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## Disciples *Making Disciples*

### It's all about Faith

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9 Aug 2020

1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13  
Rm 9:1-5  
Mt 14:22-33

Last week, in the Gospel reading of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, Jesus fed the multitudes through the hands of his disciples. The five loaves and two fish were multiplied as the disciples distributed them to the crowds (Mt 14:19). Our Lord not only honoured the disciples by working this miracle through their hands, but also gave them a faith experience to remember so as not to become unbelieving when the event is past, or when difficulties cause doubt.

In this week's Gospel account, Jesus offered his disciples a glimpse of his divinity through a shared experience that will further strengthen their faith. This shared experience started with Jesus compelling the disciples to get into a boat to go to Bethsaida, on the other side of the lake (cf Mk 6:45). Wearing and probably fearful after battling heavy seas and a headwind

through the night, the disciples had the terrifying vision of a "ghost" walking on the lake. Only when they cried out in fear, did Jesus identify himself as the "I am" (See Ex 3:14 - Moses at the Burning Bush) to calm and reassure the disciples.

Oftentimes, with the Church and in our personal faith-journey, God allows trials of "heavy seas and headwinds" to come our way, in order to root our faith deeper into our being. Just like Job, with whom God allowed Satan to test by taking away all his worldly possessions and even his loved ones, so that Job's faith in; understanding of and desire for God can be increased and strengthened when God comes to his help in the "fourth watch" - a biblical symbol for the darkest and lowest moment. Thus Abraham was proven as a righteous man of faith, when upon God's request that he sacrifice his only-beloved son on Mount Moriah, Abraham did not withhold his obedience.

Through trials, the Lord teaches us to manfully bear our difficulties and not to seek the easy route but to have faith in him, that he can work a good out of everything for those who love him (Rom 8:28). The reassuring fact is that God never allows us to be tested beyond our ability to bear it (see 1 Cor 10:13). Even

the most severe of trials and tribulations are bearable when we turn in faith to God for help and for the escape route that he promises to provide (Mt 6:13). In the case of the disciples, in the boat on a stormy and wind-tossed sea, Jesus comes to them towards the end of the night to give them an experience and a glimpse of his divinity. With each trial that we go through, God strengthens our faith which justifies us and in turn causes us to be more receptive of greater sanctifying grace in our lives.

For those who have the most ardent faith, just like Peter on the boat, a transformational experience of Jesus awaits in the midst of trials. Peter did not pray to walk on water, as if to show off. He asked the Lord to "bid me to come unto thee", out of a love and desire to be close to Jesus. To Peter alone, then, Jesus gave faith enough to come to him even if it means walking on water. Peter alone, acting on the Lord's call, had the profound experience of doing something supernatural by the power of his faith in Jesus. But whilst Peter's faith burned in his heart, his human frailty drew him into the lake when he felt the force of the wind. When that happened, even though Peter the fisherman must have been good at swimming, he cried out to the Lord who immediately stretched out his hand to sustain Peter.

#### *What then is the state of our own faith?*

"Dost thou love God? Thou walkest on the sea; the fear of this world is under thy feet. Dost thou love the world? It swallows thee up. But when thy heart is tossed with desire, then that thou mayest overcome thy lust, call upon the divine person of Christ" (St Augustine Sermon 76)



*"Lord, if it is you, bid me to come to thee."*  
(Mt 14:28)

## 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



### BOOKING OF SFX WEEKEND MASSES: AUGUST 2020

The booking of August Masses began on Tue, 28 July at 12pm via [MyCatholic.sg](http://MyCatholic.sg). 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 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.

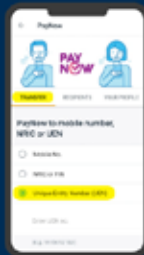
### MASS ON THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - DAY OF OBLIGATION

**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**

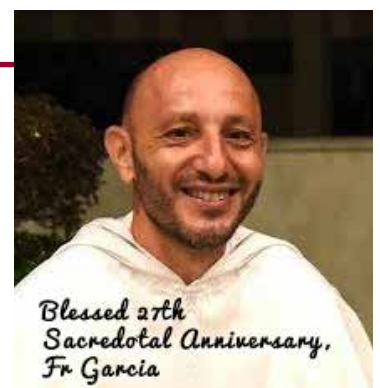
For more information, visit [www.catholic.sg/offertory/](http://www.catholic.sg/offertory/)  
Step-by-step guide: [www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/](http://www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/)

### SSVP: DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS IN NEED (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](http://ssvpsingapore.org).

### BLESSED SACREDOTAL ANNIVERSARY FR BEN & FR GARCIA!

On this day (Thu 8 Aug), we would like to wish Fr Ben and Fr Garcia a blessed 7th and 27th sacerdotal anniversary respectively! We thank them for saying "yes" to the Lord and we pray that they will continue to be good shepherds after the Lord's heart. May the good Lord bless both of you abundantly as you continue to serve him and his people with zeal, humility and love!



# Celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption with kids

On 15 Aug, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This belief, that Mother Mary's body (as well as her soul) was "assumed" into heaven, was defined as a dogma (core belief of the faith) by Pope Pius XII on 1 Nov 1950 in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. But belief in the Assumption of Mary dates back to the earliest centuries of the Church.

What does this feast mean for us today? It affirms the Church's belief in a bodily resurrection. In our secular world today, we take for granted the concept of heaven and view it as an abstract, non-material, spiritual existence. But the Church believes that we will one day experience communion with God and one another in a material, bodily way. The Assumption also helps to remind us of the dignity of our earthly bodies. The message that our bodies are essentially good and meant for good is an important message and bears reminding to all around us.

*How do we explain this feast to our children and how can we help celebrate this occasion with them?*

## AN EXPLANATION FOR KIDS

"On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (to use the fancy name for this day), we remember when Mary was taken ("assumed") into heaven, body and soul, after she died. You will not find this story in the Bible. However, a tradition handed down from the earliest days of the Church says that Mary died in Jerusalem and was buried in a tomb. But when the apostles opened the tomb again, her body was gone. Why would God take Mary's body and soul into heaven? In part because Mary is special to God: she said "yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus. But God also wanted to show us that one day, all of us will share in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Mary is the first person in the Church to experience the resurrection in its fullness."

*Source: TeachingCatholicKids.com*

## GO TO MASS

Due to the present circumstances, you may not have been able to book an Assumption Day mass. But there are many online alternatives. Do make the effort to set aside time and space to be together as a family and attend mass together. Preview the Mass readings with your children and help them interpret what they mean for yourself and for them.



## GET CRAFTY

There are many craft activities to engage young children and also help give them a visual aspect to this feast. **Check out:**

**Download Printable Mary Statue** at

<https://www.catholicicing.com/printable-mary-statue-craft-for-kids/>



**Download Printable** at

<https://www.reallifeathome.com/feast-of-the-assumption-craft/>



## PRAYER FOR

# *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



Almighty and everlasting God,  
 You have taken up body and soul  
 into the heavenly glory the Immaculate Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of Your Son: Grant, we beseech You,  
 that, ever intent upon heavenly things,  
 we may be worthy to be partakers of her glory.  
 Through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
 One God, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### 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.

### VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

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