



Disciples
Making Disciples



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The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11 Oct 2020

Is 25:6-10
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
Mt 22:1-14

Jesus' parable in this Sunday's gospel can be analysed in seven distinct parts.

First, the king gave a feast for his son's wedding. In Judaism, the wedding feast is often an analogy for the coming of the Messiah. It is a time of joy and completion after a long preparation. In our First Reading, Isaiah thus prophesies that the "Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines." It is this messianic banquet foretold by the prophets that Jesus alludes to in the opening line of his parable.

Second, the king sent his servants to call those who had been invited. As the king's messengers, the "servants" refer to the prophets of old, while those who have been "invited" refer to the Jews. In other words, the Jews were the first people called by God. In *Nostra Aetate*, Blessed Pope Paul VI accordingly wrote that the "salvation of the Church is mysteriously foreshadowed by the [Israelites'] exodus from the land of bondage. The Church, therefore, cannot forget that she received the revelation of the Old Testament through the people with whom God in His inexpressible mercy concluded the Ancient Covenant."

Third, those who had been invited would not come. They were "not interested", and some even "seized his servants, maltreated them, and killed them." (Mt 22:5-6) In these lines,



"For many are called, but few are chosen." - Mt 22:14

Jesus describes the Jews' recalcitrance in rejecting the good news of God's prophets. Many exegetes also interpret this line as Jesus foreshadowing the Jews' persecution of the early Christians.

Fourth, the king "dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burnt their town." (Mt 22:7) Various scholars and historians suggest that Matthew added this line into Jesus' parable to account for the Siege of Jerusalem in 70AD, just a few years before Matthew wrote this gospel, when the Romans sacked the city and its Temple.

Fifth, the king then extends his invitation to "everyone [his servants] can find... good and bad alike." (Mt 22:10) Just as Jesus ate with sinners and healed the sick, the early Christians were also indiscriminate, preaching to both Jews and Gentiles, virtuous and sinful. The gospel, first revealed to the Jews, is now proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Sixth, the king throws out a guest who was not wearing a wedding garment. Some commentators suggest that the garment symbolizes good works — those who accepted the king's invitation had faith, but the one without the garment lacked

deeds, and faith without works is dead (see Jm 2:17). Others suggest that it symbolizes an acceptance of Christ—in ancient Jewish weddings, it was the groom who provided his guests with garments. This recalls other scriptural references to the faithful being clothed in "garments of salvation" and "dressed in white" (see Is 61:10, Rev 3:4). Both interpretations point towards the need for an authentic faith of which good works are a natural and necessary fruit.

This leads us to the seventh part and the last line of this parable: "many are called but few are chosen" (Mt 22:14). In summing up the parable, Jesus distinguishes between being "called" and being "chosen". The former runs throughout the parable, just as God is constantly inviting his people, through the prophets, through scripture, and of course, through Jesus himself. However, as the guest without the wedding garment illustrates, answering the call externally and showing up at the banquet through outward shows of piety will not suffice. There must be an interior conversion as well—a donning of a new identity in Christ. That is both the result and requirement of being chosen.

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 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 16 Oct, 8pm

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP16OCT



SFX CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 12 Oct, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit' by Bro. Dominic Yeo Koh. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 844 3898 6221
Password: CPGMON1210



BOOKING OF SECOND MASSES IN OCTOBER 2020

On **Tue 13 Oct from 9am** onwards, you may book your second Mass for the month if there are still available slots on **Mycatholic.sg**. 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

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**.

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

CATHOLIC WELFARE SERVICES (CWS): EMMANUEL SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION (ESCE) PROGRAMME

The ESCE programme is seeking to support those who have encountered adversity through social issues, past failures, or mistakes in their lives and desire a second chance for a brighter future through further education, and are also in need of financial assistance. A mandatory personalised mentoring programme is included so that there is someone assigned to accompany them in their education journey and support them through their issues. Participants may pursue a course of his or her choice either at college, university, vocational, or technical school, on condition that the course of learning must lead to employable skills.

The programme is available to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents regardless of race or religion. If you are interested, additional information can be found at www.catholicwelfare.org.sg/ESCE.html.

CLARITY: FAMILIES UNITE AGAINST OCD

An online support group aims to improve the quality of life of families affected by OCD, and to empower you by fostering your resilience and knowledge so that your loved ones with OCD can be better supported and cared for. Registration closes on **14 Oct, 2359 hours**.

Date: 17 Oct (3rd Sat)
Time: 10am - 11.30am
Fee: FOC
Register: tinyurl.com/familiesuniteagainstocdintro

'Fratelli tutti': Pope Francis calls for unity in new encyclical



Pope Francis presented his vision for overcoming the world's growing divisions, laid bare by the coronavirus crisis, in his new encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, published on Oct 4.

In the letter, the pope urged people of good will to promote fraternity through dialogue, renewing society by putting love for others ahead of personal interests.

Throughout the encyclical, the pope emphasized the primacy of love, in both social and political contexts.

"*Fratelli tutti*," the text's opening phrase, means "All brothers" in Italian. The words are taken from the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, to whom the pope paid tribute at the beginning of the encyclical, describing him as the "saint of fraternal love."

The pope said he was struck that, when St. Francis met with the Egyptian Sultan Al-Kamil in 1219, he "urged that all forms of hostility or conflict be avoided and that a humble and fraternal 'subjection' be shown to those who did not share his faith."

Pope Francis explained that his new encyclical brought together many of his previous reflections on human fraternity and social friendship, and also expanded on themes contained in the "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together," which

he signed with Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

"The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman," he wrote. "I offer this social encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words."

Pope Francis noted that, while he was writing the letter, "the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities."

"Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident," he said. "For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all."

The pope divided his third encyclical, after the 2013 *Lumen fidei* and 2015 *Laudato si'*, into eight chapters in which he described the challenges facing humanity amid the coronavirus crisis, urged readers to follow the teaching of Jesus by not setting limits on who they regard as their neighbours,

and stressed the importance of a fundamental attitude of love in face of poverty and inequality.

The pope also appealed to countries to "welcome, protect and integrate" newcomers (migrants) and urged governments to take a series of "indispensable steps" to help refugees. He also called for states to adopt policies that promoted the common good, critiquing both an "unhealthy" populism and an excessively individualistic liberalism.

In other chapters, the pope encouraged people to engage in authentic dialogue and highlighted the role of religious communities in building a more fraternal world, by rejecting violence and engaging dialogue, as outlined in the "Document on Human Fraternity".

He also discussed the conditions for peace and reconciliation, deploring the injustices of war and calling for an end to the use of the death penalty worldwide.

In the encyclical's conclusion, Pope Francis said that the text was inspired not only by St. Francis, but also by non-Catholics such as Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu and Mahatma Gandhi, as well as the French Catholic missionary Blessed Charles de Foucauld, who the pope is expected to canonize.

(source: Catholic News Agency)

How the Rosary can have a positive impact on our daily life

When prayed with faith and devotion, the Rosary can be a beacon of light on our journey toward virtue.



While the Rosary is widely known for its meditative qualities, it can also bring about a positive effect on a person's daily life. First of all, when prayed with faith, the Rosary provides an opportunity to converse interiorly with Jesus and Mary.

Fr. John Procter explains this aspect of the Rosary in his book, *The Rosary Guide for Priests and People*.

*When we say our Rosary **in the spirit of faith we are in the presence of Jesus Christ**, not touching the hem of His garment, not basking in the shadow of His Apostle, but **speaking to Him, thinking of Him, listening to Him, learning from Him, loving Him, and being loved by Him in return**. How can we commune with Our Lord, and with His Divine Mother, and not come from the audience, as Moses came from the mountain, reflecting the light of Heaven, if not upon our face, still upon our inmost soul? How think of Him and speak to Him, as we do in saying our beads, without **becoming better and holier from the spiritual contact**?*

This first aspect of the Rosary is based on its ability to **put us in the presence of Jesus and his Mother**, which is always a positive experience. The more time we spend with Jesus and Mary, the more likely we will reflect their love in our daily life.

Connected to this first attribute of the Rosary, the second reason why it can have a positive influence upon us is because we will **reflect on the mysteries of the Gospel while praying it**.

The Rosary is essentially a **"biblical prayer"** and by immersing ourselves into the Gospel, we can grow closer to Jesus and be inspired by the events of his life to be heroic in our own lives.

*[F]aith, hope, and charity must grow in the spiritual life, if we are constantly in touch with the mysteries which inspire and beget them. If we are frequently in our Rosary, "looking upon Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith," **the virtues of His life must be reflected upon our ways**, as Peter's shadow upon the sick, and we must rise to a higher level. **We cannot think of the life and ways of Christ, in a simple, childlike spirit of faith, without becoming more Christ-like**, more simple, more obedient, more patient, more forgiving, more "meek and humble of heart."*

As with all prayer, this can only take place if we pray the Rosary with faith and trust in God. If it is done out of necessity or routine, than its effect will be lessened. However, when matched with faith, the power of the Rosary can have a profound impact on our daily life.

(source: *Aleteia*, 6th Oct 2020)



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 - 1pm

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