




 **Parish Office:**
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg

 **St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Disciples
Making Disciples

 **Parish Priest:**
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg

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

Rev Fr Vinukumar
6280 8331
Vinukumar@catholic.org.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza
6282 3151
FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg

The Gift of Christ's Glory

7th Sunday of Easter
24 May 2020

Ac 1:12-14
1 Pt 4:13-16
Jn 17:1-11

We have just celebrated the Ascension - "the irreversible entry of [Christ's] humanity into divine glory." Our Lord now "intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 659 & 667).

Christ's Ascension has great significance for all of humanity. The Ascension does not mean Christ is now "some place far from people and from the world" as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explained. Rather, Christ has "led our human existence into God's presence, taking with him flesh and blood in a transfigured form." This means everyone now "...find[s] room in God; through Christ, the human being was introduced into the very life of God. And since God embraces and sustains the entire cosmos, the Ascension of the Lord means that Christ... is now, thanks to his being with the Father, close to each one of us forever." (Homily, 7 May 2005)

Through baptism, all of us now enjoy this intimate fullness of life in this "embrace" of the Trinity - we have received the promised "permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit" and hence possess the "germ" of eternal life for us to grow and thrive in (*Life Everlasting*, Fr Reginald Garrigou-Lagrangé, OP). We find the essence of this eternal life in today's gospel - a passage from Christ's longest

prayer called his "High-Priestly Prayer". Addressing the Father, Christ says, "...eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (Jn 17:3) Knowledge of who Christ is (Son sent by God) and what he has done (freely accepted the "hour" of his passion for man's salvation) have moved his disciples to submit to Jesus' Lordship as Jesus reveals in his prayer - they have "kept [God's] word" and "truly accepted" and "believed" in Christ (Jn 17: 6 & 8).

This submission to the Father's saving plan and to his Son is how Jesus has been "glorified" in his disciples (Jn 17:10). Glorification and obedience to divine will are intertwined as Pope Emeritus explains, "The glorification that Jesus asks for himself...is the entry into full obedience to the Father...a total gift of himself on the Cross...the supreme act of love - he is glorified because love is the true glory, the divine glory." (General Audience, 25 Jan 2012)



"...eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (Jn 17:3)

The apostles huddled in fear in the Upper Room after Christ was lifted up on the cross and crucified. In today's first reading, the Upper Room after Christ was lifted up into heaven is a different picture. The apostles, other followers, several women and our Blessed Mother - 120 people in all - were all "joined in continuous prayer." (cf Ac 1:14-15). They were fixed on the next stage of the Father's mission through his Son: the sending of the Holy Spirit to make them witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Already then, they radiated the "glory" Christ told his Father they already possessed.

Today, virtually all the ends of the earth have heard of Christ but many still have not grasped how Christ's sacrifice has saved them and revealed the great love of the Father for humanity. This is the "Story of stories" says our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as we celebrate the 54th World Communication Sunday today. "The Bible is... the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God."

As we also mark on our calendars today the 100th day since Masses were suspended on February 15 due to Covid-19, let us not forget that we still have church! "Stay home, stay safe" is also staying in love in our "domestic church" - the believing family where "life is to be completely centered on the lordship of Christ." (Pope Emeritus, Feb. 7, 2007) As we await a renewal in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost next Sunday, let us allow Christ's glory to shine through in our homes, any other civilly-permitted settings and on social media. By our prayers and loving sacrifices, may Christ's saving love move hearts and draw them into the Trinitarian embrace.

Announcements

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

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

All Mass collections received through PayNow, Cash or cheques received during the week **24th - 29th May 2020** will constitute receipts for World Communications Sunday.

ONLINE MASSES

Parishioners can follow online masses at <https://go.catholic.sg/mass> or on CatholicSG Radio App. Masses will be available on **every Sun, 10am** and **weekdays (Mon - Sat), 12pm**.

SFX ONLINE DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY PRAYER

Come join our priests Fr Ben and Fr Vinu as we pray the rosary together online via Zoom. This online rosary prayer will be held on weekdays from **Mon 11 May - Fri 29 May** at **3pm** - we encourage you to log in by 2.45pm. You may login via tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary. Please note that recording of the prayer session is not allowed.

Scan the QR code to join

Meeting ID: 845-8298-0708

Password: 621310



NEED SOME PRAYERS?

Feeling overwhelmed/stressed or anxious while coping with uncertainty during this 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

Rest assured that all prayer requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.



SAFE JOURNEY TO FR VINU

We would like to inform you that Fr Vinu returned to India on **Sat 23 May** to attend to an urgent matter. We ask you to keep him in prayer.

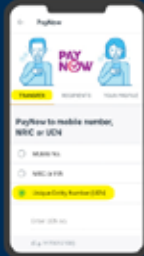
TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance. Please kindly wait for the **Finance Department** to contact you and provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001) before indicating the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (T08CC4033J). These will be offered up during our priests' private masses.

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/

BIBLICAL PARENTING SERIES

Parenting in today's world is tough but to try and do it in a biblical way? Yes it can be done. Come, listen and pick up some of the necessary skills and mindsets to help you not just be a friend to your children but lead them in the way our Lord would. Organised by the Family Life Ministry in OLPS (Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour), there are 9 sessions to choose from, with topics like Understanding Tweens and Teens, Parables in Practice and Surfing Safely in Cyberspace. These zoom sessions are either on **Wed, 9am - 11am** or **Sat, 9am - 11am**, starting from 10 Jun. The speaker, Xavier Woon, is a registered speaker for FamilyMatters @ School and a catechist for more than 25 years. There will be a love offering contribution of \$90 per participant. Register now at www.olps.sg/events.

World Day of Social Communications: Tell Your Stories

Every year on the Sunday before Pentecost the Church celebrates the achievements of the communications media and focuses on how it can best use them to promote gospel values.

This Sunday is the 54th World Day of Social Communications and the theme chosen by Pope Francis, "So that you can tell your son and grandson" (taken from a passage in the Book of Exodus) shows the close link between memory and communications. The Exodus experience teaches us that knowledge of the Lord is handed down from generation to generation mainly by telling the story of how our Lord continues to make himself present.

Jesus told many stories or parables in the bible to communicate with his audience the power of the Kingdom of God. Some of these parables may seem simple but when these narratives are applied and change generated, one can truly witness the transformative powers of such stories.

Our lives create history. Pope Francis has emphasized in many of his speeches/writings that there is no future without being rooted in the lived history. Our memory is the means by which our stories, hopes, dreams and experiences are weaved into a common loom or passed on from one generation to another. This is not done in a solitary state but through interactions with others. To communicate therefore, is to connect memory with life through stories.

However, Pope Francis reminds us that it is not simply telling stories as such, or of advertising ourselves, but rather of "remembering who and what we are in God's eyes, bearing witness to what the Spirit writes in our hearts and revealing to everyone that his or her story contains marvellous things."

Finally in his message, Pope Francis asks us to entrust ourselves to the one woman who pondered everything in her heart, wove together the events in her life and knit in her womb the humanity of God - our Mother Mary. His prayer to Our Lady the Undoer of Knots:



O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognise the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Do you know who is the Patron Saint of Communications?

Archangel Gabriel - because Gabriel delivers God's most important messages and helps people communicate with each other well. He interpreted the dreams of the prophet Daniel, told Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son, and announced God's will for Mary - that she would bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis, at the beginning of his pontificate, said this to the members of the press: "Your work calls for careful preparation, sensitivity, and experience, like so many other professions, but it also demands



a particular concern for what is true, good, and beautiful. This is something which we have in common, since the Church exists to communicate precisely this: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty 'in person.'"

St. Gabriel the Archangel: pray for us!

Are you interested in Proclaiming Truth, Beauty and Goodness In The Media?

As we grow, the Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is open to people who would like to join us in building and edifying the church with your 5 loaves and 2 fish in the areas of: **Digital Design, Art, Photography, Videography, Editing, Project Coordination** and **Website/ Social Media Management**.

Just drop us a line at mmm@sfxchurch.sg and tell us your story.



5th Anniversary of Laudato Si

Laudato Si/ Care for Creation

Pope Francis' second encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which has the subtitle "on care for our common ground" celebrates its 5th anniversary with the *Laudato Si'* Week from 16 to 24 May. During this week, Catholics everywhere were asked to unite in faith, to pray and to grow through the crisis of this moment to build a better tomorrow. What can we, as Catholics in this small city state of Singapore, do? Why not watch these videos (see links below) with your communities or family and reflect deeper on the following questions?

1. What message do I get from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*?
2. How can I experience God's presence in creation?



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Timings

Opening Hours

WEEKEND MASSES

Suspended until further notice

PARISH OFFICE

Closed until further notice

WEEKDAY MASSES

Suspended until further notice

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended 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.

Pope Francis invites you to celebrate Laudato Si' Week

Scan to watch!

Top 10 Things You Need to Know about Pope Francis' Laudato Si'

Scan to watch!

Laudato Si' by Cardinal Tagle

Scan to watch!

Laudato Si' Animation - Cafod

Scan to watch!

Then join in this prayer and let us pray as we build a better world together. *(Say this prayer at noon at your local time on 24 May, 2020)*

*Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your image and made us stewards
of all your creation, of our common home.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all future generations,
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure
the food and resources that they need.
Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.
Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.
Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing
the consequences of this global pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes
that are needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected,
in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.*

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg