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Disciples
Making Disciples

 **Parish Priest:**
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Rev Fr Vinukumar
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Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza
6282 3151
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I Will Follow Him

4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
3 May 2020

Ac 2:36-41
1 Pt 2:20-25
Jn 10:1-10

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the readings give us a comforting image of how our God and Saviour cares for us; protects us and leads us on a path to eternal bliss. In particular, if you take time to meditate, in the quietness of your heart, on the words of Psalm 22, you can see with the eye of your mind, our Lord leading us on a walk through a lush green meadow with calm clear waters where we are physically and spiritually fed on a full and healthy diet. And although we may be physically tired or even sick, or our spirit is vexed with relationship issues; or we feel that "enemies" abound; the presence of our Lord and his reassuring gaze gives us confidence that our burdens will pass without harm to us and all will be well in the end, as long as we stay close to our Lord Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus, in the gospel passage, builds on the shepherd-sheep metaphor and invites us to consider the spiritual dimensions of his parable. It is easy for us to see that the one true Good Shepherd is our Lord Jesus, and we are the sheep. The sheepfold represents the Catholic Church (CCC 754) which guards us through the dark of the night with its teachings, passed on

through the ages from the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus is also the gate, the only gate, into the sheepfold. St Peter, in the first reading, tells us how we enter this gate into the sheepfold - repent and be baptized! (Acts 2:38) Baptism is the gate by which we are born again in the Spirit and become a member of the sheepfold. The gatekeeper is also our Lord who ordains other shepherds, our priests, to govern and guide us.

Finally, our Lord Jesus in his humanity, is also a lamb amongst us, who takes away the sin of the world. The second reading tells us that Jesus the Lamb of God, suffered for us, and though he committed no sin, bore our sins on the cross, so that we might die to our sins and live for holiness (1 Pt 2:22-24). Having now paid the price of sin with his life, set up the sheepfold; opened the gate and appointed earthly shepherds, our Lord calls us onto his path of righteousness which leads to his heavenly house of God the Father.

But are we listening? Do we follow him?

Just like the sheep, in order to listen, we must be able to recognise his voice. To recognise his voice, we must know him. To know him, we read and study the Bible and we reflect upon and internalise the teachings of the Church. But intellectual knowledge will only get you that far. To really, really know Jesus, we have to encounter him as the living Christ - in quiet, contemplative prayer, we will hear him speak to us in our hearts; in surrendering our cares and needs to him, we will experience his

providence; in forgiving others, we will experience forgiveness; and in loving our neighbours, we will experience the loving embrace of God. Then, when we have encountered Christ so intimately, our listening will in turn nurture our faith and form our conscience so that we can follow him, putting into practice the teachings of our Lord and Shepherd.

Perhaps this current period of Covid-19 circuit breaker is an invitation for each of us to quietly get to know our Lord a lot better; to encounter him in our struggles and our sufferings; to listen to what he is saying to each of us, and then to faithfully follow his lead. Then we can claim his promise of an abundant life, the way he envisages it.



In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever."

Psalms 22:4

Announcements

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

CHURCH CLOSURE NOTICE

The Singapore government has announced further measures to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 on **Fri 3 Apr**. As such, parish premises including the Parish Office will remain closed. Renovation works are also suspended until further notice. For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may still call the Parish Office. Do leave your name, contact number and a brief message, and we will get back to you.

SFX TELEGRAM - FOLLOW US!



Follow us through our official TELEGRAM channel: <https://t.me/sfxchurch>! You will receive the latest official announcements on Parish-wide events/initiatives, reminders, mass timings and the church bulletin on your phone. Telegram is a free app! Information will continue to be available on our SFX website, Facebook, Instagram and our bulletin "The Manna".

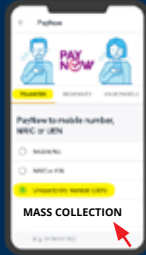
TEMPORARY MASS OFFERINGS VIA PAYNOW

During this period of the "Circuit Breaker", we will continue to accept Mass Offerings (for souls, God's Blessing, Special Intention, etc) from our Parishioners online and payment is via PayNow only. **Please submit your intention 1 WEEK in advance.** The Parish Office will contact you to provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Please indicate this referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**). These will be offered up during our priests' private masses. You may submit your mass offering via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOffering>.

MASS COLLECTION

CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

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 the following options:



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
6. Key in Ref - **Mass Collection**



CHEQUE

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



GIRO

1. Download Mass Collection Giro Form via sfxchurch.sg/donate
2. Mail the completed form to **63A Chartwell Drive Singapore 558758**

For more information, visit www.catholic.sg/offertory/
Step-by-step guide: www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/

NEED SOME PRAYERS?

Feeling overwhelmed/stressed or anxious while coping with uncertainty during these period? Fret not! Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will be standing in the gap to intercede and offer up your prayer petitions at their weekly prayer sessions. You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. You can rest assured that all prayer requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

EVANGELISATION: FOR DEACONS

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

IN THE MONTH OF APR 2020

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Anthony Tay Chin Aye
2. David Peter Patrick
3. Theresa Tan
4. Agnes Ng Gek Luan
5. Fitzgerald Anthony Derrick

Good Shepherd/ Vocations Sunday: You Have Got Mail!

This week, we celebrate Good Shepherd/Vocations Sunday so let us pray for our priests, for their vocation in spreading the Gospel. Here are some blessings from our parishioners...



Prayer to the Good Shepherd

Dear Lord, our Good Shepherd,
I have known death,
and you have refreshed my soul.

I have known fear,
and you have comforted me.

I have known hunger,
and you have set a feast before me.

In the darkest valley
no calamity of humankind or nature has separated us.

Teach me to walk as you walk
Beside those in mourning
so that they will know joy,
Beside those in fear
that they will know comfort,
Beside those in hunger
that they will feast until their cup overflows.

As your goodness and love follow me,
May mine follow my neighbour
That the threat of the worst terrors
May turn to the knowledge of the comforts of
the house of the Lord,
Where you have invited us to dwell forever.

And so let me strive to help build on earth
What you have promised us in heaven.
In the face of all calamity, present and yet to come,
Let me lead my neighbour beside quiet waters,
The quiet waters of the Good Shepherd.

AMEN

Blessed Good Shepherd Sunday!

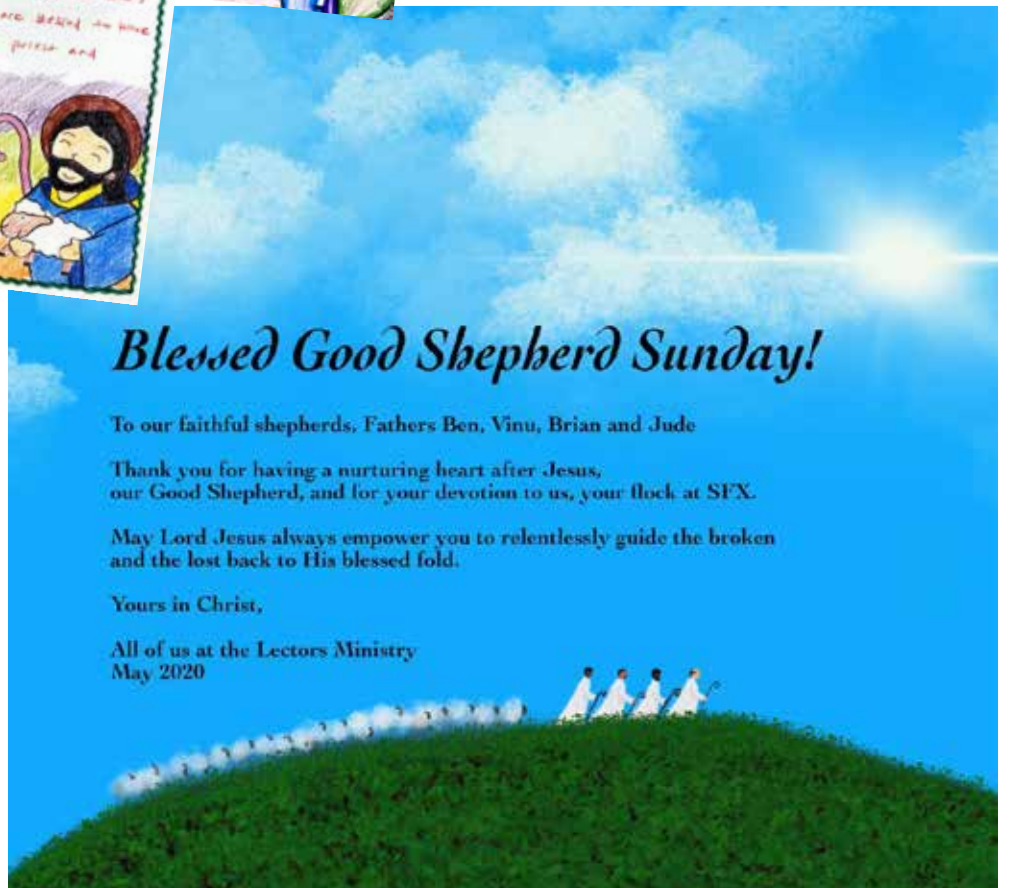
To our faithful shepherds, Fathers Ben, Vinu, Brian and Jude

Thank you for having a nurturing heart after Jesus,
our Good Shepherd, and for your devotion to us, your flock at SFX.

May Lord Jesus always empower you to relentlessly guide the broken
and the lost back to His blessed fold.

Yours in Christ,

All of us at the Lectors Ministry
May 2020





FORMED Picks for May

VIDEO: Fatima Hope for the World

Fatima Hope for the World is a 13-part video series that tells the story of Fatima from the apparitions in 1917 through the 20th century. It includes details of the apparitions, historical context, the secrets of Fatima, the children seers and their missions, Our Lady's specific requests and the importance of responding to her call.



VIDEO: SHADE the series

"SHADE" is a new acoustic series featuring the music of Brother Isaiah, CFR. Brother Isaiah offers simple and uncut prayers from the heart hoping these "holy-hooks" might offer you an experience of the Lord's accompanying presence and refreshment in the midst of your day-to-day journey. The pilgrimage of life can be difficult at times and we can easily find ourselves pretty weary along the way, but the Lord wants to meet us along that road in little moments of quiet rest with renewal unlooked-for, like the simple refreshment one finds "beneath the shade of a tree."



VIDEO: Manifesto of Faith

This film brings to life and visualizes, word-for-word, the Manifesto of Faith, a document written by Gerhard Cardinal Müller, former Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (2012-2017). Produced by Arcadia Films, Manifesto of Faith attempts to make the Cardinal's words more accessible and meaningful to Catholics and non-Catholics alike by visualizing and clarifying the core of the faith through the beauty of its message.



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.

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

Closed until further notice

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

Closed until further notice

CANTEEN

Closed until further notice

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. 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