



## Disciples Making Disciples



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## Mission Requires an Interior Life

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
18 Oct 2020

Is 45:1, 4-6  
1 Th 1:1-5b  
Mt 22:15-21

In the opening scene of today's Gospel, we find the Pharisees plotting a trap against Jesus on the politically-sensitive topic about taxes. They falsely flatter him by addressing him as "Master", and "affirming" him as a true speaker and teacher of the way of God (Mt 22:16). Bible scholars have seen the Pharisees' tactic as a challenge to Jesus' rabbinic authority – for they believed that they alone were the authoritative interpreters of Jewish law.

By directing attention to Jesus' authority to interpret God's law, the Pharisees hoped to accomplish two goals. First, they wanted to force Jesus to give an answer; if Jesus refused to answer them, he could lose his credibility as a Rabbi with the very people who had just proclaimed him King (cf Mt 21:9). Secondly, as our Holy Father pointed out, with regards to the question of paying taxes to Caesar – a foreign occupier of Jewish land, "depending on how [Jesus] responded, he could have been accused of being either for or against Rome." (Angelus, 22 Oct 2017)

Whenever we read the Gospels, we tend to have a portrait of Jesus being aloof from governmental concerns, and whose teachings seem to point to an apolitical life for his disciples. But such a picture of Jesus is not accurate. While Jesus was sending his disciples out for mission, Jesus warned his disciples that he was sending them like sheep in the midst of wolves; so they had to be shrewd as serpents

and simple as doves (cf Mt 10:16). As the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday today, we are reminded of our missionary call to go out into the world to proclaim the Good News. In embracing Christ's mission, we are also reminded that being sent forth could mean persecution, suffering, and even death threats in areas hostile to Christianity.

Many of us also have a perception that mission is related mainly to humanitarian work for its own sake, but as highlighted in *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, "The mission of the Church is... to penetrate and perfect the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel." (AA 5) The temporal order constitutes, "the good things of life and the prosperity of the family, culture, economic matters, the arts and professions, the laws of the political community, international relations, and other matters of this kind, as well as their development and progress...[these] aid in the attainment of man's ultimate goal but also possess their own intrinsic value." (AA 7). St Josemaria Escriva, Founder of the Opus Dei, puts it succinctly, "...God is calling you to serve Him in and from the ordinary, material and secular activities of human life. He waits for us every day, in the laboratory, in the operating theatre, in the army barracks, in the

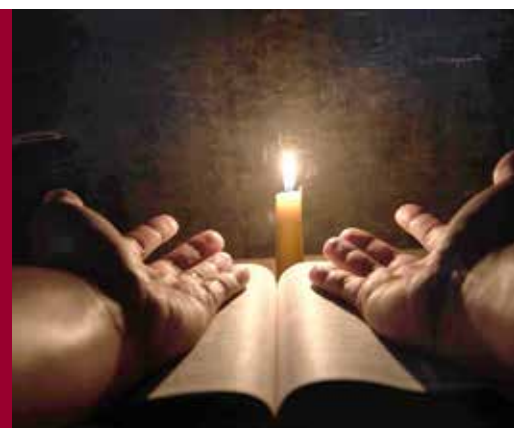
university chair, in the factory, in the workshop, in the fields, in the home and in all the immense panorama of work. Understand this well: there is something holy, something divine, hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it." (*Passionately Loving the World*, No. 114)

However, we can only be effective missionaries in the world when we have an interior life and disposition rooted in Christ through prayer. As illustrated in the malicious situation that Jesus faced with the Pharisees, it was being in the Father himself, his "secret source" (CCC 2599), that Jesus, in great wisdom and authority, answered the Pharisees, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

Christ reminded us that without him, we can do nothing (Jn 15:5). In his World Mission Sunday message, our Holy Father reminds us again of this truth, "The mission ... is not a programme, an enterprise to be carried out by sheer force of will. It is Christ who makes the Church go out of herself. In the mission of evangelization, you move because the Holy Spirit pushes you, and carries you."

*"The mission of the Church is not only to bring the message and grace of Christ to men but also to penetrate and perfect the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel."*

- *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 5



## Announcements

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

### MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

All mass collections for this weekend will be for the spread of the Gospel, in the Universal Fund of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

### 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](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 23 Oct, 8pm

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFXIP23OCT



## 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**.

## SFX ONLINE DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY PRAYER (OCTOBER)

Finding it difficult to pray alone? Always wanted to keep to your promise of praying the rosary daily? Then come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings, all are welcome:

#### WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary>

**Date & Time:** Mon to Fri, 3pm

#### ONLINE ROSARY BY CHARISMATIC

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXCPGRosary>

**Date & Time:** Mondays, 8pm

**Meeting ID:** 828 5586 5695

**Password:** CPGTHU2210

#### ONLINE ROSARY BY SALT (SERVANTS AT THE LORD'S TABLE)

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary>

**Date & Time:** Tuesdays, 8.30pm

**Meeting ID:** 867 1052 4234

**Password:** 465481

#### SUNDAY ROSARY DEVOTION BY LECTORS

<https://bit.ly/SundayRosary>

**Date & Time:** Sundays, 8.30pm

#### ROSARY DEVOTION

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp>

**Date & Time:** Mon, Wed & Sat - 8.30pm

**Meeting ID:** 984 7131 7782

**Password:** 172017

## BOOKING OF COLUMBARIUM VISITS

The Columbarium will be open for visits on **Mon 2 Nov from 9am - 5pm**. All visitors to SFX columbarium are required to book a visitation timeslot online via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>.



SCAN TO BOOK

- 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.
- Do make your online booking one day in advance.
- There will be no booking on Public Holidays and Sundays. The visiting period is from **Mon to Sat: 10am - 12 noon, 2pm - 4pm**.
- A maximum of 5 people are allowed per slot for a duration of 20 minutes.** All visitors are required to wear a mask, check in with SafeEntry for contact tracing and register at the Parish Office for temperature screening. If visitors are late for their booked time, no additional time can be accorded.

## CTIS: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY PROGRAMME 2021

CTIS is inviting applications from Catholics for the Certificate in Theology Programme for Semester 1, 2021. The application forms are available on [www.ctis.sg/application](http://www.ctis.sg/application) and also in CTIS Office. Financial aid is available for students who require it. Please submit your application by email by post, or in person before **Sat 5 Dec 2020**. For more information and registration, do attend the Info Night on **Thu 5 Nov, 8pm** at CTIS. You may also email [admin@ctis.sg](mailto:admin@ctis.sg) or contact 6902 8700.

## *Blessed Birthday, Fr Cornelius! (20 Oct)*

Happy blessed birthday Fr Cornelius. We thank God for giving us a shepherd modelled after his own image. As you celebrate your special day, may God's blessings, grace, favour and guidance continue to be with you!



*“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”*

- Mt 28:19-20

# *World Mission Sunday*

World Mission Sunday, which seeks to heighten awareness of the missions, as well as to collect funds for them, is an important date in the life of the Church, because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world.

The Church is by her nature missionary and is commanded by Christ to preach the gospel to all men. In his last words to the apostles, Christ's mission for them was to, “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20).

The responsibility for fulfilling that mandate passed on unchanged from the apostles to the bishops and to all Catholics of today. All Catholics, by virtue of their baptism, have the responsibility of participating, sharing and cooperating in Christ's ongoing mission

to spread the Gospel “to the nations” (CCC 849).

Pope Francis' message for this year's celebration was based on the theme taken from the Book of Isaiah, “Here am I, send me”. In his message, he says that the Covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity for mission and service to others. He concluded in his message that World Mission Sunday will be a day on which we will be able to reaffirm - through prayer, reflection and material help - our active participation in Jesus' mission in his Church.

So let us come together to pray, give and do our part for missionaries using the **World Mission Rosary**, inaugurated by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in Feb 1951.

“We must pray, and not for ourselves, but for the world. To this end, I have designed the World Mission Rosary. Each of the five decades is of a different colour to represent each of the five continents.”

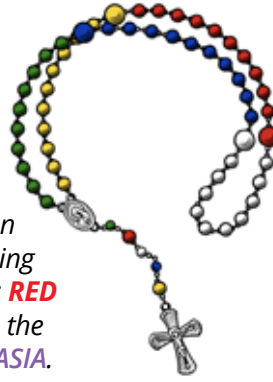


# Pray the World Mission Rosary



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

Praying this Rosary, Archbishop Sheen said, would "aid the Holy Father and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith by supplying him with practical support, as well as prayers, for the poor mission territories of the world." Each decade of that World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelising mission: **GREEN** for the forests and grasslands of **AFRICA**; **BLUE** for the ocean surrounding the **ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC**; **WHITE** symbolising **EUROPE**, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; **RED** calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the **AMERICAS**, and **YELLOW**, the morning light of the East, for **ASIA**.



## Joyful Mysteries

Monday & Saturday

### The Annunciation

That the Good News of a Saviour, first announced to Mary, may be proclaimed to all the world.

### The Visitation

That missionaries who travel long roads bearing Christ to those in need may be strengthened in faith and holiness.

### The Birth of Jesus

For the children of the Missions, especially those who are poor and homeless, that they may know the love of Jesus.

### The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

That Catholic families of the Missions, by the example of their lives, may show the love of Christ to their neighbours.

### The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

That all the people of the Missions who live in sorrow may find in the Gospel message of Jesus new life and peace.

## Sorrowful Mysteries

Tuesday & Friday

### The Agony in the Garden

That all who persevere in faith in the Missions may feel the presence of the Lord in their lives.

### The Scourging at the Pillar

That all who suffer in body, especially the hungry millions in the Missions, may be fed and comforted through our sharing.

### The Crowning with Thorns

That all who suffer from despair, especially refugees in the Missions, may find hope in Christ's promise of eternal happiness for those who believe in him.

### The Carrying of the Cross

For the Church in the United States, that by our prayers and sacrifices for the Missions, we may help bear the burdens of our brothers and sisters worldwide.

### The Crucifixion

That those who hunger and thirst for justice in the Missions may work peacefully and successfully toward their goal.

## Glorious Mysteries Sunday & Wednesday

### The Resurrection

For the Church worldwide, that our faith in the Risen Christ may draw others to him.

### The Ascension

That Christ, who lived as a man and returned to the Father, will grant to all people knowledge of the Way to eternal life.

### The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

For our Holy Father, that the Holy Spirit will grant him wisdom, fortitude and holiness as he guides the Church in the path of Christ.

### The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

That Mary, who gave the human body of Christ to the world, may inspire us who form the Body of Christ on earth to proclaim his message to all peoples.

### The Crowning of Our Lady Queen of Heaven

That through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Missions, young men and women will offer their lives to God as priests and Religious in service of their neighbours.

## Luminous Mysteries Thursday

moments from Jesus' public ministry — with stories from the Missions

### The Baptism in the Jordan

In a hospital in Hong Kong, a Sister spoke to a young cancer patient, an orphan, about God, our loving Father, and about heaven, our eternal home. Baptised, the child made the journey to God clothed in Christ because a Sister had shared with him the fruits of her own baptism.

### The Wedding at Cana

Mother Teresa once brought rice to a hungry family only to find the next day the food was gone. A neighbouring family also had no food, receiving from the first family not only the sustenance but also the witness of Christian love.

### The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God & Call to Conversion

In East Africa, a Catholic family, hearing of a village far from their own where the people had never heard of Christ, moved there. Day by day, they would tell — and show — the people what it meant to be a follower of Christ.

### The Transfiguration

To catch even a glimpse of the glory that awaits us in Christ is a gift beyond compare for millions of people whose lives are a daily struggle. Such a glimpse was caught in Liberia, West Africa. When people by the hundreds fled from their homes in the midst of civil war, their pastor said, "They left all of their belongings behind, but they brought with them one valuable possession — their faith."

### The Institution of the Eucharist

World Mission Sunday, celebrated each year on the next-to-last Sunday in October, in the context of the Mass, reminds us that we who eat Christ's Body and drink his Blood are sent to continue his mission to the world.

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