



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Jesus – True Vine for the Best Wine

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 Oct 2020

Is 5:1-7
Phil 4:6-9
Mt 21:33-43

We may not have vineyards here in Singapore but a wine culture is growing. Per capita wine consumption is currently over two litres or nearly three bottles and this is expected to go up by another bottle next year. In the bible, drunkenness is strongly discouraged but wine is regarded as God's gift which "gladdens human hearts." (Ps 104:15)

Having tasted vintage as well as vinegary wines, many of us may be able to empathise with the vineyard owners in today's readings. Both vineyards had been lovingly cultivated by their owners - "fertile hillside" chosen; "choice vines" planted; vineyard "fenced in" and a watchtower built to prevent passersby from plucking or "beasts of the field" from ravaging (cf Is 5:1-2, Ps 79:13-14). A winepress was also dug to obtain the freshest juice as soon as harvesting takes place. Everything was in place to secure a vintage but things go horribly wrong.

In the first vineyard, the produce turned out to be "sour grapes" and in Jesus' parable, a vintage indeed emerges but the vineyard tenants refused to hand over the produce. They even killed the vineyard owner's son so as to take over his inheritance.

What do these anticlimactic outcomes mean and what do they symbolise for us as a people of faith?

In scripture, the vineyard refers to God's chosen people (cf Is 5:7). Israel



had been brought out of Egypt to the "fertile hillside" of the Promised Land. They received the "watchtower" of God's Torah or Commandments to be reminded of his steadfast love and mercy and in turn, to show love and mercy to others. Instead, Israel turned out to be "sour grapes" - a metaphor for sin. God guided them to "*mishpat*" or justice but they preferred "*mishpach*" or bloodshed. So Israel was "grazed" and "trampled" when the Assyrians and Babylonians conquered Israel and Judah in 721 and 586 BC (Is 5:5).

In Jesus' parable, the tenants who kept the vintage for themselves symbolised the religious leaders who felt they owned the Temple. Instead of being humbled by God's call to serve in his *shekinah*, the glory of the divine presence, the leaders were envious of Jesus' miraculous powers and plotted his crucifixion. The tenants, however, will not possess the vineyard, for God himself will form a new people, the Church, who would produce the right fruit (Mt 21:43).

In the Catechism, the Church is described as "a choice vineyard... planted by the heavenly cultivator." We are reminded however to remain humble for "the true vine is Christ who gives life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us, who through the Church remain in Christ, without whom we can do nothing." (CCC 755)

St Gregory the Great sees Christ as our "Mystical Winepress": "He has

"Christ is our 'Mystical Winepress': 'He has trodden the winepress alone in which he was himself pressed, for with his own strength he patiently overcame suffering.'"

- St Gregory the Great

trodden the winepress alone in which he was himself pressed, for with his own strength he patiently overcame suffering."

We need today to renew our conviction of Christ's passion and death for our sake. For many months, Covid-19 prevented us from receiving Jesus in the Eucharist but now that we are allowed back to worship, Mass attendances have been disappointing. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI warned against being like the tenants who want to live in the vineyard on their own terms, "the tenants do not want to have a master...But nowhere that the human being makes himself the one lord of the world and owner of himself can justice exist. There, it is only the desire for power and private interests...in no time at all the vineyard then reverts to being an uncultivated piece of land." (Homily, 2 Oct 2005)

In this month of the Rosary, may the school of Mary remind us that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of our Christian life...by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life." (CCC 1324 - 1327)

Without Christ, the true vine, we will be "sour grapes" like the tenants - envious and malicious. Joined to Christ in Holy Communion, we can be certain that the Master Winemaker will transform us into his vintage - just as he did in the miracle at Cana!

Announcements

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

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTIONS

Collections from all Masses this weekend shall be donated to Peter's Pence to support the Holy Father in his concern for the Successor of St Peter's ministry to the universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need. Find out more at tinyurl.com/peterspence

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 during the following time slots:

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. 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 for more information. All are welcome!

Date & Time: Fri 9 Oct, 8pm

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP9OCT



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**.

BOOKING OF MASSES IN OCTOBER 2020

Please visit 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 to make changes.

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

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

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: <https://www.tinyurl.com/BRAVEfestreg> or find out more at www.clarity-singapore.org

VERBUM DEI: A JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO FAITH (ONLINE RETREAT)

This scripture-based retreat is for all young adults who yearn to encounter God and grow in faith in these uncertain times. Each Saturday session includes input by a Verbum Dei Missionary/Disciple, time for private reflection on the Word of God as well as small group faith sharing. Participants are strongly encouraged to commit to all 4 sessions of the retreat.

Date: 10, 17, 24, 31 OCT 2020 (SATURDAYS)

Time: 10.30 - 12PM

Cost: \$10

Register: <https://verbumdeisingapore.org/forms/a-journey-from-fear-to-faith>



**HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS
THIS MONTH**

EVANGELISATION - THE LAITY'S MISSION IN THE CHURCH

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

IN THE MONTH OF SEP 2020

INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Alyssa Jayne Khoo
2. Huang Junyi Callum
3. Nathan Christien Ho

First Holy Communion 2020

Over the course of the last 2 Saturdays in September, 46 of our children received our Lord for the first time; 22 of them receiving their First Holy Communion on 26 Sep. Let us continue to pray for them to always seek and love God wholeheartedly.

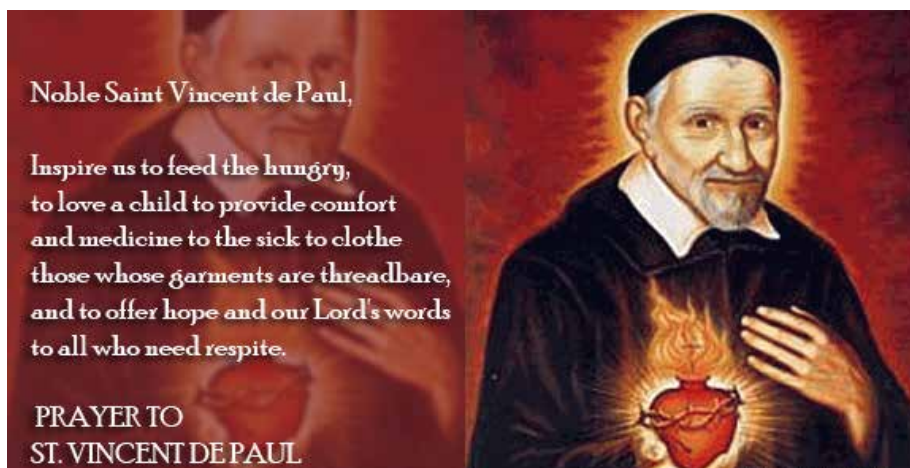


SSVP Feast Day Mass



St Vincent De Paul's Feast Day Mass was held at our parish on Friday, 25 Sep. It was the first time it was broadcast online and was celebrated by His Excellency Nuncio Marek Zalewski. Many volunteers stepped up to help as lector, wardens, registrar and animator for the Mass.

In addition to the 45 persons attending the physical Mass, there were over 500 attending it online. This year, 38 new Vincentians from 12 Conferences took their Vincentian pledge online. Even as we welcomed these new Vincentians, we also celebrated 7 Vincentians from 4 Conferences who had dedicated 25 years of service.



Noble Saint Vincent de Paul,

Inspire us to feed the hungry,
to love a child to provide comfort
and medicine to the sick to clothe
those whose garments are threadbare,
and to offer hope and our Lord's words
to all who need respite.

PRAYER TO
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In his homily, His Excellency Nuncio Marek Zalewski recounted the story of St Vincent De Paul's life and how SSVP came about. He told us that the poor comes in many forms – not only monetarily. The depressed, the needy, the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised and the sick are also poor and in need of help. In carrying out works of charity, St Vincent treated the poor as his friends and family, brothers and sisters. He considered serving the poor a privilege; not an obligation nor a command from Jesus Christ. He brought the presence of Christ to them with charity that was genuine, gentle and joyful. The poor are not burdens - they are human beings with hearts, mind and souls. In serving, it is hoped that we find and understand God in our lives. The God who reveals himself amongst the poor is indeed a mystery.



Looking for more Information?
visit 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](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