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Disciples
Making Disciples

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Living With The Holy Spirit

Pentecost Sunday
31 May 2020

Ac 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23

Pentecost Sunday is the perfect time to reflect on how the Holy Spirit breathes life into us. The readings today bring us back to the historical context of this sacred day when Jesus Christ breathed the Holy Spirit into the Apostles; it also links the past to the present and helps us understand the Holy Spirit in the context of today's challenges.

First, that moment more than 2,000 years ago when Lord Jesus said to the Apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 20:22).

To understand the effect this had on them we have to remember the state the disciples were in at the time. Their Lord had been tortured and killed by his own people and betrayed and denied by some of his disciples. They were on the run and in hiding - terrified, defeated and without hope. When Jesus entered the locked room, they must have felt a mixture of fear and uncertainty, but also perhaps of relief and hope. Their Master had returned and the first words he uttered was meant to comfort and still their hearts: "Peace be with you." (Jn 20:21)

But there was still the question of how they should proceed and from where they could draw strength and courage. What could possibly raise them from the depth of despair to become victorious martyrs unafraid to die for their cause? There can be only one answer and it came from the breath of Lord Jesus. And as he



"Just as in the case of the Apostles, there can be only one answer. The Holy Spirit is here for us. The Spirit was God's special gift to the Apostles for their mission to build the Church and it is ours to continue the work."

breathed the Holy Spirit into them, he sent them forth to their mission.

"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." (Jn 20:21, 23)

With such a blessing and clear vision, is it any wonder they were able to achieve the impossible?

Today, we too are anointed with the Holy Spirit, at Baptism and whenever, through the grace of God, we call on the Spirit to guide and fortify us in our Christian mission. Our situation today is no different from the early disciples even if the challenges are of a different nature. We too face many obstacles and temptations that cause us to stumble and stray away from the path to salvation. The Covid-19 pandemic is one of these great challenges. Amid death and disease, economic deprivation and social isolation and unable to attend Mass and receive holy communion, where do we draw peace, comfort and strength from?

Just as in the case of the Apostles, there can be only one answer. The Holy Spirit is here for us - and hence we explicitly welcome this spiritual communion in televised Masses: "I love You above all things and

I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart..." The Spirit was God's special gift to the Apostles for their mission to build the Church and it is ours to continue the work. It is through the Holy Spirit that Lord Jesus lives in us.

Each of us has been granted personal talents for this mission and it starts with the most precious gift of all, which is our acceptance of Jesus as our saviour. As stated in the second reading: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor 12:3) Every one of us has gifts bestowed on us such as that of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of God (cf Isa 11:1-2). No gift is smaller or greater than another for we are all members of the same body and infused by the same spirit (cf 1 Cor 12:12-13). When we are faced with a crisis we become more aware of our God-given abilities and recognise that it is not possible to overcome the challenge on our own.

Pentecost Sunday is a time to remind ourselves of this basic truth, to thank God for his wonderful gift and renew our faith in him.

Announcements

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

CHURCH CLOSURE

All SFX parish premises and offices will remain closed until further notice. For pastoral care services, (e.g anointing, funerals) you may still call the Parish Office number; calls will be redirected and we will get back to you so do leave your name, contact number and a brief message.

SFX ONLINE ROSARY PRAYER

Come join our priest Fr Ben as we pray the rosary together online via Zoom. This online rosary prayer will be held on weekdays from **Mon 1 Jun - Tue 30 Jun at 3pm** - we encourage you to log in by 2.45pm. Please note that recording of the prayer session is not allowed.

Scan the QR code to join
Meeting ID: 845-8298-0708
Password: 621310



CHARISMATIC (ONLINE): GOING BACK TO GALILEE

The next Charismatic service via Zoom is on **Mon 1 Jun, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk given by Michelle Voo on 'Going Back To Galilee'. All are welcome.

Scan the QR code to join
Meeting ID: 894 9761 9621
Password: SFXCPG



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](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer)

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



HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS
THIS MONTH

EVANGELISATION: THE WAY OF THE HEART

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

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.

SSVP: DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS IN NEED(FINS)

The poor and needy are still in need of financial assistance during this period of Covid-19. Please do offer your generous support so that the SSVP can continue to aid their Friends in Need (FINS) with your donations. We thank you for your generosity. To find out more, visit ssvpsingapore.org.

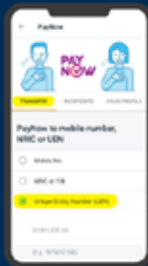
MASS COLLECTION

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/

Prayer for Protection Against Covid-19

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.

Send forth Your Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to direct the minds and actions of all world leaders, so that they may govern with wisdom, compassion and truth, for the wellbeing of all, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.

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.

Featured on FORMED in June

LECTIO: Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre

In the Old Testament, throughout the line of Davidic kings, the queen was not the wife of the king, but rather the king's mother. As a result, King Solomon placed a throne at his right hand for his queen mother and bowed down in homage to her. Jesus, as the fulfillment of the Davidic line, rules as king of heaven and earth with his mother, Mary, as the queen mother.



VIDEO: The Faithful Traveler in the Holy Land

The Faithful Traveler in the Holy Land TV series explores sacred sites throughout Israel and Palestine, including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Ein Karem, Qumran, and more! It's a great way to plan for or even remember your own pilgrimage to the Holy Land!



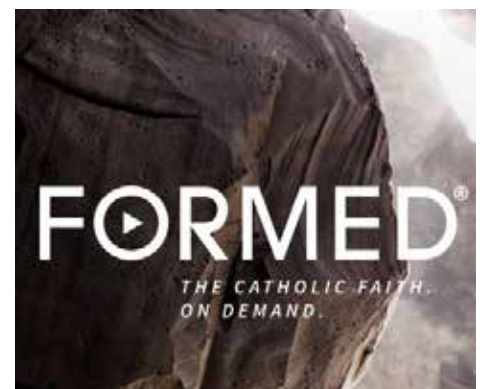
VIDEO: Consoling the Heart of Jesus (Group Retreat)

In Consoling the Heart of Jesus, we will learn about God's infinite mercy and how we can give him joy, consoling his heart, by accepting his love and trusting in him completely. We'll discover how suffering can actually help us grow spiritually and be closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



VIDEO: Lukas Storyteller

While in one of his adventures in the Sea of Galilee, Lukas met Jesus and was so impressed and gratified that now together with his old friend Noah, a turtle survivor of Noah's Ark, gather and tell the greatest stories of all times of Jesus and all the Saints that Lukas met through the ages... Discover how these stories full of music and fun changed the lives of the youngest of the reef: Ana, Paul, Agnes and Peter.



Free Access for SFX Parishioners

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, look at the top right and click the LOGIN button
Use your own login email and password.

If you forgot your password

Click LOGIN followed by your email
Then Forgot your password
A temporary password will be sent to your email

Getting FORMED on your mobile

(Scan with your camera/ reader app)

iPhone users:

Android users:





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Wisdom **Understanding**

Fear of the Lord **Counsel**

Fortitude **Knowledge**

Piety

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

CatholicLink

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.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

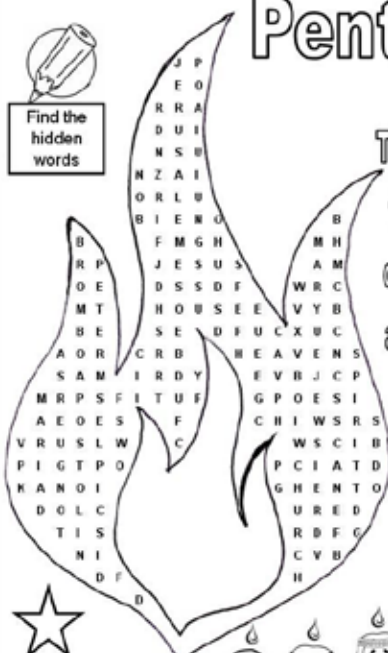
If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg

Mini MANNA

Pentecost



Find the hidden words



Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

Acts 2:3



- Wind
- Heaven
- House
- Tongues
- Fire
- Spirit
- Jews
- Jerusalem
- Peter
- Jesus
- Wine
- Disciples
- Mary
- Church

BIBLE KIDS

