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

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

Disciples
Making Disciples

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

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151,
cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Antony Maria Joseph

A Christian Sense of Community

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
6 Sep 2020

Ez 33:7-9
Rom 13:8-10
Mt 18:15-20

The readings today are one of the most important for understanding what a Christian life means. Not just what an individual has to do to fulfil God's purpose but, more critically, what he or she needs to do as part of the community. It is especially relevant for us in Singapore, living in a densely populated, multi-racial society, and facing many diverse challenges. How should a Christian conduct himself amid the many issues and problems of modern living? Holy Scripture has as much relevance today as it did more than 2,000 years ago.

First, the Gospel reading makes clear that we should solve our problems in a communal way, enlisting the help and support of our fellow Christians.

"...If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge." (Mt 18:16)

And, further down the passage, our Lord says, "I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For when two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." (Mt 18:19-20)

Our spiritual faith and relationship with God may be personal, and we are blessed whenever we have our own private moment and encounter with the Lord. But no man is an island, not even a man of God. We live and work together, as part of the larger society, and we often have to take up a common cause and purpose, as in the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.



"Hence an important part of the message is that a Christian life is not about non-involvement, peace and comfort. Often we have to solve uncomfortable, even painful, problems. Jesus recognises the difficulty and his assurance is that when we act together to further God's purpose, he will be with us." - Matt 18:20

As social beings, we know instinctively that when we solve problems together and help one another, it makes for more effective solutions and strengthens the bonds between us.

In fact, that is also exactly what the Lord wants, and the readings today reflect this approach.

In the first reading (Ez 33:7-9), we are told that if we see a man committing a transgression we should seek him out to point out his wrongdoing. Keeping quiet is not an option in the Lord's eyes.

This message is reiterated in the Gospel reading when Matthew writes about what to do with a brother who has sinned.

These are not easy or comfortable tasks to undertake. The tendency for most of us is to look the other way and not interfere in other people's lives.

Hence an important part of the message is that a Christian life is not about non-involvement, peace, and comfort. Often we have to solve uncomfortable, even painful, problems.

Jesus recognises the difficulty and his assurance is that when we act together to further God's purpose, he will be with us (Mt 18:20).

There is one precondition, though,

which Jesus requires of us which is key to a fulfilling community life and it is found in the second reading:

"Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love." (Rom 13:8)

It should not come as a surprise to Christians that love, which is central to the faith is also what makes for a true sense of community.

It is love that connects our private spiritual life to our communal life as Christians.

As individuals, we want a loving relationship with Jesus but we can achieve it only if we also love our brothers and sisters, and it is this act of love that makes us a community. Third century Church Father, St Cyprian, summed up the necessity of this spiritual bond of love in this way: "...God can be appeased only by prayers that make peace. To God, the better offering is peace, brotherly concord and a people made one in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (CCC 2845)

This is a profound revelation that should shape the way we think about our larger society.

Although Heaven is where we all want to go eventually, it is what we do on earth that will decide where we are headed.

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

Weekday masses are now fully booked. You may visit MyCatholic.sg to book your slots for the weekend masses. Please make your booking 2 days in advance. Do also bring along a photo identification card for verification when you attend Mass.

Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm

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 7 Sep, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'Unwrapping the Gift of Laudato Si' by Michelle Voo. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 894 0468 6890

Password: CPGMON0709



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 on a first-come, first-served basis. All visitors are to fill in their name, NRIC (last three digits and alphabet) and contact number.
2. Do make your online booking one day in advance.
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, check in with 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 JPII Hall or seats located outside the Parish Office. Please be mindful to keep a one-metre distance apart from other groups.

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/

OYP: TREASURE 12 (YOUNG ADULTS ENCOUNTER RETREAT)

Are the treasures of the world unable to satisfy your soul? We invite you to come and discover the Treasure that He offers you! OYP's Catholic encounter retreat for young working adults, Treasure 12, is now open for registration. It will be held from **Thu 5 Nov, 8pm - Sun 8 Nov, 6pm** at \$30 per person. In light of the Covid-19 situation, this retreat will be held online. Come as you are!

Register at oyp.org.sg/treasure12



FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: HAPPY IN MY SKIN (PARENTS' VERSION)

Gender identity has become a hot topic amongst our younger generation. How can I be equipped to tackle this topic with my children? Join us and learn about gender identity. Register now at http://bit.ly/himspv12_ws and subscribe to the telegram channel to get the latest news, events and resources via t.me/FLS_News.

We welcome Rev Fr Cornelius!

“If you think that you are seeing double in this church in Serangoon Gardens, do not be worried. There is nothing wrong with your eyes.

Peace be with you. I am Fr Cornelius Ching, newly posted to the parish of the Church of St Francis Xavier. I was ordained in 2016 and had served in the parish of the Church of the Holy Spirit before my current posting. I am supposed to be away for my studies in Rome, but due to the Covid-19 situation, it has been postponed until things are safer.

In the meantime, I will be serving your pastoral needs in this parish, together with Fr Ben & Fr Anthony. I know it will be an enriching experience serving you together with the wonderful team of the parish. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you better.”



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

UNIVERSAL – RESPECT FOR THE PLANET'S RESOURCES

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

RCIY Confirmation Testimonies

RCIY 2019/2020 has finally ended with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our nine Confirmands with Mass on 22 August 2020. Although it was a small gathering, the Mass was nevertheless one of great significance for our young people and their families. There was much rejoicing for the Good Shepherd has called each one back to the fold of the Church. Let us pray for our newly baptised and confirmed, that they be guided and protected in their new life in Christ.

IN THE MONTH OF AUG 2020

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Chew Kok Qiang Darren & Stephanie Leong Yean Ling
2. Lee Han Bennett & Mariel Chee Wei Lin

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Katherine Lee Meng Kim
2. Foo Tock Yoen Mary
3. Goh Nguan Sim Agnes
4. Doreen Tan Siew Ngo
5. Koh Swee Kim Florence

INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Tan Jun You Matthias
2. Agnes Belinda Chan Jing Ting
3. Wu Jinyi Eric
4. Gwyneth Clare Liew Xuan Ni
5. He Huili Amelia
6. Nigel Chan Xuan Jun
7. Queenie Magdalene Tan Jia Yi
8. Caleb Gerard Won
9. Christine Judith Wong Jia Yu
10. Celine Joy Elizabeth Gan Jing Hsia
11. Nicole Brigid Neo Rui En
12. Michael James Ng Shu Han
13. Bernadette Marie Peeris
14. Sofia Ann Lee Rui Qi
15. Allison Kate Foo Ling Jing
16. Josh Gordon Genesis Gan Khen Hsien



“It was a blessing to have been part of RCIY – the team is made up of a group of super friendly and hardworking individuals, who go above and beyond in order to continuously share the word of God! This journey has taught me the path I need to take to become a child of God. Although I have much to learn and achieve, I can say I walked away with a community. More importantly, I know that we will continue to walk this same path together.” - **Aaron S. Tolentino**



“I knew about God via my parents. They were pious and always prayed for me. During my RCIY journey, I realised there are lots of things that God can do. He can create miracles and I will always have faith in God.” - **Rosabelle Tan**

“RCIY has been one of the most fulfilling journeys I've embarked on. I am so glad that after 20 years, I have finally found a way back to God, and will never leave his arms again. It is truly miraculous how God has placed certain people in my life to lead me back to him, and I am thankful and eager to continue this journey of faith. It has not been the easiest of journeys, but I am excited to see what he has in store for me, and will always remember that whatever I do can only be done through God's grace. Praise the Lord, for calling me back to his home!” - **Kristen Chiara Chow**





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



“A one-word summary for the big day: ‘Hallelujah!’ During Covid-19, the new normal is to do away with the singing of hymns and large mass attendance, however, this joyous celebration was still no less significant for me. The memories of the evening coupled with the many months of journeying, will undoubtedly be etched into my memory for a long time.

Truly, this milestone marks a remarkable beginning of a lifetime’s journey for me with the Lord our God and his Holy Church! - **Lawson Montfort Sim**

“As a baptised Catholic, I attended Sunday mass and catechism because my parents wanted me to. During my last year of catechism before Confirmation, I stopped attending classes and I didn’t think getting Confirmed was important, so I didn’t go through with it. When one of my friends introduced me to RCIY, I took a leap of faith and attended the first session. Everyone was so warm and welcoming which really helped me during my journey. The camps and weekly sessions helped me grow closer to God and allowed me to open up my heart to him. I am honestly so grateful that I didn’t get confirmed when I was supposed to, as it gave me the present opportunity to reconnect with my faith. I now fully understand what it feels like to be loved unconditionally and I wouldn’t trade my RCIY experience for anything.” - **Tessa Caitlyn Augustine Francis**



“This journey was a one to remember. The facilitators made me feel at home, and they always answered my questions and guided me through this entire process. Through the journey, I have made unexpected friendships, ones that I know would last long too. Everyone in RCIY was kind and understanding. If any of you have doubts about joining, just remember to always pray as Jesus

will give you answers in the most unexpected ways and if you do enter this journey, prepare yourself for an exciting adventure!”- **Christian Matthew Wong**

“This RCIY journey has truly brought me back to the Father and I’ve been truly blessed by him, praise the Lord! Growing up, I’ve always been afraid of God. I grew to become self-reliant and resentful whenever things did not go my way. I felt small and dispensable among the people around me in school. I also struggled with my own self-worth. But my first small ‘yes’ to the Lord in joining RCIY turned into the start of a great healing journey and a discovery of myself and my faith. I learnt to be vulnerable and experienced the love of God which changed my life drastically. It almost felt like Jesus picked up the broken pieces of my heart and healed them and made my heart whole. He did not condemn or express any anger towards me for being so far away from him for such a long time. His arms were open wide all along. The Lord continues to be patient, as he guides me slowly back to him. I find myself going back to him more often, every single time. This journey has not been the easiest and I know that God did not promise us a worry-free life, but I would like to claim the truth that it is not by my power or might, but by the spirit of God that has and will lead me to where I’m meant to be. All glory to God!



- **Isabella Gianna Liu**

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thur:
6.30pm

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)

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 - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 2pm

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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