






Disciples
Making Disciples

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Finding Jesus

Epiphany of the Lord
3 Jan 2021

Isa 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

"The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast in Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made 'worthy of the heritage of Israel')." CCC 528

The *magi* were learned men who scrutinised Scriptures and the cosmos, and who obviously knew about other peoples, cultures and religions. In their own countries, they would most likely be secure in terms of income and respectability amongst their own people. Yet, in embarking on what must be a perilous journey, away from the comforts of home to find the newly



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born King of the Jews, they must have had a restless heart, seeking something greater than temporal well-being and security. A heart that was driven by a deep desire to know that God exists, driven by a yearning to know who he is and what he is like. Guided by divine revelation and the light of reason, their restless hearts and desire to know God culminates in "great joy" (Mt 2:10) when they finally come face to face with the Messiah child with his mother.

Thus, the magi give us a model of the characteristics we need to adopt in responding to the light of the Holy Spirit with a desire to find and know the person of Jesus ever more deeply who is the only source of true joy. In order to do this, we too like the magi must bring our gifts of gold, which is like the wisdom that God puts in each of us to listen, read and study scriptures so that we can learn what it is that God wants us to know about him. Regularly, we must bring our gifts of frankincense which are our prayers and worship of God in the Liturgy of the Mass. And finally our gifts of myrrh, which is presenting ourselves as "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1)

Ever since the fall of Adam,

beginning in the garden of Eden when God called to Adam saying "Where are you?" (Gen 3:1-9), salvation history has been about God seeking us so as to reverse the sin of man and restore us into the joy of a right relationship with him. In the Epiphany, God shows us his relentless love, revealing to us that in Jesus, God has become one of us in order that we might become like him. And Jesus is not difficult to find if we, like the shepherds (see Lk 2:8-20) and the magi, have hearts that are humble and open to God's revelations and promptings. We must not be like the chief priests and scribes of Herod's court who knew where the Messiah would be born, but pride, self-assuredness, presumptuous knowledge and the lack of authentic humility prevented them from ever finding Jesus.

Whether our present lives are filled with comfort and security, or mired in difficulties, the magi show us that we can find great joy when we turn from ourselves to seek God and to worship him. And when we find Jesus, like the magi who departed to their own country by another way, we must live our lives on earth differently until we find our home in God.

Announcements

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

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL 2ND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programs. As you leave, kindly place your donations in the donations box held by Vincentian members. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

You can also join us online **every Friday, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others 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: SFX8JAN



SUBSCRIBE TO SFX TELEGRAM CHANNEL

Receive the latest announcements on parish-wide events/initiatives, reminders, mass timings and the church bulletin on your phone through our official Telegram channel!



Subscribe and follow us at <https://t.me/sfxchurch!>

BOOKING OF MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Great News! From January, our Main Church will be ready to accommodate 150 parishioners for both weekday and weekend Masses. Booking for the second weekend Masses begins on **Tue 12 Jan, 12pm** via myCatholic.sg.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu: 6.30pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat: 5.30pm

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

Tue 19 Jan, 12pm: Booking for a third Mass for a weekend in January.

As the demand for seats outweighs availability for many masses, we request everyone to book only if you know your attendance is confirmed. In the event you are unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, please cancel your booking early no later than 48 hours before the mass, to allow those who are waiting for a vacancy, to apply. **There will be two check-in points via the Main Church foyer & outside JPil Hall.** Please come **30 minutes earlier** and bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.

TraceTogether Token/App Required:

As we enter into Phase 3, each individual is required to use the TraceTogether token or phone application to enter our church premises. Scanning SafeEntry QR codes with phone cameras, or through the SingPass mobile app or barcodes on NRIC, as well as 'Group check in' will not be possible.



Let us do our part to help keep our parish community safe!

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions 1 WEEK in advance at <http://tiny.cc/SFXMassOffering> 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

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

- 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** and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of Main Church from **1 - 31 Jan**. Please kindly remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.



CHARISMATIC: IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 11 Jan, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk 'Ignite and Shine with Faith' by Michelle Voo. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



MEDIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of committed volunteers to assist in our media ministry. If you have the gifts and talents, come serve with us to build the Kingdom of God and email mmm@sfxchurch.sg to find out more!

Highlights from Christmas Midnight Mass





HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

EVANGELISATION - HUMAN FRATERNITY

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

IN THE MONTH OF DEC 2020

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Lee Ser Ming Mark & Joey Neo Wan Ying

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Lee Song Chua Bernard Robert
2. Rose Foong Kim Lwee

BAPTISMS

We welcome:

1. Jezmeen Muire Tabel
2. Elizabeth Sophia Joseph Pillai
3. Judith Long Enxin
4. Chen Jiaying Mario
5. Ng Wei En Kira Elisabeth
6. Luke Lim Jia He

Blessing of the Home ON THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

There is a tradition of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany when the family gather to ask God's blessing in their home and family life. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes and on all who live, work or visit us in our homes. This blessing can be done either by a priest or an adult in the family using a blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 21

saying:

"The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and nineteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen."

Then say the following prayer:

"Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen."

Meaning of the symbols:

First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "21" at the end mark the year.

Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stays with those who dwell therein and reminds us to be as welcoming to all who visit us!



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.

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