



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,
Singapore 558758



Disciples *Making Disciples*



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



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



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

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Antony Maria Joseph

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

Becoming Beloved Priests, Prophets and Kings

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
10 Jan 2021

Is 55:1-11
1 Jn 5:1-9
Mk 1:7-11

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, says that the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord invites every Christian to remember their own baptism. To forget one's baptism means "exposing oneself to the risk of losing the memory of what the Lord has done for us." More than being just the day that "sociologically marks the parish register," our baptism is the day that "constitutes the demanding identity card of the believer." (Angelus, 7 Jan 2018) In other words, if we forget our baptism, we also forget our identity.

If we are not rooted in our identity as God's beloved children, we will find it a real challenge to be his missionaries in the secular world. At Jesus' baptism before he began his public ministry, he heard the Father's voice of love, reminding him of his true identity as God's beloved Son. While Jesus' miracles may have made him "popular" with the crowds, he nevertheless suffered much. He was rejected by the religious leaders, betrayed by Judas and abandoned by his very own disciples. What helped him persevere through all these painful sufferings was the words of love he heard at his baptism as the late Fr Henri Nouwen pointed out, "These words revealed the true identity of Jesus as the beloved. Jesus truly heard that voice, and all of his thoughts, words, and actions came forth from his deep knowledge that he was infinitely loved by God. Jesus

lived his life from that inner place of love. Although human rejections, jealousies, resentments, and hatred did hurt him deeply, he remained anchored in the love of the Father." ("You Are the Beloved")

Fr Nouwen says "[o]ur tendencies toward self-rejection and self-deprecation make it hard to hear these words truly and let them descend into the center of [our] heart. But once we have received these words fully, once we have accepted the truth that we are God's beloved child, unconditionally loved, we can be sent into the world to speak and to act as Jesus did." This is a fundamental truth we have to claim for ourselves if we are to live out our call to be missionaries in the world.

Catholic theology speaks of our sharing in Christ's "*munus triplex*" or threefold ministry as prophet, priest and king. Hence, we are anointed with oil during baptism just like the Old Testament priests, prophets and kings when they assume their office.

How do we fulfil this threefold ministry in our daily lives? As baptised priests, we are called to have a deep friendship with Jesus, so that we can be sent out into families, communities, places of work, as well as the political and cultural arenas. If we stop praying and frequenting the sacraments, we will become, in short order, like salt that has lost its savour (cf Mt 5:13). A prophet is one who bears the truth of God. G.K. Chesterton said that in an upside-down world such as ours, the prophet is the one who stands on his head so that he might see things aright. Prophets, therefore, always appear a little "insane". In fact, the Hebrew word for prophet, "*nabi*," has the overtone of being a madman. As a baptised prophet, we are called to exercise this ministry by studying philosophy, theology, spirituality, church history,

and the lives of the saints. Having been illumined, these prophets are then sent out into their worlds as beacons of light. God knows that in our increasingly secularised society, such illumination is desperately needed, but if baptised prophets stop studying and stop speaking, they are like lamps over which a basket has been placed. A baptised king is someone who exercises Christian leadership in the world, directing the community towards God. Catholic parents, for example, follow their call by directing their children toward the accomplishment of their God-given mission, educating them, shaping them interiorly, moulding their behaviour, disciplining their desires, etc.



"Our tendencies toward self-rejection and self-deprecation make it hard to hear these words truly and let them descend into the center of [our] heart. But once we have received these words fully ... we can be sent into the world to speak and to act as Jesus did." - Fr Henri Nouwen

Announcements

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

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, **16/17 Jan**, being the third weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions towards the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the Archdiocese by making a monthly pledge. You can give via PayNow (**UEN: 201231391K**) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box at the two entrances of the Main Church. More info can be found at catholicfoundation.sg

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

SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

With your kind donations, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$5,657.30** for Friends In Need last weekend. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 11 Jan, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk 'Daring to Dream in the New Year' by Michelle Voo. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



BOOKING OF MASSES IN JANUARY 2021

Our Main Church can now accommodate 150 parishioners for both weekday and weekend Masses.

MARS BOOKING SCHEDULE via myCatholic.sg

Tue 12 Jan, 12pm:

Booking for a second weekend Mass*.

Tue 19 Jan, 12pm:

Booking for any remaining slots* for January.

**subject to availability*

Things to note:

- Entry via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPPI Hall). Please come at least 20 minutes before Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 2 days in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked will be tracked in the system.
- TraceTogether token or mobile app is now required to enter our church premises.

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

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions 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

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**.

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: SFX15JAN



CATECHISM NOTICE

Catechism sessions for all levels (except L10) will resume on **Sun 21 Feb** and will be conducted via Zoom. For any other enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

RETURNING OLD PALMS

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



THE BIBLE IN A YEAR WITH FR MIKE SCHMITZ

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting **1 Jan**.



Each 20-25 minute episode includes two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr Mike Schmitz and a guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

Register at <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biyr-registration>.

PRAYCATION - MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE 2021



Renew your faith this year as we celebrate Catholic 200SG by spending a praycation at Montfort Centre. They have now included the blended approach for those who just can't seem to find time to spend a whole weekend retreat especially in this pandemic. For more info, contact **6769 5711 (Lydia)** or email to enquiries@montfortcentre.org.

Catechetical Sunday: What you need to know

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelisation through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God. This year, Catechetical Sunday falls on 10 January 2021.

Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

In 1935, the Vatican published "On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education", a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honour those who serve the Christian community as catechists.

Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

What does the word "Catechetical" mean?

The word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

Why do we have a special day set aside to commission catechists?

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life ... her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis" (no. 7). This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

How are parents, the primary catechists of their children, recognised on Catechetical Sunday?

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes an optional blessing of parents and guardians.

(Adapted from <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/catechetical-sunday-about>)

CATHOLIC 200 SG

Celebrating 200 years
of the Catholic Faith in
Singapore since 1821



"I have come to bring
fire to the earth, and
how I wish it were
blazing already!"

Luke 12:49

360,000 of us

IGNITE
AND SHINE
WITH FAITH

CATHOLIC 200 SG PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your Son commissioned His apostles to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our founding missionaries left home and country so that we in Singapore may receive the Good News and Your loving salvation. Thank You for this gift of faith, and for all those who laboured to keep it alive and burning these two hundred years.

Lord Jesus, our faith is in danger of becoming irrelevant because of secularism, materialism, individualism and relativism. Grant our communities a renewed missionary zeal and courage to proclaim Your name and Lordship.

Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew Your people with the conviction and courage of our early missionaries. Rekindle our faith so that we can be beacons of light in a world darkened by sin, hopelessness, and ignorance. Protect us from the snares of the evil one and grant us the grace to remain faithful to You.

May our families be models of love and unity; our workplaces be sanctuaries for justice and integrity; truth and charity be taught in our classrooms; parishes live out their mission in communion; the poor, sick, and abandoned see the face of God in us, and may peace and harmony reign among peoples of every race, language and religion in our land.

Blessed Mother, you were the first disciple and evangeliser to announce Jesus as Saviour to the world. Intercede and grant us your maternal guidance and protection as we navigate the uncertain future.

Father, may Your love and grace ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that we may once again be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



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. 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