



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

**Through Prayer,  
Man Disposes – God  
Sanctifies**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2 Aug 2020

Is 55:1-3  
Rom 8:35, 37-39  
Mt 14:13-21

Our gospel narrative today recounts the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes, a well-known event detailed by all four evangelists. Aside from the ostensible miracle of the multiplication which we are all familiar with, deeper reflection of today's gospel reveals valuable insights. While the miracle of the multiplication is often the prime focus of exegesis, the events preceding the multiplication are equally significant.

Notice that before performing this miracle, we find Jesus withdrawing to "a lonely place" having learnt of John the Baptist's execution. The cousin of Jesus who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of his Saviour and who had spent his life preaching Christ's advent, John's demise would have been felt most severely by Jesus. Despite having the power and authority to avenge John, Jesus instead withdraws; not only to mourn but also to be in silent contemplation – to be intimate with God.

In this way, Jesus sets an example for us to respond to personal hardship. Contemporary wisdom would tell us to "not go gently into that good night" (Dylan Thomas) and even rage against adversity and hardship, but Jesus, by withdrawing to a lonely place reveals that silence and contemplation are essential elements of sanctity – for it is only through intimacy with God that we may be able to channel God's love to others despite our own adversities; to feed the multitude.

We thus see the reciprocal relationship between spiritual intimacy with God (i.e. prayer) and miracles, for we can never presume to "convert any nation until prayer had first obtained the grace of its conversion" because "God in His providence has ordained not to cure our ills or grant us grace without the intervention of prayer. He wishes us to help in saving each other by means of our prayer." (Bl Francis Palau OCD) As Cardinal Sarah notes "The life of silence must precede an active life." (The Power of Silence)

Importantly, intimacy with God must bring forth good works in our lives, engendering a deep desire to be "bread broken for the life of the world (*Sacramentum Caritatis* 88). Jesus did not merely remain in this lonely place – removed from the world and upon the boat – but was moved to "step ashore" to administer to the crowd that sought him. Spiritually rejuvenated, Christ feeds others physically through the food he multiplied and spiritually through his presence among them.

Seen in this light, the boat becomes a metaphorical representation of heaven and intimacy with God, something achieved through prayer and silence. On the other hand, the shore symbolises the humanity, a place we must all return to sanctify. Notably, Christ coming ashore from the boat also alludes to the

mystery of the incarnation. God made himself present for our sake, taking flesh derived from us and conformed to us in all things save sin, that we may be exposed to his teaching with words and examples suitable for us (St Maximus the Confessor).

Setting the example of good works brought forth through faith, Jesus thus challenges us to "give them something to eat yourselves." Notice that he does not say "I will give them something to eat myself" but instead asks his disciples to be co-workers of his miracles; to be "Cooperators of the Truth" that "the world may be permeated by the spirit of Christ and it may more effectively fulfil its purpose in justice, charity and peace" (*Lumen Gentium* 36). Indeed, the miracle of the multiplication could not have taken place without the disciples first providing the five loaves and two fishes.

Jesus asks us to "bring" what little we have to him, that he may sanctify our efforts. How can we do so in spite of our own inadequacies and hardships? By following the example of Jesus who first desired to be intimate with God before working miracles; that through prayer we may dispose what little we have to God - for him to sanctify, multiply and feed the multitudes.



*"God in His providence has ordained not to cure our ills or grant us grace without the intervention of prayer. He wishes us to help in saving each other by means of our prayer."  
– Bl Francis Palau OCD*

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto: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](http://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 - TUE NIGHT

For the month of August, let's continue to come together as a parish community to pray the Rosary and bring our intercessions to our Blessed Virgin Mary. These sessions are led by Servants at the Lord's Table (SaLT).

Every Tuesday from **4 - 25 Aug, 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 SESSION (ONLINE): HOLY SPIRIT, THE PARACLETE

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 3 Aug, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a sharing given by Andrew Toh on 'Holy Spirit, the Paraclete'. All are welcome.

**ZOOM MEETING DETAILS**  
Meeting ID: 853 1809 2735  
Password: CPGMON0308



## BOOKING OF SFX WEEKEND MASSES: AUGUST 2020

Booking of August Masses is now available online via [MyCatholic.sg](http://MyCatholic.sg). Please ensure your booking details are correct. Weekend Masses for August will be at the following times:

**Saturdays: 5.30pm | Sundays: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm**

Do note that the allocation for weekend Masses still remains at one Mass per month and the dispensation for Sunday obligation is still in effect. Young children, the elderly (> 60 yrs), and those with pre-existing medical conditions are considered vulnerable to the disease and are highly encouraged to continue attending Mass online instead. Do bring along a photo identification card for verification when you attend Mass.

Do note that on Sun 9 Aug, there will be no 5.30pm mass.

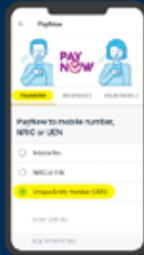
### ADDITIONAL MASSES FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DAY OF OBLIGATION

**Fri 14 Aug: 8.30pm | Sat 15 Aug: 9am**

## 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/](http://www.catholic.sg/offertory/)  
Step-by-step guide: [www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/](http://www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/)

### SSVP: DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS IN NEED

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 with your donations. We thank you for your generosity. To find out more, visit [ssvpsingapore.org](http://ssvpsingapore.org).



### HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

**UNIVERSAL: THE MARITIME WORLD** We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

### IN THE MONTH OF JULY 2020

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Lim Chong Guang, Charles & Ching Siew Yi
2. Brandon Michael Foo Fang Hao & Corinne Sim Hua Rong

#### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Wong Fong Weng

#### INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Sharon Bernice Chua Qianling

# Welcome back, dear Parishioners!

Over the last two weekends of July, SFX finally opened our doors after a five-month hiatus. We saw many excited and happy faces, and checked in with our parishioners to see how they felt about the resumption of Masses!

*"I was excited! I was looking forward to receiving Jesus after so long!! And after receiving him, I felt a deep sense of joy and peace, and just savoured the moment on my knees."*

**- Grace Ch'ng**

*"Being able to attend mass physically was a beautiful and intimate experience for me. When receiving Jesus' body in the Holy Eucharist, I felt immense joy and gratefulness for a God who waits for me to come to him."*

**- Charmaine Leow**



*"Being able to physically receive Jesus once again was a surreal experience. It was only after I received him that I realised how that itself was a grace, and how God's mercy is way beyond my human comprehension, and that made the experience even more beautiful! Truly the God that we love and cling to, is one who is generous in mercy and love!"*

**- Cheryl Anne Goh**

*"I was very moved and teared a number of times. It is such a privilege to be able to take part in the Eucharistic celebration especially since only 50 of us were allowed to attend Mass. To be able to be physically present and witness the sacrifice of the Mass is a true gift."*

**- Cordelia Theseira**

*"It was just a wholesome feeling of being able to serve our parishioners and partake in the Holy Eucharist. Praise the Lord!"*

**- Steven Lee**

*"It was such a wonderful feeling being able to attend Mass again especially the ability to receive Holy Communion. It was different from attending Mass online. We also had to adapt to the new way of attending Mass including the wearing of masks, sanitising our hands, and socially distancing ourselves. But it was all worth it. Praise the Lord!"*



**- Leny Januar  
& Gladys Ng**

*"I was so happy that I could go to Church to celebrate the Mass and receive Jesus again, even for one Sunday. The preventive measures taken before entering the hall made me feel safe, and the moment I sat down, I felt a deep sense of peace. This was a precious experience. Thank you to all who have stepped up to make this possible."*

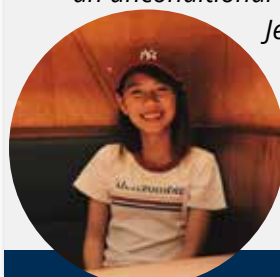
**- Ari Sutanto**

*"I was able to better appreciate the sacredness of Mass and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist was a privilege. There was a sense of peace and assurance - that God is with me in all I do, and that I have been taking him for granted. Yet, his mercy knows no bounds, and I find myself, at peace, and grateful for his love."*

**- Maria Sit**

*"One word to describe how we felt is 'blessed'. It is indeed a wonderful experience to be able to attend Mass again with the community after five months. The Mass became even more meaningful as we were so looking forward to being there physically."*

**- Jimmy and Marivie De Borja**



*"As I sat at my seat 15 minutes before the start of Mass, I appreciated the one-metre distance between the next person. It somehow gave me more space to be by myself and not be distracted. At that moment, I noticed the Lord in the Tabernacle and realised that he was gazing at me with an unconditional love. It made me realise how the most Holy presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is so real and so indescribable. I'm definitely looking forward to attending Mass again and appreciate all the efforts into making Mass possible. I'm also keeping those who are unable to attend Mass or receive the Eucharist in my prayers and offering up the Mass for them too!"*

**- Natasha Anatolia Wong**





Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

*"Six months without receiving the Eucharist has made me long even more for Jesus in the Eucharist. I missed the rites and rituals and the smell of incense (which unfortunately, there was none). My role as a Communion Minister added to my involvement in the Mass and I realised that nothing could compare to the physical Mass and we can never 'digitalise' or replicate this experience virtually. May Jesus be praised!"*



- Thomas Seng

*"Turning up in Church, I was greeted by familiar faces, voices and smiles. There was a kind of physical distance yet closeness and familiarity of being home. To be able to partake in the Mass and receive Jesus once again is like the message of the Gospel last Sunday - finding my treasure, and I am grateful."*

- Pauline Tan

*"I felt blessed and privileged to be able to participate in the Mass and receive Holy Communion. It was heartwarming to meet familiar parishioners after five months. I treasured these moments and they reminded me of the early Christians who had to experience many challenges to live their faith."*



- Ignatius Ng

### Mass Timings

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm  
*(There is currently no Novena at 4.45pm)*  
**Sun:** 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm  
*(There is currently no Confession before Mass)*

#### 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.

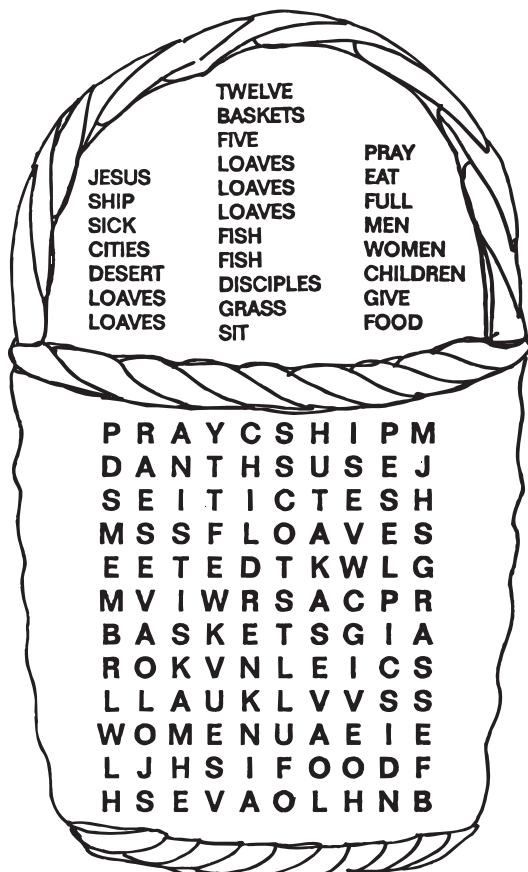
### MASS OFFERING



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.



Jesus fed over five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Some words from this story are hidden in the basket. Try to find all the words listed below.



### VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)