot go to Mass, let us take heart and be strong in faith through Jesus; meditate in prayer at the well of our heart where Jesus is already there waiting for us and drink of the superabundance of living water.

## Announcements

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

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

**This weekend**, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelistic and missionary Church. You may give: (1) By cash, cheque or GIRO form, preferably in a GIFT envelope drop it off at the Parish Office or (2) Online at [www.catholicfoundation.sg/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.sg/give), or through PayNow at **UEN 201231391K** (please leave your contact info under remarks to receive an acknowledgement). Please give generously for the Vision of the Archdiocese.

### ONE: LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET 2020

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent. The theme is "**Communion in Growth**". The booklet is available outside the Parish Office and is also available online at [tinyurl.com/oneLent2020](http://tinyurl.com/one Lent 2020).

### CARITAS SINGAPORE – CHARITIES WEEK 2020

The season of Lent is the time when 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 which journeys with the vulnerable and marginalised in our community such as low-income families, youths-at-risk, the incarcerated, and people with physical disabilities and mental health issues.

Please pick up an appeal envelope outside the Parish Office and JP11 Hall, and 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 a 250% tax deduction.

## Ongoing Suspension Of Masses

Archbishop William Goh has written a Pastoral Letter regarding the ongoing suspension of public Masses.

"After weighing all the views and bringing them to prayer, I have discerned that we should not proceed at this point in time. I know it is a decision that will not please all, but as the Head of the Catholic Church in Singapore, I have to decide for the common good.

Thank you for your understanding and for putting the interests of the larger community before our own. Let us support each other in our faith and continue to pray for the elimination of this virus from the world. Please keep me and our priests in your prayers as well."  
– Archbishop William Goh

You may read Archbishop's full Pastoral Letter at [www.catholic.sg/ongoing-suspension-of-masses/](http://www.catholic.sg/ongoing-suspension-of-masses/)

### NURTURING OUR FAITH DURING THIS COVID-19 OUTBREAK

- 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).
- Read and reflect on the daily scripture readings via the **CatholicSG app** or at [universalis.com/mass](http://universalis.com/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/cathedralofthegoodshepherdsg](http://www.youtube.com/cathedralofthegoodshepherdsg)

### 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 suspension of Masses over the last few weeks, income collection has greatly decreased. On top of utilities, staff salaries and other expenses, our Church has to also finance the current renovation project. 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**). Please put it into the envelopes labelled **Mass Collection** which can be found next to the mass offering box outside the Parish Office. You may either hand the filled envelope to the Parish Office, drop it off in the mass offering box, or mail them to **63A Chartwell Drive S(558758)**.
- **PayNow!**
  1. Launch the **PayNow** Service in your bank's app OR online banking website
  2. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**"
  3. Key in Parish UEN - **T08CC403J**
  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!



# RCIY: Rite of Election



This year, with the suspension of masses and large gatherings due to Covid-19, parishes were asked to conduct the Rite of Election in their respective churches. Fr Ben celebrated the Rite for 11 youth catechumens on the first Sunday of Lent (1 March). By this Rite, the catechumens advance one step closer to completing their preparation to receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism/Confirmation & the Eucharist) at Easter and affirm their intention to join the Catholic Church.

Attendance at the Rite was limited to only the Elect and one accompanying godparent at this milestone in their faith journey. It was a pared-down celebration – simple but meaningful. As Christians, we understand that we are chosen by Jesus to be part of the Christian community as it says in Jn 15:16 - “You did not choose me, no I chose you”. At the Rite, all catechumens formally entered their names into the Book of Elect, signifying that they have heard God call their name and they wish to respond to His call.

May we as the parish community of SFX continue to pray for our young people – that they keep firm in their desire for union with Jesus and become holy disciples of Christ. Look out for the banner near our church entrance which includes photos of both the Elect and those preparing for confirmation, and keep them in your prayers.



## *Father God,*

*you desire that we may be one in Christ, and that we may have life eternal with you. Look kindly upon all the Elect and Candidates you have called to follow you. Grant them the courage to answer your call to live a new life in you. Protect them from temptation and harm; transform and empower them with your presence and love through the gift of your Holy Spirit. Through your Word, and our prayerful support and example, may our Elect come in time to the table of the Eucharist, and, unite as one body with our Confirmands, in the Holy Spirit to worship and witness to your love for us. With your grace, may we work tirelessly to spread the Gospel and to bring more into your Kingdom. Blessed Mother, continue to intercede for your children. Amen.*

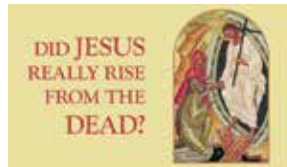




# FORMED Picks for March

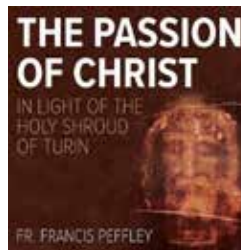
## VIDEO: Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Skeptics have long tried to show that there was no Resurrection. Today, there has been a resurgence of attacks on this central truth of Christianity. Some people claim that the followers of Jesus fabricated the Resurrection. Others argue that the disciples hallucinated or had a "vision" of their dead master, which they confused with a truly risen Jesus. Others still suggest that the Resurrection was a myth or that the Apostles may have seen a spirit or witnessed a "spiritual resurrection" that had nothing to do with an empty tomb and the transformation of Jesus' dead body. This video carefully scrutinises the historical evidence. Rather than accept Christian belief blindly, top scholars, and biblical historians critically examine alternative explanations. In the end, they show why it is a matter of sound reason as well as faith to affirm what the early Church proclaimed: Jesus is risen.



## LISTEN: THE PASSION OF CHRIST IN LIGHT OF THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN

The Holy Shroud of Turin was called the greatest relic in Christendom by Pope St John Paul II. In fact, the Shroud is the most studied scientific object in the entire world. Fr Peffley presents new, detailed scientific and medical evidence for the authenticity of the Holy Shroud. This presentation brings greater clarity to the depth of the agony of our Lord's sorrowful Passion, which he voluntarily took on for love of us.



## VIDEO: Was Jesus' sacrifice enough?



Many Protestants reject the Catholic teaching on penance because they think it implies Jesus' death on the cross was not enough. Are Catholics denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice? Karlo Broussard gives reasons why the answer is no.

## VIDEO: Francis: Pope of the Renewal

Pope Francis has gained global popularity with his humble and joyful style. This film describes the surprising ascension to the top of world's popularity of the almost unknown Argentinian cardinal. It also reflects the renewal of the Catholic Church's image that he has generated. A brief street poll with people of various nationalities and beliefs suggests the extension of this phenomenon. What can be the causes of such spectacular change in the public opinion? Together with amazing images of his memorable first year, this documentary offers anecdotes, humorous details, provoking messages, opinions, and clues to understanding an already historical papacy.



## Free FORMED Access for SFX Parishioners

**Getting FORMED on your mobile**  
(Scan with your camera/reader app)

**iPhone users:**



**Android users:**



**New Viewers**

Go to <https://sfxchurch.formed.org/>.  
Fill out the registration form.  
A verification eMail will be sent to you.

**Existing Viewers**

if you forgot how to log in, go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org), look at the top right and click the LOGIN button. Use your own login email and password.

### 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)