





 **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

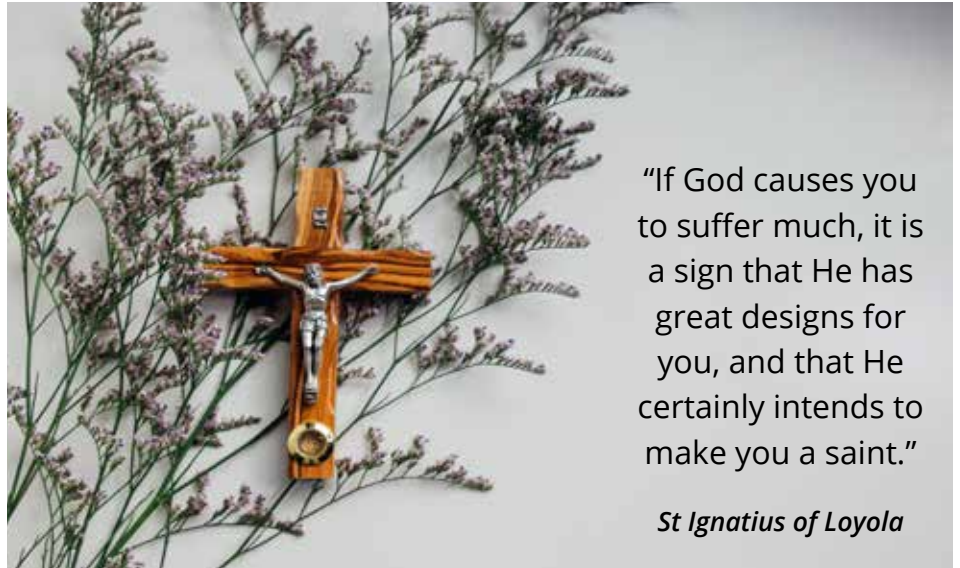
Hope in Suffering

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
30 Aug 2020

Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

In today's first reading, Prophet Jeremiah found himself as "an object of laughter" and mocked by the people of Judah. No one wanted to hear the message God had entrusted to him warning that the "violence and outrage" from the impending Babylonian invasion was part of God's plan for Judah to reflect on their idolatrous ways. So, the "word of the Lord has brought [him] derision and reproach all day." Jeremiah wanted to reject his prophetic call. Yet, he suffered even more, as he described, "like fire burning in [his] heart, imprisoned in [his] bones", as he tried to withhold himself from speaking the truth from God. Similarly, in today's Gospel, Jesus challenged his disciples that if we desire to follow him, we would have to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow him.

Our daily crosses come in many forms, shapes and sizes. Some crosses may be relational where colleagues, fellow parishioners, relatives or family members cause us pain - perhaps they also reveal a weakness on our part of not being able to fully love and embrace others. Some crosses may be physical where we may be suffering from some medical conditions - a recent diagnosis of cancer or an infectious disease, muscular disorder, physical disabilities, just to name a few. Some of us may even be carrying a cross of heavy responsibilities in a specific role - just like the Prophet Jeremiah, who suffered much as he proclaimed God's Name. However, not all crosses are part of God's



"If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint."

St Ignatius of Loyola

perfect will. Therein lies the question of whether we have been carrying a cross that does not even belong to us. Just like Prophet Jeremiah, God called him to be a prophet but out of his immense fear of suffering, he withheld himself from speaking, of which he suffered even greater.

By human reasoning, it does not make any logical sense to suffer. However, in John 12:24, we learn that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Essentially what the Lord is teaching through this is that suffering and death are part of every human life, and it is only through suffering and death that we obtain the glory of resurrection. Through faith, suffering brings about hope in God and through endurance, salvation. St Ignatius of Loyola said, "If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint." But let us be assured, as Jesus has promised, that when we come to him with our burdens and weariness, he will give us rest, "for his yoke is easy and his burden light." (cf Mt 11:25-30)

Catholic Spirituality speaks of a "dark night of the soul" - a spiritual crisis

in the journey toward union with God. Great Carmelite saints like St Therese of Lisieux, St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross all endured the pain of a "dark night of the soul", which lasted temporarily. St Teresa of Calcutta, whose feast day we celebrate on 4th September has been regarded by some writers to have experienced this "dark night" most extensively. According to her letters published in her book, "*Mother Teresa: Come be My Light: the Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta*", she endured this suffering from 1948 - as she began her work in the slums of Calcutta - till her death in 1997, with only brief interludes of relief.

In today's second reading, St Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to consider the rejection and sufferings they were facing as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for believers (cf Rom 8:18). Sufferings can cloud our perspective and we feel as if there is no hope, but paradoxically, when we rejoice in our sufferings, it produces endurance, character and hope (Rom 5:3-5). Let us always remember that the sufferings that we endure are meant to prepare for something greater, not just here and now, but also for the glory that has yet to be revealed.

Announcements

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

BOOKING OF MASSES IN SEPTEMBER

Good news! Daily masses will resume in Sep on **Tues and Thurs** at **6.30pm**. Please visit MyCatholic.sg to book your slots. There are no limits to how many times you can attend these daily masses.

Saturday: 5.30pm

Sunday: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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 kept confidential.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you. They will provide you with a "Reference No"**, MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**). Your intentions will be offered up during our priests' private masses.

SFX CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 31 Aug, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'The Biblical Roots of the Sacraments of Reconciliation' by Helen Chong. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 817 5885 5411

Password: CPGMON3108



ONLINE BOOKING OF COLUMBARIUM VISITS

All visitors to SFX columbarium are required to book a visitation timeslot online via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>.



SCAN TO BOOK

1. This will be a first come first served basis. All visitors are to fill in the Name/NRIC (last 3 digits + alphabet) and contact number.
2. Online booking will **close** by **12am** each day.
3. **There will be no booking on Public Holidays and Sundays.** The visiting period is from **Mon to Sat: 10am – 12 noon, 2pm – 4pm.**
4. **A maximum of 5 people are allowed per slot.** All visitors are required to wear a mask, SafeEntry for contact tracing and register at the Parish Office for temperature screening.
5. Each visit is for a duration of **20 minutes** (e.g Enter at 10am and exit by 10.20am, next available timeslot will be from 10.30am - 10.50am, etc. If visitors are late for their booked time, no additional time can be accorded.)
6. If the group is early, please wait either at the bench in front of JP2 Hall or seats located outside the Parish office, taking into consideration 1-metre social distancing.

MASS COLLECTION

Mass collections can be made via:

1. **PayNow** - Launch Paynow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity Name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in Amount. Lastly, key in Ref - **Mass Collection**.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail 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/

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

We believe every child is unique and special and a gift from God. We give priority to spirituality so that there is a sense of God in all that we do.

The following documents are required for registration:

1. Child's Birth Certificate and Immunisation 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.

Featured on FORMED in September

FORMED is an online platform that offers access to thousands of studies, films, audio and e-books including from over 40 of the best Catholic content producers like the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, the USCCB, Catholic Answers, among others.



Video: The Search

<https://watch.formed.org/the-search-svod>

Find the answers to the most boggling questions in 2 seasons of The Search: What is this journey in between “birth” and “death”, and does it take us somewhere, or do we steer ourselves to a destination that could extend beyond our last breath? What do we want from our lives during the in between?

Video: OSV Innovation Talks

<https://watch.formed.org/osv-innovation-talk-series>

Be inspired by the creativity and innovation in ministry and evangelisation through 4 episodes of powerful talks by prominent Catholic Leaders. Theologian Jared Zimmerer dives into the world of martial arts and sends viewers on a mission to explore the practices of martial artist Bruce Lee in sharing the Gospel in the 21st Century, while Jason Deuterma explores the professionalism of ministry.



Lectio: Mary with Dr Brant Pitre

<https://watch.formed.org/lectio-mary-with-dr-brant-pitre>

Why is Mary so important to the Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries? What can we learn about her from the Sacred Scripture? Find the answers in this Lectio series featuring insightful biblical teaching of Dr Brant Pitre. He will examine the Scripture, life of Christ and the early Church fathers, as well as the connections between the Old and New Testaments to explain the life and identity of Mary.

To get the free access for SFX parishioners:

For new viewers, go to <https://sfxchurch.formed.org/>. Click on 'Register Now' and complete the registration process. Once the registration is completed, you will be logged into FORMED automatically.

You can also login via <https://formed.org/> when you already have an account.



Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home, let us pray...

A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Amen.

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Tue & Thur:

6.30pm

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

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Fri:

9am - 6pm

Sat: 9am - 1pm

Sun: 9am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

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.



"Take up Your Cross" Match-up

Jesus began to tell the disciples that He would have to suffer and be killed. How did the disciples react? What did Jesus say then?

Connect the phrases on the left with the ones that follow on the right.

1. Peter said, "God forbid, Lord!" †	A. will find it.
2. Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan!" †	B. must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."
3. You are not thinking as God does †	C. You are an obstacle to me.
4. Whoever wishes to come after me †	D. No such thing shall ever happen to You!"
5. Whoever wishes to save his life †	E. but as human beings do."
6. and whoever loses his life for my sake †	F. for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"
7. For what profit would there be †	G. will lose it

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg