



# THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,  
Singapore 558758



## Disciples Making Disciples



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## Preparing for Eternity

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8 Nov 2020

Wis 6:12-16  
1 Th 4:13-18  
Mt 25:1-13

As the year draws to a close, many of us may be well set in the mundanity of another year passing before us. Yet another year ending, another Christmas dawning upon us, another year of school, another in the office... and many more to come! Although we may have Christmas with friends and family to look forward to, perhaps the thought of having many more ahead - and indeed another year before - brings a certain sense of *"banality familiarity"* to this well-trodden cycle - like the daily commute to work or school: dull, ordinary, routine.

Such feelings may be especially prevalent this year since many of us have been deprived of travel and leisure opportunities due to the ongoing pandemic. Naturally, these sentiments see us adopt a *lackadaisical disposition* in our secular and spiritual lives, a sort of "auto-pilot" mode in which we mechanically go through the motions without actually being present; not dissimilar to how many of us approach our commute to work or school: a necessary but brainless and loveless affair.

To such sentiments and dispositions, Christ in this antepenultimate Sunday of the liturgical year reminds us to "stay awake", warning us to not be as the foolish virgins who were unprepared to meet the Bridegroom (Mt 25:1-13). The lesson of the parable thus relates specifically to readiness; readiness for the final end all of us will arrive at: death.



*"Can we truly say that we are ready to meet Christ? Will we be ready to account for our lives? In this moment, will we be like the wise or foolish virgins - ready or unprepared?"*

As we approach the end of the year, Christ thus invites us to reflect on the times we have become *"auto pilot"* in our faith, perhaps even lackadaisical in nurturing the fire of our love for him. Have we treated Christ's invitation to be in his procession towards heaven as a thing devoid of sanctification and love?

Life is a sanctifying journey towards Christ with the destination being everlasting life (Lumen Gentium V) - it behoves us then to be prepared for the journey. This journey must not be banal, *lackadaisical, brainless nor loveless* but instead filled with eager anticipation, wise readiness, astute prudence, and burning love (Wis 6:12-16). Love for Christ who we so desire to meet and spend eternity with!

Just like the wise virgins ready with extra oil and astutely trimming their lamps at the Bridegroom's arrival, we also need to be eagerly expecting and always spiritually prepared to meet our maker; for we never know the day nor the hour when Christ will come knocking at the door (Mt 24:36).

In this regard, the current pandemic serves as a good reminder not only of the fragility of life, but also the temporal and passing nature of this world. Individuals young and old, healthy and frail, rich and poor alike have all fallen

victim to the virus. If a similar fate should befall us and lead us towards death's door, can we truly say that we are ready to meet Christ? Will we be ready to account for our lives? In this moment, will we be like the wise or foolish virgins - ready or unprepared?

In the same vein and having recently celebrated the Feast of All Souls, the phrase "Rest in Peace" used so often in the liturgy for the dead takes on deeper meaning. Life is a journey in the pursuit of sanctity (Pope St John Paul II, *Novo millennio ineunte* 30). Only at the end, if we have been prudent like the wise virgins in maintaining the fire of our faith will we be able to rest eternally with Christ (CCC 1821).

St Teresa of Ávila beautifully sums this up when she says: "Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly... Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved, in a happiness and rapture that can never end." (*Exclamaciones* 15:3)

Let us therefore eagerly await Christ by keeping the fire of love burning bright within the lamps of our hearts, always prepared and ready to meet God - the very source and author of love itself.

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto: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 for 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 reference 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 could also join us online every Friday, to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. 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 13 Nov, 8pm**

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFXIP13NOV



### CHARISMATIC: THE SERVANT'S HEART

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 9 Nov, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'The Servant's Heart' by Jessica Francisco. All are welcome.

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497  
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



## BOOKING OF SECOND WEEKEND MASS IN NOVEMBER

Booking for the second weekend Mass begins on **Tue 10 Nov** at **9am** via [mycatholic.sg](http://mycatholic.sg). Due to limited capacity, please be gracious and book at least 2 days in advance, and only if you are sure you can attend. Please bring along a photo identification card for verification at mass.

#### MASS TIMINGS:

**Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm**

**Saturday: 5.30pm**

**Sunday: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm**

**One-time change of Parish:** You can now make a **ONE-TIME** change of your Parish via [mycatholic.sg](http://mycatholic.sg) under the *myProfile* page. To learn more about how you can qualify for the change, visit [www.catholic.sg/resumption-of-mass15](http://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 their NRIC/FIN number or email address, please email [mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg](mailto:mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg).

### 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**.

### CATECHISM REGISTRATION 2021

Registration for Nursery Level catechism (children aged **4 years old in 2021**, born in 2017) has started and will close on **Sat 14 Nov**. Parents can download the registration form via [www.sfxchurch.sg/forms-and-admin](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/forms-and-admin), and submit the completed form together with a scanned copy of the child's baptism certificate to [catechism@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:catechism@sfxchurch.sg). For Level 1 (Primary 1) catechism, please follow the same procedure.

#### CATECHISM SESSIONS 2021:

**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

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](mailto:catechism@sfxchurch.sg).

### IT VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We are in need of committed volunteers to assist in technical matters during Mass both on weekdays and the weekends. **Basic skills required are** Linux - CLI level\*, Windows\*, Network management\*\*, Data storage management, C / C++ / Python / Bash\*\* (\* Must have \*\* Great to have)

If you have the above gifts and talents, come serve with us to build the Kingdom of God and email [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) to find out more!

### CHRISTMAS CARD MAILING LIST

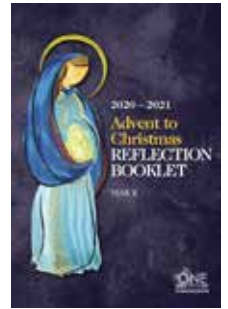
Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Never received an SFX Christmas Card? Please update your address and any other details with the parish office or send an email to [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg).

Stay tuned for exciting things coming up and we want to make sure you get your Christmas card!

## ONE: 2020 - 2021 ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS REFLECTION E-BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Advent & Christmas. The reflection themes for this year are "The Coming Word" and "Word Among Us" respectively.

Please download the e-booklet at [bit.ly/AdventChristmas2020](https://bit.ly/AdventChristmas2020). Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on every **Mon 8pm, starting 23 Nov 2020** at [tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel](https://tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel).



## Five ways to pray for Holy Souls in November



November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory and a time for us to pray for our departed loved ones that they may some day be in heaven and will pray for us as we journey. Thus, we should help the Holy Souls through prayer and acts of love and charity as well as remember that we are sinners and must strengthen our own souls so that we may enter heaven. Here are some ways you can mark this significant event.

### 1 PRAY THE ROSARY AND ETERNAL REST

Pray the Rosary every day to help strengthen your own soul, adding the "Eternal Rest" prayer at the end for the Holy Souls in Purgatory:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



### 2 PRAY THE ST. GERTRUDE'S PRAYER

*Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, for those in my own home and in my family. Amen.*





### 3 DO ACTS OF CHARITY AND SACRIFICES



Offer these acts up for the suffering Holy Souls in Purgatory.

### 4 OFFER MASSES FOR THE REPOSE OF SOULS



Offer Mass for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, including your reception of Holy Communion, all your prayers and good works of the day.

*This year the Vatican has announced that plenary indulgences will be granted throughout November 2020 to Catholics who visit the cemetery to pray for the dead, and piously visit a church on the Feast of All Souls. Both can fulfilled spiritually by those unable to visit in person due to illness or Covid-19 restrictions.*

### 5 REMEMBER YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES AROUND THE DINING TABLE

Pray for their souls while saying grace before meals. Honour them by serving a food they enjoyed or were known for and share stories of them.

*"All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030)*



#### 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)