



# THE MANNA

## Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,  
Singapore 558758



### Disciples *Making Disciples*



**Parish Office:**  
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**Parish Priest:**  
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6288 0484  
[FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg)



**St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**  
6280 8929, [sfx\\_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg)

**Priest in Residence:**  
Rev Fr Antony Maria Joseph

**Assistant Priest**  
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching  
6282 3151  
[cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg](mailto:cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg)

## The Mind of Christ

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
27 Sep 2020

**Ez 18:25-28**  
**Phil 2:1-11**  
**Mt 21:28-32**

Traditionally, part of the second reading today from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians is called the "hymn to Christ" or the "Christological hymn" because it reveals to us the way that Jesus thinks and the correct approach to Christian living. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI notes that present in this portion of scripture, are the sentiments of "love, generosity, humility, obedience to God and also the gift of self." It invites us not only to merely imitate Christ as someone morally good, but to conform our entire way of thinking and living into how Christ thought and lived – with "great love for humanity." (General Audience, 27 June 2012)

The hymn to Christ begins by affirming that Christ's "state was divine" or in other translations that "he was in the form of God" (RSV) – Christ was therefore a visible manifestation of

God's holiness, divinity and power. Yet, Jesus never viewed his divine dignity and equality with God as something to be used for selfish purposes. He did not "cling to his equality with God." (Phil 2:6) Contrast this to Adam (and by implication, all of us), who though created in the image and likeness of God, rejected God's grace, wanted to be God through his own effort and in so doing, lost the original holiness and dignity that was accorded to him.

On the other hand Jesus, though he is God, "emptied himself" and took the form of man. In doing this, Pope Emeritus says Christ entered "human reality marked by suffering, poverty and death, he assumed the likeness of men in all things save sin." Jesus did not even assume the condition of an average man, but assumed the condition of a slave which represents someone in the lowest strata of any society, who is dedicated entirely to serving others. Jesus humbled himself, immersing himself into our human condition, in a life of complete and total obedience to God, "even to accepting death" on our behalf for the original sin of Adam and all subsequent sins that we commit. And as if death itself was not enough, Jesus was made to suffer the

greatest degree of humiliation by being nailed to a cross which is a cruel form of execution reserved only for slaves and not for free men.

Through the self-giving love of Jesus Christ on the Cross, the Adam who is in us is redeemed. Through Jesus' humanity and obedience, the original dignity in our own human nature, which was lost through Adam's disobedience, has been restored. Christ has opened up for us a path of grace, by which the Holy Spirit seeks to transform us into a perfect copy of his humbling (St Cyril of Alexandria, Festal Letter, 10, 4). Pope Emeritus says this happens when we, "in prayer, in the relationship with God...open our mind, our heart and our will to the action of the Holy Spirit."

One purpose of Christ's incarnation; suffering and humiliation, death and resurrection was to show us how God acts and therefore, how we ourselves ought to act. And St. Paul at the beginning of the second reading gave some practical examples of how we ought to act. According to St. Paul, joy would be complete if we are united in our convictions and love for one another, doing nothing in selfishness but in humility count others better than ourselves. We will find joy and fulfilment when we conform our human will to the will of God. Then, if like Christ, we allow humility, self-giving love and service to take the place of pride and selfishness, we will find ourselves with Christ in heaven.

In the end, "Man does not find himself by remaining closed in on himself, by affirming himself. Man finds himself by coming out of himself; only if we come out of ourselves do we find ourselves." (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) To come out of ourselves, is to give of ourselves in love and humility in the service of others. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Mt 23:12)



***"Man does not find himself by remaining closed in on himself...Man finds himself by coming out of himself."***

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. With effect from **Fri 2 Oct**, you can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following times:

**Tuesdays & Fridays:** 4pm - 6pm  
**Saturdays:** 10am - 12pm

### 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.

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at its 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 kept confidential.

You may also join us online to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday. If you are joining us for the first time, please email [intercessory@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:intercessory@sfxchurch.sg) for more information. All are welcome!

**Date & Time: Fri 2 Oct, 8pm**

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFXIP2OCT



### SFX CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 28 Sep, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on "What Must I Do To Gain Eternal Life? - Part 2" by Roderick Lim. All are welcome.

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 23 0272 5957  
Password: CPGMON2809



## BOOKING OF MASSES IN OCTOBER 2020

Please visit [MyCatholic.sg](http://MyCatholic.sg) to book your slots. Do be gracious and make your booking at least 2 days in advance if you are sure you can attend. Please bring along a photo identification card for verification when you attend Mass.

**Cancellation of Mass bookings:** Please cancel 48hrs before any booked Mass with the new cancellation feature on MARS. This will open up available slots for others to book their Masses.

**Editing of personal particulars:** Users are able to edit name, date of birth and mobile number on the profile page. For those who need to amend NRIC/FIN or email address, please email [mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg](mailto:mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg) to make changes.

**Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm**  
**Saturday: 5.30pm**  
**Sunday: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm**

## PARISH FUND RAISING UPDATE

We have reached the fund raising target of \$2.3m and we thank all donors who have contributed generously to our church renovation! All future donations received will go towards the general maintenance and operations of the church. We seek your continued donations which we will need for the general upkeep and maintenance of the church. You may continue to donate via the following options:

- **Cash:** To drop into the donation box located outside the Parish Office
- **Cheque:** Please write cheques made payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier** and drop into the donation box or mail to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.
- **Paynow:** Launch the 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 the reference - **General Maintenance of the Church**.

We would also like to ask for your continued prayers for the safety of the workers as we work towards the completion of the Church renovation.

## MASS COLLECTION

Mass collections can be made via:

1. **PayNow** - Launch the 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 the reference - **Mass Collection**.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

## BRAVE: CATHOLIC YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FESTIVAL 2020

Calling all youths aged 16-35, join us in this virtual festival from **10 - 31 Oct** where we come together to have raw, authentic and vulnerable conversations about our mental health where we seek to explore different areas of our mental health and how they coexist with our Catholic faith in our journey towards mental well-being.

**Date:** 10 - 31 Oct 2020

**Ticket:** \$20 (\$10 for students)

Register at <https://www.tinyurl.com/BRAVEfestreg> or find out more at [www.clarity-singapore.org](http://www.clarity-singapore.org)

## 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 JPll Hall or seats located outside the Parish Office. Please be mindful to keep a one-metre distance apart from other groups.

## First Holy Communion 2020



As Fr Casey Cole, a Franciscan Friar remarked in one of his Youtube videos, "Ah plans, how God laughs at them." Scripture also says in Prov 16:9, "We can make our plans but the Lord determines our steps."

Many of us can relate to these words especially in this pandemic time. Similarly for us in the Catechetical Ministry, we never expected to delay the First Holy Communion of our L3 children by a few weeks. We never planned to provide doctrinal input and prepare them spiritually through Zoom calls instead of face to face. We never thought of the need to celebrate four Masses instead of one, with the whole group spilt up, keeping the fellowship after Mass to little or none. We never imagined a fully masked congregation with individuals safely distanced and major parts of the Mass not sung but recited.

But as the saying goes, "when we leave everything in God's hands, we will see God's hands in everything." And so on Sat 19 Sep, God created a unique experience for 24 of our L3 children as they received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. Some of them share with us here their feelings for that day. For more pictures, do check out our FB page.

*Dan Lai - L3 Level Coordinator*



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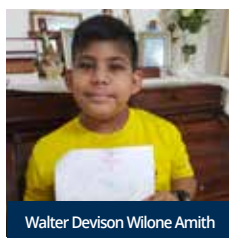
*Some of our L3 children sharing their feelings about receiving their First Holy Communion.*



Joash Ian Ong



Megan Elyse Yip



Walter Devison Wilone Amith



Lara Justine Vonzelle Santos



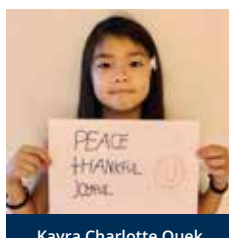
Lleyton Xavier Hooi



Erica Love Lee



Minamiura Leo



Kayra Charlotte Quek



Matthew Andrew Cordeiro

## STUDENT PRAYER TO *St Anthony of Padua*

O glorious St. Anthony divinely endowed with the learning of Saints. I desire to place my studies under Your protection. Guided by Your example I wish to draw all knowledge from the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

With your assistance I will study to do my duty in a spirit of penance and with a pure intention. May the Father of light grant me through Your intercession a bright intellect, a sound judgment and a retentive memory.

Help me to study patiently, orderly and constantly to develop in me the gifts of God and always make good use of them according to His divine will.

O Dear St. Anthony, grant me to succeed in all my studies and examination if it be for the greater glory of God and the benefit of my soul.

**AMEN.**



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

### 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)