



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Talents – Use them or lose them

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 Nov 2020

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Th 5:1-6

Mt 25:14-30

Today's gospel parable is situated between the parable of the Ten Maidens (last Sunday's gospel) and the parable of the Final Judgement (the gospel for next Sunday). Together, these three parables give a clearer understanding of the final coming of God's Kingdom. The parable of the Ten Maidens told us that we will not know when the Kingdom will come, but we must be vigilant with our lamps (a metaphor for our lives), be filled with oil (a metaphor for the Holy Spirit) and give light to show others the way (a metaphor for good works inspired by the Holy Spirit). The gospel parable for the final Sunday of the liturgical year next week tells us how Jesus will carry out his judgement.

Today's parable of the Talents reminds us of the importance of having a correct image of God and how we are to use our God-given talents whilst waiting the arrival of the Kingdom.

The reaction of each of the three servants on receiving their talents reveals their perception of God. The first two servants immediately started trading with their talents. They seemed to know instinctively what their master required of them and went about it dutifully. In risking all, they generated a return on their talents, earning the praise of God. The third servant was afraid of God (Mt 25:25) and this fear stifled his ability to do anything with his one talent. He hid it so as not to lose it. Ironically, his "safe" approach earned a rebuke from his master.

The third servant said his master was a "hard man". He had an image of God as stern and harsh. This erroneous image paralysed him and turned him inward to protect himself, calculating that hiding the talent would enable him to avoid punishment. When we start from such a mistaken view of God, we stop growing as free persons but instead close in on ourselves in self-preservation. We also stifle the community spirit, thus curbing joy and impoverishing life itself. In contrast, the first two servants did not seek their own good, did not calculate, did not want things for themselves, did not close up in their own selves. Instead, they freely and naturally, without seeking their own merit, went about doing good and thus expanding and generating a return in their master's kingdom.

"On coming into the world, man is not equipped with everything he needs for developing his bodily and spiritual life. He needs others." In God's plan, "talents" are not distributed equally because he "wills that each receive what he needs from others. And those endowed with particular 'talents' share the benefits with those who need them. These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods; they foster the mutual enrichment of cultures." (CCC 1936-1937)

Each of us have been given "talents". In reality, the talents that God gives us are the "currency and goods of the kingdom" - a fraternal spirit in helping others, generosity in sharing what we have been given, and willing the good of others with self-giving love. The important point is not how much of a return we render from these talents, but how we use them in our daily lives to further expand the kingdom of God. Hence, the more we generously use



*"These differences
[in talents] belong
to God's plan, who
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what he needs from
others, and that
those endowed with
particular 'talents'
share the benefits with
those who need them."
(CCC 1937)*

these talents to further the kingdom of God on earth, the more we will be given. Otherwise, what we have will be taken from us and given to those who can make better use of them (cf Mt 25:29). We can only do what is right with our talents if we start from the correct perspective of God as a loving Father who works tirelessly to gather his beloved creation into his embrace. God is not a stern, harsh master.

May God grant us the wisdom, understanding and fortitude to make use of his gifts to generously help others in their need. In the parable of the Final Judgement (next Sunday's gospel), we shall learn who amongst us God sees as those most in need.

Announcements

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

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILING LIST

Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Have you received a christmas card from SFX? Please update your address and any other details with the Parish Office or send an email to secretariat@sfxchurch.sg. We want to make sure you get your Christmas card!

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 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 could also join us online **every Friday, 8pm** 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 for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP20NOV



BOOKING OF MASSES IN NOVEMBER

Great News! We will be moving back to the Main Church and will be increasing our capacity to 100 persons for both weekday and weekend Masses. Please visit MyCatholic.sg to book your Mass slots. To ensure that all who want to attend are able to get slots, we ask that you be gracious and book at least 2 days in advance, and only if you are sure you can attend. Do also remember to cancel your booking if you are unable to attend. **There will be two check-in points via the Main Church foyer & outside JPil Hall.** Please come 20 minutes earlier and bring along a photo identification card for verification.

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 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 their NRIC/FIN number or email address, please email mycatholicsg@catholic.org.sg.

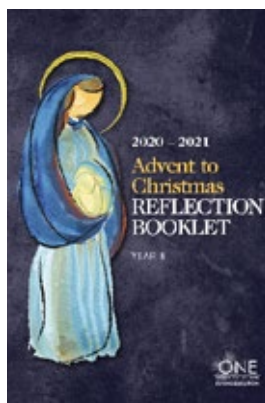
MASS COLLECTION

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**.

CHARISMATIC: THE CHARISM OF LOVE

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 16 Nov, 8pm**. Praise and Worship followed by a talk on 'The Charism of Love' by Gerard Francisco. All are welcome.



ONE: 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 Advent & Christmas are "The Coming Word" and "Word Among Us" respectively. Please download the e-booklet at bit.ly/AdventChristmas2020. Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on **Mon 8pm**, starting **23 Nov 2020** at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPIRIT



RECRUITMENT: 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**

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



*Must Have **Great to Have

Important Guide to Resumption of Mass in Main Church

Great news! Our Main Church is now ready to accommodate **100 persons** for Mass. Please note that these measures are in place so as to ensure the safety of everyone and to give every parishioner an equal opportunity to attend Mass. Do refer to the information below and let us do our part to keep our parish community safe.

PARSONAGE

Please note that the Adoration Room will remain closed until further notice.

PLAZA (OUTSIDE JP II HALL)

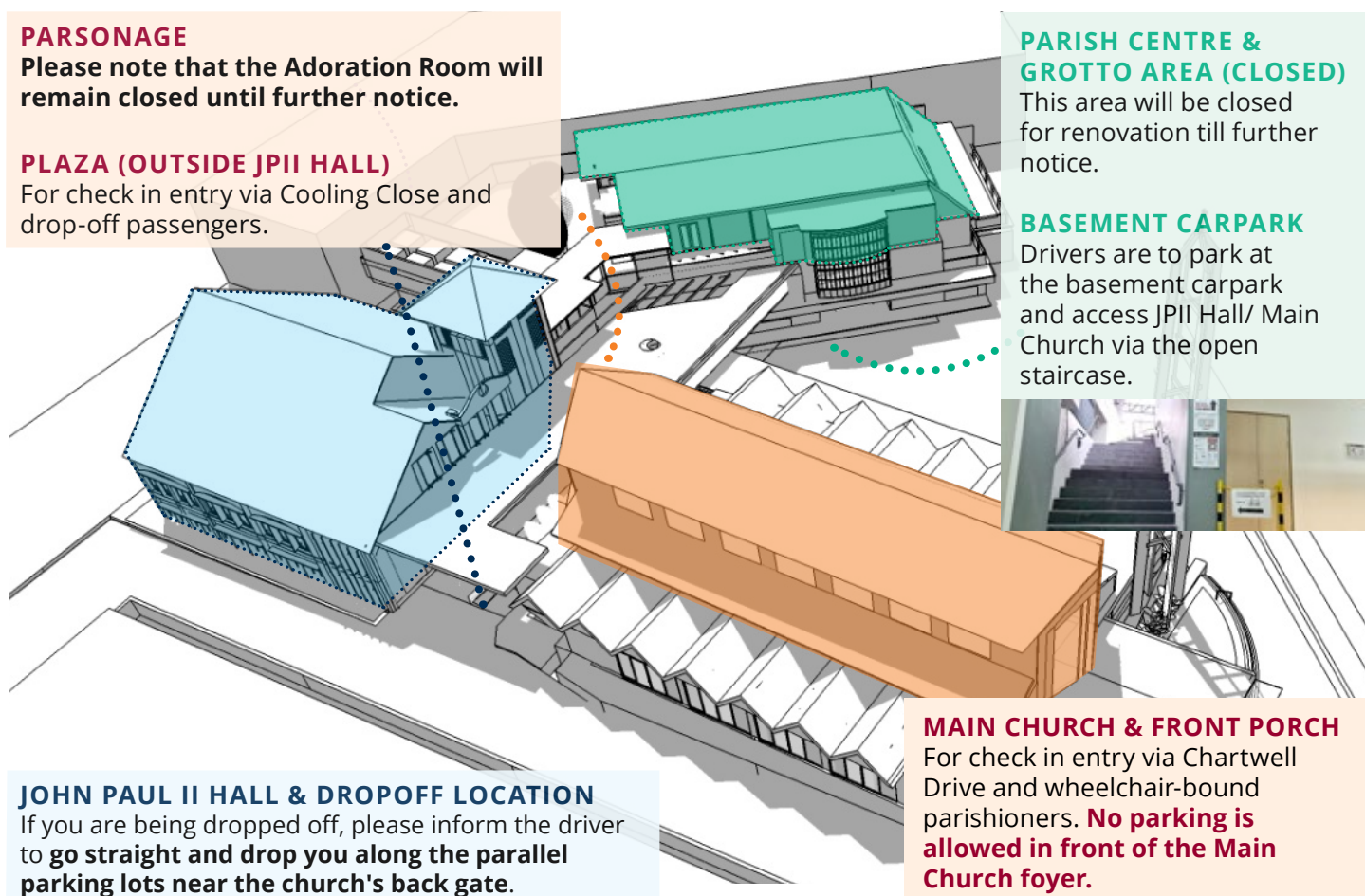
For check in entry via Cooling Close and drop-off passengers.

PARISH CENTRE & GROTTO AREA (CLOSED)

This area will be closed for renovation till further notice.

BASEMENT CARPARK

Drivers are to park at the basement carpark and access JP II Hall/ Main Church via the open staircase.



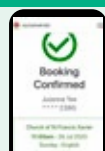
JOHN PAUL II HALL & DROPOFF LOCATION

If you are being dropped off, please inform the driver to **go straight and drop you along the parallel parking lots near the church's back gate.**

MAIN CHURCH & FRONT PORCH

For check in entry via Chartwell Drive and wheelchair-bound parishioners. **No parking is allowed in front of the Main Church foyer.**

THINGS TO NOTE:



Before coming to Mass, ensure you have registered with **myCatholic.sg** and have a confirmed slot for Mass.



Wear your mask at all times. Don't crowd or mingle anywhere in church before, during and after Mass. Please kindly cooperate with those on duty.



Contact Tracing

All visitors are to login with SafeEntry and ensure Tracetoegether is active.

Verification

Bring your photo ID for verification.



Admission

- Come early, at least **30 minutes** before Mass.
- Families are encouraged to check in together in order to be seated together.
- **Check in at the Main Church Foyer:** for entry via Chartwell Drive and wheelchair-bound parishioners.
- **Check in at The Plaza:** for entry via Cooling Close and drop-off passengers.
- All wheelchair-bound parishioners will be located at a designated zone, only 1 caregiver is allowed.
- Sanitise your hands before registration.

Receiving communion:

- Maintain a one-metre distance from each other and follow the wardens' directions. Holy Communion continues to be strictly received on the hand with your mask on.
- Do sanitise your hands. Keep your mask on and only remove it to consume the host when you are 2 metres away from the Communion Minister.

Offertory:

- There will be no collection during the offertory. Please drop your donations before or after mass at the entrances. Alternatively, you may donate via PayNow.

Inside Main Church:

- Please look out for the zones you are assigned to and the floor markings. No intermingling is allowed across different zones inside the church.
- Changing of assigned seats is strictly forbidden.
- Avoid use of mobile phones.

Exiting

- Please listen to the lector's instructions after Mass on how to exit and leave the premises promptly after Mass. Remember to check out using **TraceTogether** after leaving the premises.

Drop-off & Parking:

- For **drop-off:** Please inform the driver to drop you next to the Plaza.
- **Strictly no parking allowed in front of Main Church.** Drivers are to park along the side parallel lots or in the basement carpark and access JP II Hall via the open staircase.
- Please cooperate with the wardens.

LET US DO OUR PART TO KEEP OUR PARISH COMMUNITY SAFE



The Old & The New

As we move back to our familiar surroundings in church, do you recognise what's new and what is not?



Where will you find this work of art and what is it?

The Trinity Plaque



At the back of church.
The Old Testament Trinity



During Lent, we may notice this work of art?



The 2nd Station of the Cross inside church



A familiar face looking down on us from where?

The stained glass mural behind the church.



Where can we find this cross?



Behind the church, backing the sacristy.



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 us 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