

 **Parish Office:**
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg

 **St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Disciples
Making Disciples

 **Parish Priest:**
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg

Assistant Priest
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151
cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Antony Maria Joseph

Waiting for the Lord

First Sunday of Advent
29 Nov 2020

Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8
1 Cor 1:3-9
Mk 13:33-37

In his essay "The World's Last Night", CS Lewis summarized the scriptural teaching on Jesus' coming in three propositions: "(1) That he will certainly return. (2) That we cannot possibly find out when. (3) And that therefore we must always be ready for him."

It is this state of readiness that our gospel passage speaks of when Jesus exhorts his disciples to "stay awake" (Mk 13:33); it is this same state of waiting and longing that we enter into as we begin the season of Advent and prepare for the Lord's coming at Christmas.

This longing is familiar to — in fact, characteristic of—our Jewish forefathers. Each Advent Sunday features a reading from Isaiah as he is the great prophet of the Messiah: in this Sunday's First Reading, the Jews are aware that they had "stray[ed]", that their hearts had "harden[ed]", and that they were "sinners" and "rebels". Yet, they still longed for the Messiah, for God to "come down." (Is 63:17, 64:4)

Similarly, even mired in worldliness and sin, even if the past year of humdrum busyness has eroded our prayer lives and our spiritual disciplines, we can long for the Lord (again). It is not only when we are close to God that we long for him; longing for him itself brings us



"His teaching on the subject quite clearly consisted of three propositions: (1) That he will certainly return. (2) That we cannot possibly find out when. (3) And that therefore we must always be ready for him."
— CS Lewis, *The World's Last Night*

closer to him.

In an interview on the Martin Scorsese film *Silence* (2016), actor Andrew Garfield spoke of this "longing for love... in a time and a place where a life of joy and love is... impossible". To prepare for the film, Garfield had undergone a year of St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. As a young actor, he had brought to the Exercises a sense of his own inadequacy. He had been longing for *something*; he found *someone*.

"I had no relationship to [Jesus] beforehand...He was just the frontman for Christianity. [I was] pantheist, agnostic, occasionally atheist and a little bit Jewish, but mostly confused." The Spiritual Exercises brought an unexpected experience, "What was really easy was falling in love with this person, was falling in love with Jesus Christ. That was the most surprising thing... God! That was the most remarkable thing — falling in love, and how easy it was to fall in love with Jesus." Garfield said.

As we enter Advent this Sunday, perhaps we too feel inadequate, unprepared, or just distracted. The invitation is for us to wait for the Lord, to long for him, and then to fall in love again with him.

As poet David Whyte puts it:

"Longing is divine discontent, the unendurable present finding a physical doorway to awe and discovery that frightens and emboldens, humiliates and beckons, makes us into pilgrim souls and sets us on some road that starts in the centre of the body, and then leads out, like an uncaring invitation, like a comet's passing tail, glimpsed only for a moment but making us willing to give up our perfect house, our paid for home and our accumulated belongings."

For Garfield, perhaps the most critical exercise was imagining himself as a midwife present during the Nativity, preparing for and waiting upon the birth of Christ. That exercise was a meditation — not on Garfield's own inadequacies or wounds, but on the revelation of the sacred, on the vulnerability of God, on the Word made flesh.

Even as we take stock of our year and our lives as we prepare for Christmas, may we eventually turn our gaze from ourselves to our Lord, to wait and long for his coming, and to welcome him into the manger of our hearts again.

Announcements

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

GIFT 2020: PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

This weekend, the Catholic Foundation is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Share the gift of faith and support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge – the most reliable source of funding for the archdiocese. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). Pick up the GIFT 2020 brochure or visit catholicfoundation.sg for more info.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Contact the Parish Office to book for the following time slots:

Tuesdays & Fridays: 4pm - 6pm
Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

Additional timings during Advent:

Sat 19 Dec:

10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4.30pm

Mon 21 Dec:

6pm - 9pm

Tue 22 Dec:

10am - 12pm, 4pm - 6pm

Wed 23 Dec:

6pm - 9pm

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 can 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: SFXIP4DEC



BOOKING OF SECOND WEEKEND MASSES IN DECEMBER

Bookings for the second weekend Mass will start from **Tue 8 Dec, 9am** via myCatholic.sg. It is subject to availability. To ensure that all who want to attend are able to get slots, we ask that you be gracious and book 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 JPll Hall.** Please come 20 minutes earlier and bring along a photo identification card for verification.

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, 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 TIMINGS

Tuesday, Thursday: 6.30pm

Saturday: 5.30pm

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

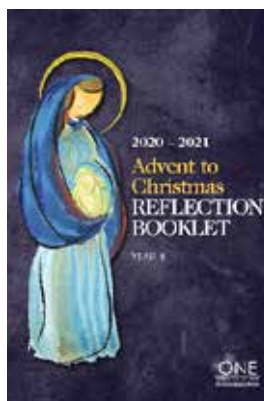
TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

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).

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**.



ONE: ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS REFLECTION E-BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE) has produced an 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 to complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded every **Mon 8pm** at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubchannel.

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. Contact us at 6280 6076 or email to mmm@sfxchurch.sg to find out more!



*Must Have **Great to Have



“Life without hope is a voyage without a compass.”

Happy New Year! This Sunday (29 Nov 2020), the church celebrates the 1st day of the liturgical year, beginning with the 1st Sunday of Advent. The colour of the vestments used at the eucharistic celebrations change to violet, a colour of preparation, a colour that reminds us of the coming of a great celebration, and in this season, it is the much awaited coming of Jesus at Christmas.

This is a year with many happenings that can lead to despair and many people are still facing many struggles in their life. Coping with challenges in the family, coupled with financial instability, and a weak economy, can take a toll on both our physical, psychological, and even spiritual lives. As this year is coming to a close, there is not much to look forward to.

For us Christians, it is providential that we are awaiting the celebration of the coming of Jesus once again at Christmas. In this bleak world, he is like the shining star that sheds a ray of light that pierces through this dark period. Isaiah 53:4 reminds us that Jesus came to bear our sufferings, and carry our sorrows. We are not alone. He is with us.

St James (Jas 5:13) reminds us, “Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.” (Jas 5:13) Although we should continue to pray with Christian hope, we can still find events that happened to us to give thanks to God. If we are still healthy, and safe from Covid-19, this is already a good reason to give thanks and praise to Jesus.

As the star of Christ illuminates the sky, and gives hope and direction to the shepherds and wise men, let us also allow Jesus to shine his light into our lives and illuminate it with the hope that only he can bring.





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg



RISE UP & REACH OUT!

**CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER
FEAST DAY TRIDUUM 2020
29 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER**

This year, our Parish Feast Day theme is Rise Up and Reach Out!

We have a special guest Preacher from Perth, Fr Varghese Parackal, who will be blessing us with his charism of Healing and Empowerment, during our Triduum and Feast Day Masses.

We warmly invite all of you to come together as a Parish family, as we partake in this blessed time of Healing and Empowerment, celebrating our 61st Anniversary! Let us Rise Up and Reach Out, to bring God's Love and Healing to others, and be His Disciples making Disciples.

Mark your calendars and do share this with your family and friends, so that we can all experience God's Healing in our lives!

**Sun 29 Nov | SPIRITUAL PREPARATION
8PM - 9.15PM**

Praise & Worship • Preaching • Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

**Mon 30 Nov | HEALING TRIDUUM DAY 1
7.30PM - 9.30PM**

Mass (Celebrant: Fr Benedict)
Praise & Worship • Preaching
• Exposition of Blessed Sacrament • Healing

**Tue 1 Dec | HEALING TRIDUUM DAY 2
7.30PM - 9.30PM**

Mass (Celebrant: Fr Cornelius)
Praise & Worship • Preaching
• Exposition of Blessed Sacrament • Healing

**Wed 2 Dec | HEALING TRIDUUM DAY 3
7.30PM - 9.30PM**

Mass (Celebrant: Fr Antony)
Praise & Worship • Preaching
• Exposition of Blessed Sacrament • Healing

**Thur 3 Dec | Feast Day
7.30PM - 9.30PM**

Mass (Celebrant: Fr Benedict Chng)
Praise & Worship • Preaching
• Exposition of Blessed Sacrament • Empowerment

**LIVESTREAM MASSES CELEBRATED BY OUR SFX PRIESTS
GUEST PREACHER FR VARGHESE PARACKAL (PERTH)**

www.youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier



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