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Disciples Making Disciples

Trusting God at Harvest Time

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 Jul 2020

Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-43

This week's Gospel reading concerns an issue that troubles many Christians. It is about good and evil, of wrongdoing and suffering. If God is omniscient and all-powerful why does he allow evil to exist, and for so many to suffer its consequences? There have been many explanations of this problem though we may never know the complete answer because God's plans for us will always be something of a mystery. But there is more than a hint in today's reading when Jesus Christ used the parable of the weeds or darnel to answer the question.

The response of the workers to the darnel that were growing among the wheat was not unexpected. They wanted to pull them out immediately. But the sower stopped them saying: "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull out the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." (Mt 13:29-30)

God is the sower and his approach to the problem is central to our faith. He could have destroyed evil from the outset. But if God solved all our problems for us, we would not be the people we are with free will. Our dignity as persons created in God's image lies in freely directing our sentient and spiritual lives to collaborate with God's grace and grow in virtue and perfection (cf CCC 1700). His way was borne out of pure love because he knew that it

was the only way for us to experience his love. It is only when we consciously choose to accept his love that we experience it in all its glorious wonder.

For those who stray from the path, he offered a way through his Son Jesus Christ, who, through his death and resurrection, gave us a chance at salvation.

The sower chose not to pull out the darnel for fear of uprooting the wheat in the process. In the same way God wants to offer repentance and salvation to all sinners right until "harvest time" (a biblical metaphor for God's judgement). Then, he will separate those who have lived for the Kingdom of Heaven from the others. The message of the parable is that we should entrust to God the final judgement on evil-doers. What we have to do is practice patience and urge everyone to repent and welcome God's mercy.

This approach that God wants us to take is also conveyed in the first reading from the Book of Wisdom. God may be all-powerful but he is full of mercy and compassion.

"...disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience...By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people, how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men." (Wis 12:18-19) We should reflect deeply on what it means when God displays such forbearance towards sinners and evil-doers. It also speaks about our own attitude towards others. While we have to speak up against injustices, it is not for us to condemn those who might act in an unjust or unkind way. Our action should be guided by love and compassion, even to those who might trespass against us. Hence, we too have a part to play. If we can stay away from committing evil, it is because God has sent us his Spirit to help us in our weakness as today's second reading reminds us (Rom 8:26). We are the small mustard seed nourished by the grace of the Holy Spirit to grow into a tall strong tree (cf Mt 13:32). We should therefore help others to also welcome God's Spirit and grow unceasingly in grace to be hope and encouragement to each other.



"If God solved all our problems for us, we would not be the people we are with free will. Our dignity as persons created in God's image lies in freely directing our sentient and spiritual lives to collaborate with God's grace and grow in virtue and perfection. His way was borne out of pure love because he knew that it was the only way for us to experience his love."

Announcements

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

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HELP

Feeling overwhelmed? Stressed or anxious during these uncertain times? There's hope! Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at their weekly prayer sessions. Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. Rest assured that all prayer requests are confidential.

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.

SFX ONLINE ROSARY BY SALT

For the month of July, let's come together as a parish community to pray the Rosary and bring our intercessions to our Blessed Virgin Mary. **Every Tue from 7 - 28 July, 8.30pm.** Meeting room opens from 8.15pm onwards via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary>. Please note that recording of the session is not allowed.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 867-1052-4234
Password: 465481



CHARISMATIC (ONLINE): THE POWER OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The next Charismatic service via Zoom is on **Mon 20 Jul, 8pm.** Praise and Worship followed by a talk given by Maria DSouza on 'The Power of Intercessory Prayer'. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 848 0119 3341
Password: CPGMON2007



Welcome Fr Antony Maria Joseph!

Fr Antony has been serving in the Singapore Archdiocese for the past seven years. He was due to return to India and will be with us until the Covid-19 situation there improves. We pray that he will have a joy-filled, fruitful and enriching ministry with us.

MASS COLLECTION

CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

With the 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**

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

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.

RCIA AND RCIY 2020/2021: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles? We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY. Here are some details:

RCIA journey (24 years and above)

Date: every **Fri from 26 Jun***

Time: 7.30pm - 10pm

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup

Enquiries: Angela at ast_goh@hotmail.com or call 9626 5960.

**RCIA sessions will be conducted every Friday via Zoom for now. Sessions will be moved to Tuesdays, 8pm - 10pm once Circuit Breaker restrictions are formally lifted.*

RCIY journey (13 - 23 years old)

Date: every **Sat from 4 Jul***

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup

Enquiries: rciy@sfxchurch.sg or contact 9002 9977(Angela); or 9751 3448 (Mark).

**RCIY sessions are originally scheduled for Sundays, 10.30am-12.30pm. The current timing on Saturday afternoon is only an interim arrangement for the next month or two.*

Important Guide to Resumption of Mass

Please note that these measures are in place so as to ensure the safety of everyone and to give every parishioner an equal opportunity to attend Mass. Young children, the elderly (> 60 yr), and those with pre-existing medical conditions are considered vulnerable to the disease, and are highly encouraged to continue attending Mass online instead. Do refer to the information below and let us do our part to keep our parish community safe.

PARSONAGE

Please note that the Parish Office, Adoration Room and Columbarium will remain closed until further notice.

For pastoral care services, (e.g anointing, funerals) you may still call the Parish Office.

LEVEL 2

SFX Kindergarten is temporarily relocated to the second floor of the Parsonage.

PARISH CENTRE & GROTTO AREA (CLOSED)

The area will be closed for renovation till further notice.

BASEMENT CARPARK

Drivers are able to park at the basement carpark and access JP II Hall via the open staircase.

JOHN PAUL II HALL & DROPOFF LOCATION

Masses will be conducted at JP II Hall. If you are being dropped off, please inform the driver to go straight and drop you along the parallel parking lots near the church's back gate.

MAIN CHURCH & FRONT PORCH

It is currently closed for interior refurbishing and the extension of the Front Porch with a non-slip ramp for drop-off.

LET US DO OUR PART TO KEEP OUR PARISH COMMUNITY SAFE



Before coming to Mass, ensure you have registered with **myCatholic.sg** and have a confirmed slot for Mass.



Wear your mask at all times.

Don't crowd or mingle anywhere in church before, during and after Mass. Please kindly cooperate with the volunteers.



Contact Tracing

All visitors are to login with SafeEntry and ensure Tracetogogether is active.

1. Admission

Registration at Parsonage will begin **30 minutes** before the start of Mass. Doors will be closed and locked when Mass commences. **Strictly no walk-ins allowed.**



2. Verification

Bring your photo ID (NRIC/ FIN/Ezlink/Driving licence/ Passport) that you registered for verification.



If there is a discrepancy you will not be allowed in.

3. Direction and

Social Distancing

Follow the directional signage and maintain a one-metre distance from each another.



4. Sanitise your hands and wait behind the yellow line.
5. Step into the yellow box and stand about 50cm away from temperature scanner.
6. Scan your photo ID under the ID barcode scanner.
7. Ensure the blue area is focused on the forehead and your temperature will be screened. **You will not be permitted entry if your temperature is above 37.5deg C.**
8. Wait for the printout before proceeding to your designated seat (One seat/person). Anti-microbial wet wipe will be given as you enter JP II Hall. Please refrain from shifting your chairs or exchanging seats. Also, avoid physical contact and interacting with other parishioners.
9. **Face masks must be worn throughout the Mass and there will not be singing.** Hands should be sanitised before receiving Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the wardens.
10. Holy Communion continues to be strictly received on the hand with your mask on.
11. Move to green box to consume the host, replace your mask before returning to your seat.



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

Sanitising your chair before leaving

Please kindly help to sanitise your chair with the anti-microbial wet wipe provided to you before you leave the Hall.



Mass Offertory

There will be no collection during the offertory. Please drop your donation in the donation box as you leave the Hall. Alternatively, you may want to consider donating through PayNow.



Remember to **check out** using SafeEntry after Mass.



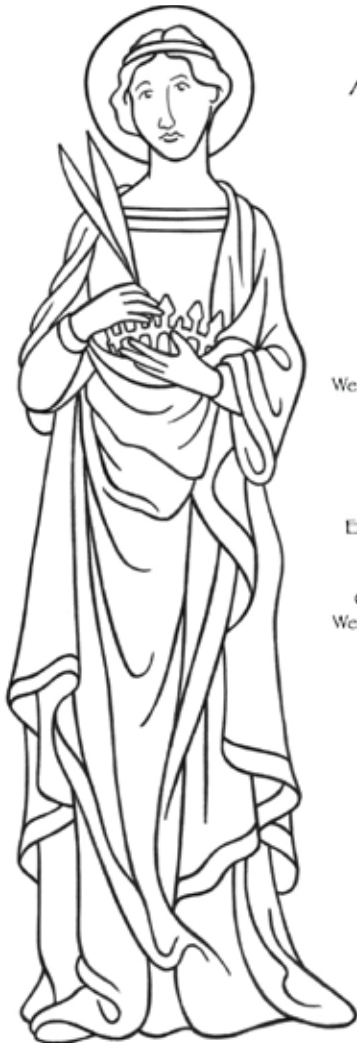
Toilets

Toilets are available via the passage way on right of JP11 Hall – note the **blue queue lines for gents** and **red queues line for ladies**.



Please promptly leave the premises once mass is over. Exit right to walk-out or if parked along side road. Exit left to underground carpark via staircase at corner of kindergarden.

The protocols as laid down by MOH and the Archdiocese have to be observed. These measures may be subjected to change based on latest government advisory and the evolving Covid-19 situation. We seek your patience and charity.



A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.

Saint Corona, pray for us!

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