



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Are you ready to accept God's love?

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 Oct 2020

Ex 22: 20-26
Th 1: 5C-10
Mt 22: 34-40

When Jesus Christ was asked which was the greatest commandment, he replied in a most direct and forthright way. He did not speak in parables nor was there any mystery to be unravelled in his answer: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself." (Mt 22:37-39)

Our Lord could not be clearer about what Christians are required to obey, first and foremost. But we also know we often fall short of this seemingly simple request, despite its accompanying reward of eternal salvation.

Why is it so hard to fulfil God's foremost will when he has loved us so much?

God's love for us is unlike the love even in our closest relationships. It is unconditional, complete and yet incomprehensible, and best expressed in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." There could not be a stronger demonstration of his love for us, sacrificing his son in the person of Jesus Christ who was without sin and the personification of true love.

Faced with this all-out love and compassion we may feel overwhelmed and discomfited.

How do we respond? God wants us to open up our true self completely, surrender to him, and reveal to God who we really are. We cannot hide anything from him the way we can with our friends and even our spouse. Human love can be limiting and problematic because we are often afraid to reveal our true selves, lest the other person will love us less. But with God who knows all our faults and weaknesses, there is nowhere to hide. Hence when we truly accept God's love we have to be completely honest about who we really are, warts and all. It is our true selves whom God loves - not the person we like others to think we are - and this is why God's love is so life-affirming and enriching.

Accepting God's love is the most important step to take in obeying the first commandment and is the expression of our love for him. It is a transformative act that underpins our relationship with him, and makes possible the fulfilment of the second commandment which Jesus refers to in the Gospel reading - to love your neighbour as yourself.

1 John 4:7-8 helps us to understand the link between the two commandments: "Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Hence love brings us closer to God and to our brothers and sisters. It is only if we accept his love and love him in return, that we will be able to love others in a truly Christian way. If we do not love others the way God wants us to, we have not loved him in the first place, even if we think we do. In fact, we have failed to understand the meaning of his love.

The first reading from Exodus spells out how God wants us to love our fellow beings, especially the weak,

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including foreigners, those of a different faith, widows, orphans and debtors unable to repay our loans. Pope Francis expands on this in his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* on Fraternity and Social Friendship, published earlier this month. In paragraph 94, he notes: "Love then is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful...".

When we are able to love others this way, we would have truly accepted God's love.

Announcements

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

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 30 Oct, 8pm

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP30OCT



BOOKING OF MASSES IN NOVEMBER - 27 OCT, 12PM

On **Tue 27 Oct** from **12pm** onwards, you may book your Mass for the month of November via mycatholic.sg. Booking for the second weekend Mass begins on **Tue 10 Nov** at **9am**, subject to availability. 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.

One-time change of Parish: With effect from **Sat 17 Oct** at **9am**, you are able to make a **ONE-TIME** change of your parish via mycatholic.sg under the *myProfile* page. To learn more about how you can qualify for the change, visit www.catholic.sg/resumption-of-mass15.

Cancellation of Mass bookings and editing of particulars are now available on the *myProfile* page. For those who need to amend NRIC/FIN or email address, please email to mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg.

Tue, Thu: 6.30pm
Sat: 5.30pm
Sun: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)
1 Nov (Sun) - 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm
All Souls' Day (Additional Masses)
2 Nov (Mon) - 6.30pm, 8.30pm

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**.

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 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

CHARISMATIC: PURGATORY AND PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 26 Oct, 8pm**. There will be a Praise and Worship session followed by a talk on 'Purgatory and Praying for the Dead' by Helen Chong. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 8302 8821
Password: CPGMON2610



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

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 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.

CATECHISM REGISTRATION 2021

Registration for Nursery Level catechism (children aged **4 years old in 2021**, born in 2017) will start from **Sun 25 Oct** till **Sat 14 Nov**. Parents can download the registration form via www.sfxchurch.sg/forms-and-admin, and submit the completed form together with a scanned copy of your child's baptism certificate to catechism@sfxchurch.sg. For Level 1 (Primary 1) catechism, please follow the same procedure.

All catechism sessions for 2021 will be conducted on Sunday via the zoom platform and the timings remain unchanged. For any enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

Nursery: 9am - 10.30am

K1, K2: 1.30pm - 3pm

L1, L2, L3, L4: 1.30pm - 3pm

L5, L6: 3.15pm - 4.45pm

L7, L8, L9, L10: 3.15pm - 5pm



SFX IT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you tech savvy? PLEASE HELP! We are in need of committed volunteers to assist in technical matters during Mass both on weekdays and the weekends. If you have the following gifts and talents, hesitate no longer. Email mmm@sfxchurch.sg and come serve with us to build the kingdom of God.

Basic skills required:

- Linux – CLI level*
- Windows*
- Network management**
- Data storage management
- C / C++ / Python / Bash**

*Must Have **Great to Have

RCIA – Rite of Acceptance 2020

Over two Saturdays in October, 21 inquirers and 5 candidates went through Day of Recollection followed by Rite of Acceptance.

In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) journey, the Day of Recollection is a time set aside specially to ponder and reflect on the reasons for joining RCIA, where God is in their lives, and their journey thus far, while assessing their readiness to participate in the Rite of Acceptance (ROA).

If not for the COVID situation, the ROA would have been celebrated at a Sunday Mass, where the church community could take an active part in the celebration. The RCIA Guide calls this Rite “the first consecration by the Church” of those seeking Christian initiation – to initiate those who want to continue the journey of the Catholic faith and the Church’s formal acceptance of the inquirer’s desire to become a follower of Christ.

During the pre-catechumenate sessions that were conducted virtually this year, Father Terence Kesavan explained that the ROA is like the point where one decides to “go steady” or get more serious by taking the relationship to the next level. This is where Inquirers go through a change of identity to become Catechumens. In the months to come, these Catechumens will prepare for their initiation into our faith by baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

We also joyfully greet those of the Candidates who are already baptised and now wish to complete their Christian initiation through confirmation and Eucharist or to be received into the full communion of our Catholic Church.

Let us continue to keep them in our prayers for a continuous spiritually-led journey.





“At the ROA, I felt peace in my heart and very much loved by God, as well as a desire to continue to grow in the faith and lead a life pleasing to God.”
— **Christine Ong**



“The session conducted by Father Benedict has given me an opportunity to reflect deeply on my faith in Christ. As a cradle-born Catholic, this experience serves as a strong reminder to lead my life as Christ did and to be more attentive to his subtle guidance.”

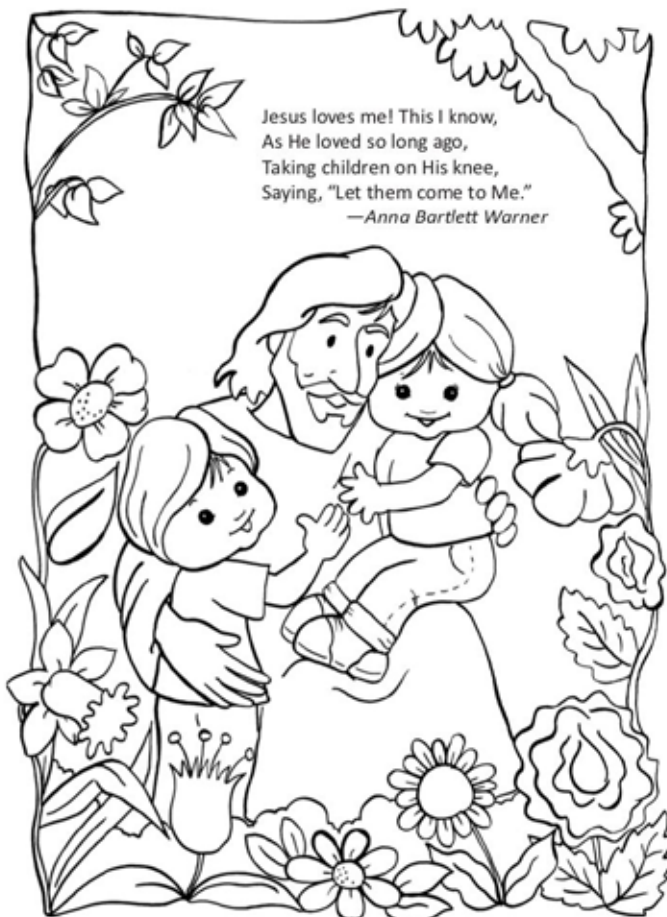
— **Michelle Maryann Tan**

“The ROA ceremony was indeed an enlightening experience for me. Under the constant guidance of my facilitators, it went smoothly and I feel really glad to be a part of the SFX church. The immense warmth and kindness I receive here truly enhances my RCIA journey. I am looking forward to the upcoming sessions!”

— **Aiswarya Devi d/o Kanarathy**

**Mini
MANNA**

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, “Let them come to Me.”
—Anna Bartlett Warner



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