




 **Parish Office:**
6280 6076,
secretariat@sfxchurch.sg

 **St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**
6280 8929,
sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

 **Parish Priest:**
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484,
FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg

Disciples
Making Disciples

“Lord, help me”

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 Aug 2020

Is 56:1, 6-7
Rm 11:13-15,29-32
Mt 15:21-28

Covid-19 is continuing to claim lives all over the world and our prayers for an end to this pandemic must be unceasing. We are grateful to God that here in Singapore, our leaders and people have co-operated to bring the pandemic under control and re-opening efforts are continuing. As people of faith, we are joyful that Masses, suspended since February, resumed a month ago and some parishes may soon be able to accommodate more than 50 persons at each Mass. Let us remain hopeful that worship and fellowship as we knew it before the pandemic struck can somehow become the norm again in the months ahead.

The pandemic has turned many lives upside down. Tens of thousands here are out of work. Many are under tremendous stress. In the midst of these upheavals, the gospel this Sunday gives us a much-needed reminder that God is merciful and compassionate - no prayer is left unheard or unanswered - and sometimes, the Lord even grants us more than what we have petitioned him to do for us.

The Canaanite woman had approached Jesus seeking his help for her daughter who was tormented by a devil. In his initial silence and subsequent response that he “was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel” (v 24), Jesus prompted a profession of deep faith from the woman. She knelt at his feet and acknowledged his divinity, calling out, “Lord, help me.” (v 25) By this humble submission and in faith-filled admission that even “scraps” from Jesus could work miracles for her, Jesus not only granted her wish in healing her daughter but rooted in her a lasting filial

trust which he saw and said, “Woman, you have great faith.” (v 28)

Jesus not only wants to help us in the difficulties of life, more importantly, he wants to build up our faith in a loving and merciful God as our Holy Father, Pope Francis, explains, “The Lord does not turn away in the face of our needs and, if at times he seems insensitive to our requests for help, it is in order to put to the test and to strengthen our faith. We must continue to cry out like this woman: ‘Lord, help me! Lord, help me!’... This is the courage needed in prayer. This Gospel episode helps us to understand that we all need to grow in faith and fortify our trust in Jesus.” (Angelus, 20 Aug 2017)

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI made a similar observation, “Jesus’ silence...was not a question of insensitivity to this woman’s sorrow. St Augustine rightly commented: ‘Christ showed himself indifferent to her, not in order to refuse her his mercy but rather to inflame her desire for it’... we too are called to grow in faith, to open ourselves in order to welcome God’s gift freely, to have trust... This is the way that Jesus made his disciples take, as well as the Canaanite woman and men and women

of every epoch and nation and each one of us. Faith opens us to knowing and welcoming the real identity of Jesus, his newness and oneness, his word, as a source of life, in order to live a personal relationship with him.” (Angelus, 14 August 2011)

Our Blessed Mother is our “supreme model” of this personal relationship with and faith in our Lord as she believed that “nothing will be impossible with God.” (CCC 273, Lk 1:37) We celebrated yesterday the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mary’s Assumption is the reward for her unstinting faith in God’s mercy and omnipotence. Mary, “when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things...” (*Munificentissimus Deus* 44) We too, if we keep faith, avail ourselves of the Sacraments, make concrete acts of charity to others and practise a sincere prayerful life can have strong hope of receiving our heavenly reward in body and soul at the general judgement (cf CCC 1000 - 1001). May we call out daily to our Lord to root our faith in him, “Lord, help us.”



“The Lord does not turn away in the face of our needs and, if at times he seems insensitive to our requests for help, it is in order to put to the test and to strengthen our faith”

Pope Francis

Announcements

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

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

BOOKING OF WEEKEND MASSES IN AUG 2020

The booking of Masses in August is **still available** via 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

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.

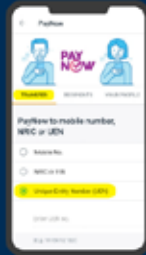
TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

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.

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/

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).

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234
Password: 465481



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.

SFX CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 17 Aug, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'The Kingdom of God is at Hand' by Gerard Francisco. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 842 1612 8831
Password: CPGMON1708



LITTLE SHEPHERD'S SCHOOLHOUSE @ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH OPEN REGISTRATION FOR 2021

We believe every child is a joyful learner. We want to inspire love for learning and grow in virtues in harmony with self, the environment and society.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Child's Birth Certificate and Immunization Records (photocopies)
2. Child's Baptism Certificate (photocopy) (if applicable)
3. Parents' I/C (photocopies)
4. Child's recent passport-sized photograph

Level	Child's year of birth
Pre-Nursery	2018
Nursery	2017
K1	2016
K2	2015

Chinese Immersion Classes for Nursery to K2 levels are available.

For further enquiries, kindly call the Kindergarten at **6280 8929** or email sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg.

RCIY Baptism - Welcome To The Family!



The RCIY journey started in June 2019 for Baptism (11 elects) and Confirmation (9 confirmands). They were to receive their Sacraments at the Easter Vigil 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, our young elects and confirmands had to have their Sacrament of Initiation and Sacrament of Confirmation postponed indefinitely. They continued patiently on with their weekly Sunday sessions with the Breaking of Word.

Finally we had a celebration for the Sacrament of Initiation on 8th August for the first 6 elects. Though we were a small group, the Holy Spirit was very present during the whole mass. Here are the testimonies of 4 of our neophytes.



"Going through baptism during Covid-19 was very different from my initial expectations of what it would be like. During this time of uncertainty, I am grateful for the SFX RCIY team, who constantly prayed over us and continued journeying with us with weekly sessions. I was filled with excitement and joy on the day of my baptism. The intimacy of the event made it even more special. As Father Ben baptised me, I prayed for God to open my heart to receive him fully. Words cannot describe the sense of renewal and connection I felt with God and Jesus Christ in that moment, but it touched me deeply. I finally received my first Holy Communion, with the knowledge that the greatest intimacy I will have with Christ is through receiving the Eucharist! The Holy Spirit was definitely present and I thank God for all his blessings over us!" - Gwyneth Clare Liew



"It all started during the darkest days of my life. During a pilgrimage trip to Europe, at the statue of St. Anthony at Zaragoza, I heard Jesus saying that I am His "lost and found" child. Thereafter, I probed more into the Catholic faith and attempted to find out what he had in store for me. The mission trips I went on, especially ACTS 2018, strengthened my faith and allowed me to grow a lot closer to Jesus. I experienced how God used me as his instrument to love, support and empower. I learnt a lot from the Saints, like St. Francis Xavier, who is my role model as a missionary. I aspire to be like him and to continue to do more of God's work; to give back to the community and society alike. I am very inspired by St. Mary Magdalene, who similarly was healed by Jesus and faithfully followed him, eventually proclaiming the good news of his coming."

- Queenie Magdalene Tan





"08/08/2020 will be a day I never forget as I received my baptism here at SFX. It was a wonderful experience at the end of a long RCIY journey but at the same time, the start of a whole new life in Christ. I would like to thank all who were involved in my RCIY journey for their dedication and hardwork. It was very inspiring to see passionate individuals spreading their love of Christ to others. Looking forward, I hope to do the same!"

- **Eric Wu**



The experience of my baptism was wonderful and exciting as I was looking forward to it for a long time due to Covid-19. The journey to where I am now took me many commitments as well as gathering the courage to open up to many people who are now my brothers and sisters in Christ. This journey has been a good impact to my life

as I get to broaden my perspective which allows me to understand people more with different way of thinking and opinions. - **Agnes Belinda Chan**

"The day has come. It was with mixed feelings that I felt for baptism. Nervous yet exciting moment where I never thought I will get baptised one day. Getting baptised as an adult, I am blessed to get to appreciate the true meaning of baptism and feel the significance of it. As Father poured water on my head and began to pray, I closed my eyes and at that moment, I knew my life was about to change and I knew God will transform me into someone better and stronger. Through receiving the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, I could feel the Lord's embrace. I am proud to be a disciple of Christ, the child of God and to be part of this SFX family!" - **Amelia He Huili**



"The road to baptism was a long and memorable journey. Bonded with many new brothers and sisters in Christ along the way and had enlightened me of the faith." - **Nigel Chan**

As one parish, let us pray for our newly baptised brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may walk with us in the way of Christ, grow in the knowledge of his love and glorify him with their lives.

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

ANOIDTING 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