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Disciples
Making Disciples

A Treasured Find

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
26 Jul 2020

1 Kgs 3:5,7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52

In this season of Ordinary Time, we have spent some weeks on the parables of Matthew 13. In today's gospel, we look at two short parables that Jesus uses to teach us about what the kingdom of heaven is like.

The short version of the gospel spans only three verses. They speak about a priceless treasure being found, and everything else sold away for the man to gain this treasure. Between the two parables however, there is a small difference – the first man stumbles upon a buried treasure, and the second searches long and hard to find the pearl of great price. In the first, the treasure is found in the ordinary mundane life of the man who was not expecting such a discovery. In the second, there was great effort put in and a long journey taken to find the pearl of great price. In both situations, the worth of the treasure/pearl was immediately

recognised, and there was an exchange of all of the man's possessions for this treasure/pearl. This is analogous to the two ways we come to know our faith – some of us stumble upon it, and some of us search long and hard for answers. But always, there is joy and little hesitation when we eventually find God.

This parable is often used as a description of spiritual conversion or a lesson on sacrificing everything for God. Sometimes we even arm-twist ourselves with this consequent thought: if it is God that I have found, then I should renounce everything willingly with joy and little hesitation. Pope Francis, in fact, dares us to give ourselves over to God unreservedly: "... it really is like this: those who know Jesus, encounter Him personally, *are captivated, attracted* by so much goodness, so much truth, so much beauty, and all with great humility and simplicity. To seek Jesus, to find Jesus: this is the great treasure!" (Angelus, 27 Jul 2014)

The beauty of a parable is that these stories that Jesus uses can be interpreted differently. That is, from a different perspective, it can also be said that the man who finds the treasure and sells everything he has to obtain it is God himself. The ultimate giving up of

everything is certainly Jesus' death on the cross to redeem us. There was little hesitation and a sense of satisfaction and finality about that deed. The Catechism describes Christ's sacrifice as murder turned into our salvation: "From the greatest moral evil ever committed – the rejection and murder of God's only Son...God, by his grace that 'abounded all the more', brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption."(CCC 312)

From the cross of Christ and in many different ways, God calls us unceasingly to turn our hearts to him. It could be through the light shone from the cross of a nearby church every night through the window. Or on simple floorboards in front of a small modest tabernacle. Or in the sounds of a meaningful melody played at a time when it was needed the most.

In any good and healthy relationship, there is reciprocity and mutual self-giving. God is not a sadist who demands sacrifice. The more we know – truly know – the extent of God's self-giving, the more we can reciprocate with our own lives.

Jesus speaks about the necessary wisdom and understanding at the start of Matthew 13. In the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus' reply to his disciples on why he speaks in parables is this: "[K]nowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you... [B]lessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear." (Mt 13:11,16) Again in today's First Reading, God gives King Solomon "a heart so wise and understanding...so that [he] may know what is right." (1 Kgs 3:12)

As we wrap up the parable discourse of Matthew's gospel, we pray that the Lord will give us the eyes to see and ears to hear God's love for us, the memory to recall and the heart to dwell on the finding of the treasure. May we return ourselves completely to him with joy and little hesitation.



The more we know – truly know – the extent of God's self-giving, the more we can reciprocate with our own lives.

Announcements

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

NEED SOME PRAYERS

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



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".

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.*

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE WALKTHROUGH GUIDE ON THE RESUMPTION OF MASS.



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

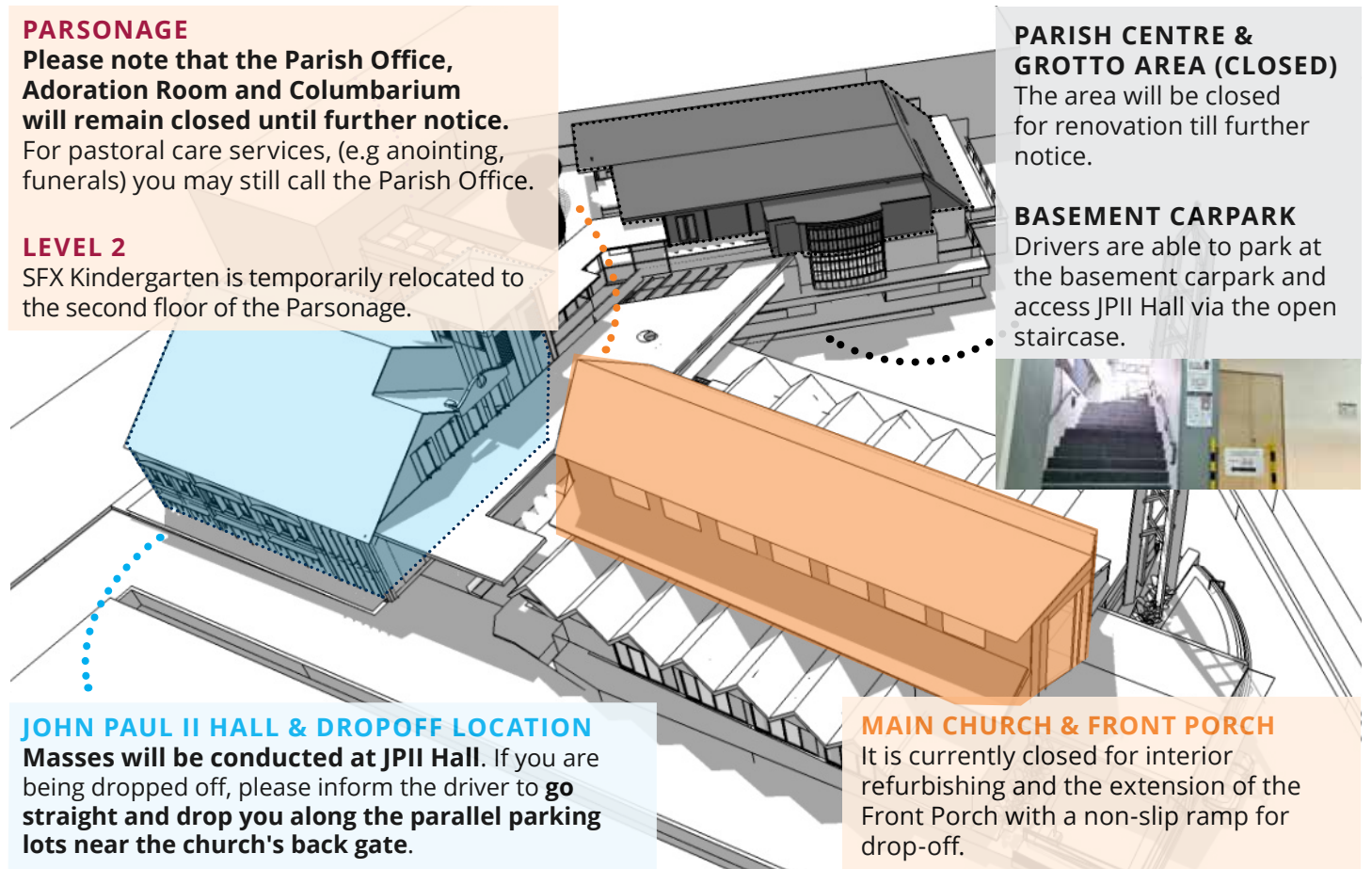
SFX Kindergarten is temporarily relocated to the second floor of the Parsonage.

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 JP11 Hall via the open staircase.



JOHN PAUL II HALL & DROPOFF LOCATION

Masses will be conducted at JP11 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) 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.



- Sanitise your hands and wait behind the yellow line.
- Step into the yellow box and stand about 50cm away from temperature scanner.
- Scan your photo ID under the ID barcode scanner.
- 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.**
- Wait for the printout before proceeding to your designated seat (One seat/person). Anti-microbial wet wipe will be given as you enter JP11 Hall. Please refrain from shifting your chairs or exchanging seats. Also, avoid physical contact and interacting with other parishioners.
- Face masks must be worn throughout the Mass and there will be no singing.** Hands should be sanitised before receiving Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the wardens.
- Holy Communion continues to be strictly received on the hand with your mask on.
- 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 JPll Hall – note the **blue queue lines for gents** and **red queue lines 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.

Prayer For God's Mercy: Covid-19

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the gift of good health and peace that we have enjoyed for so many years. As we find ourselves in this time of crisis today, we ask for your divine intervention and mercy to be upon each of us.

We lift up all those in leadership during these difficult times. Father, we ask that you will be their guide as they navigate through this time of uncertainty. May they be discerning in the decisions that they make, always working for the common good of all.

We pray especially for those in government, that You will grant them wisdom, prudence, and foresight, as they work to eradicate this scourge from their land.

We also pray for Church leaders, that they continue to be effective pastors to Your people. Help them discover new and creative ways to reach out to Your children and to be messengers of Your Gospel of peace, hope, and love.

Come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the Covid-19. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment.

We also pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. Father, we thank you for their hearts of service, putting the needs of society before their own, generously responding to the cry of Your people.

We ask that You grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet!

Father, we also surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the virus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful Father, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives.

We lift up to you those who have lost loved ones through this pandemic, that you will give them comfort in their time of need, and that you will grant eternal rest to those who have returned to you.

Mother Mary, we ask for your intercession in this great time of need. Cover each of us with your mantle of protection, so that we may be preserved in good health to continue to glorify your son, Jesus Christ. We make this prayer through Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

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