



Disciples
Making Disciples



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



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



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

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

Sharing in Christ's suffering

5th Sunday of Lent
21 Mar 2021

Jer 31: 31-34
Hebr 5: 7-9
Jn 12: 20-33

We are into the last week of Lent before Holy Week, leading to Easter. As we approach the final stretch of this spiritual journey, our reflection is focused on our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection.

The readings today are particularly meaningful because of what they say about these events and the mystery of our relationship with God. The first reading from Jeremiah foretold the coming of the Messiah and of a new covenant that would replace the one inscribed in stone which God handed to Moses. It is deeply prophetic and mysterious, speaking of how the divine will make known his will to the people.

"Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jer 31:33)

What does it mean for God to reach out to us through our hearts?

We now know that Jesus sacrificed his life to fulfil this prophecy so that the old covenant would be replaced by the new. How can we not be moved by his unimaginable love for us which made him endure so much suffering for our sake?

But the second reading also tells us that the Lord suffered long before his eventual death, knowing what was to come and how he prepared himself for the

task by speaking and listening to his Father. As recounted in Hebrews, he prayed long and hard, and his intercession points to what we must also do to gain salvation.

"During his time on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard." (Hebr 5:7)

In other translations, Jesus was said to have prayed with "loud cries and tears."

This is an important revelation for it tells us that talking and listening to God need not be a passive, quiet act of submission. It demands our entire attention and resolve, requiring us to re-examine our own lives, our motivations and actions. Developing our relationship with God is a passionate and intense exercise in which we have to open our hearts to him to reveal our innermost self.

That is how Jesus prayed. But there is another, even more important, step which the second reading refers to: "Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering." (Hebr 5:8)

Obedience means doing the will of God and Jesus' suffering at the cross was his final act to fulfil his Father's plan. As Christians, we are often perplexed by the existence of

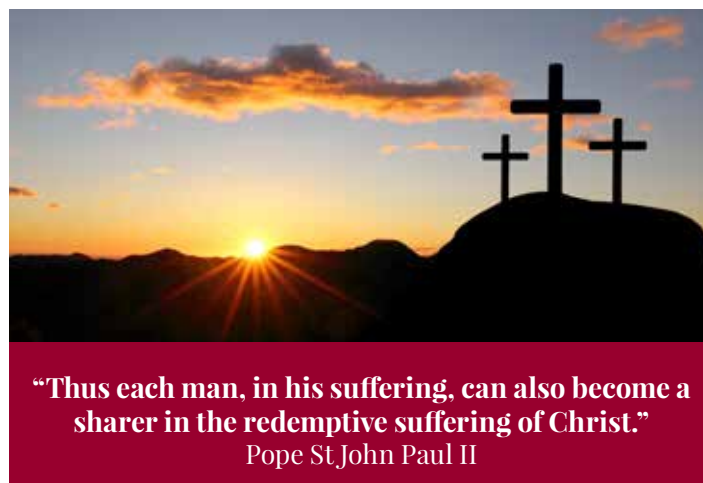
suffering and why there is so much of it in our world. In fact, suffering and sacrifice have a special place in our faith. For Jesus it was a necessary part of his salvation plan and the manifestation of his undying love for us.

For us, suffering too may be part of what it takes to live anew and leave behind our sinful ways. Jesus in the Gospel reading explains this in a striking way, "I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life." (Jn 12:24-25)

Transforming our life in this way is not easy but if we have to suffer in the process, we know it is part of God's redemptive plan. Pope St John Paul II, in his 1984 apostolic letter, *Salvifici Doloris*, put it across in this way:

"In bringing about the Redemption through suffering, Christ *has* also *raised human suffering to the level of the redemption*. Thus each man, in his suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ...In such a concept, to *suffer* means to become particularly *susceptible*, particularly *open to the workings of the salvific powers of God, offered to humanity in Christ*." (SD 19 & 23, italics are from SD)

As we journey through Lent, let us exalt in both the pain and joy of this new covenant which God has planted in our hearts.



"Thus each man, in his suffering, can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ."

Pope St John Paul II

Announcements

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

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, being the third weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation boxes. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions ONE 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).

BLESSING OF PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY (28MAR)

There will be blessing of palms on Palm Sunday. You may also bring your own palms to get them blessed.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry invites you to join us online on **Fri 26 Mar, 8pm** for an evening of intercession, worship and reflection. 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: SFX26MAR



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Calling all parents with young children! Scan the QR Code to join us as we share the Word of God with you for this **Fifth Sunday of Lent**. Don't want to miss the series? Stay updated with us by subscribing to our SFX Youtube channel.



CATHOLIC200SG
SINCE 1821

Scan the QR Code to access the
Catholic200SG Prayer



Church of St Francis Xavier celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Singapore

Do you know of anyone who may not be tech-savvy enough to register and book for Mass, or attend Mass online?

This Lent, let us Rise Up and Reach Out to our fellow parishioners and friends, by inviting them back for Mass! Assure them of the safety protocols that are already in place and go the extra mile by helping them register/book for a Mass slot. Alternatively, you may want to invite them to your home, inviting no more than 8 persons, to attend Mass online, together.

Let us be Church to one another in this time of need. Let us Ignite and Shine with Faith, remembering the words of Our Saviour, "Where two or three are gathered in My Name, there I will be." - Matthew 18:20.



APRIL MASS BOOKINGS [HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)



TUE 23 MAR, 12PM
Booking for a 1st weekend Mass* and Maundy Thursday Adoration.

TUE 30 MAR, 12PM
Booking for a 2nd weekend Mass*.

TUE 6 APR, 12PM
Booking for a 3rd weekend Mass*.

TUE 13 APR, 12PM
Booking for a 4th weekend Mass*.

* Weekday Mass bookings for the whole of April are open throughout the month and subject to availability.





Maundy Thursday Adoration

Come spend some time in the presence of our Lord. Each adoration timeslot is 20 mins; there will be 3 slots available: 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

Things to Note:

- Parishioners can only book one timeslot. Do remember to cancel your booking in advance if you are unable to make it.
- Please stay at home if you are feeling unwell for the safety of others.
- Please come **no earlier than 20 minutes before** the session for registration. Bring your identification card and TraceTogether App/Token with you to **check-in at the Plaza (Outside JPll Hall)**. Registration will close 10 minutes after adoration begins.
- Please observe social distancing and cooperate with the Wardens and SMOs.
- Please do not linger around and leave the premises promptly once your session is over.

Holy Week Schedule

 Maundy Thurs 1 Apr 6.30pm	 Good Friday 2 Apr 9am, 12pm, 3pm	 Easter Vigil 3 Apr Livestream Mass via Archdiocesan YouTube http://youtube.com/catholicsg	 Easter Sunday 4 Apr 9am, 11pm, 1pm, 5.30pm
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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:

- 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.
- Cheque** - Payable to Church of St Francis Xavier and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

CHARISMATIC: THE SHROUD OF TURIN

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 22 Mar, 8pm via Zoom**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'The Shroud of Turin' by Jerry Tan. All are welcome. (Entry to Zoom session starts at 7.30pm SGT)

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





CATHOLICSG RADIO IS NOW ON SPOTIFY!

Search 'CatholicSG Radio' on Spotify to access Archbishop William Goh's full homilies, podcasts of our other programmes, as well as curated music playlists.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

Marriage is a project to be worked on together and a process of growth. Pope Francis (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 218, 221). Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen your couple relationship, sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend on April 16, 17, and 18, 2021. This In-person and non stay-in weekend will be at Agape Village, 7A Lor 8 Toa Payoh. Please contact David & Clara @ 96705390 or email at mewkend@gmail.com.

Join us online from **24 Mar to 27 Mar, 8pm - 8.45pm** as we reflect on the transformative journey of 'Saul to Paul' and for a time of Praise and Worship along with some meditative reflections and life transforming testimonials. For registration, log on to <https://singapore.jesuyouth.org/>

Our Teens Reflect On Their Baptismal Promises

The L9 and L10 teens and their families recalled their baptismal promises as they prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Covenant Ritual ceremony held on 21 February and 7 March.

The Covenant Ritual is a 2-part paraliturgy conducted over 2 years. The first involved the use of water to recall the Sacrament of Baptism received as infants. Our L9 teens re-experienced their baptism as they had their hands washed, and were read the words of their baptism. The teens also made a commitment to God and to themselves to continue this journey towards their Sacrament of Confirmation next year.

The second part recalled the light of baptism that the teens received in the form of their baptism candle. Our L10 teens reflected on how faith was handed to them through the passing of the light from candle to candle.



Our L9 teens re-experienced their baptism as they had their hands washed, and were read the words of their baptism.



Our L10 teens reflected on how faith was handed to them through the passing of the light from candle to candle.

Reflections from our teens:

"This is an important milestone as we are a step from being confirmed and with the community's support, this ritual is very meaningful and unforgettable for me."

Benedict Lee, Confirmant

"This ritual means that I have to be responsible for my faith journey and take time to evangelise."

Victoria Glass, Confirmant

"The lighting of the candle was a meaningful gesture for my child and I. This also helps my teen to know God's plan for him."

Aloysius Chew, parent

"Another step towards deepening my daughter's faith and in becoming part of the SFX community."

Grace Ng, parent

Our teens reflect on their baptismal promises



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm
(During Lent only,
includes Stations)

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.

MASS OFFERING



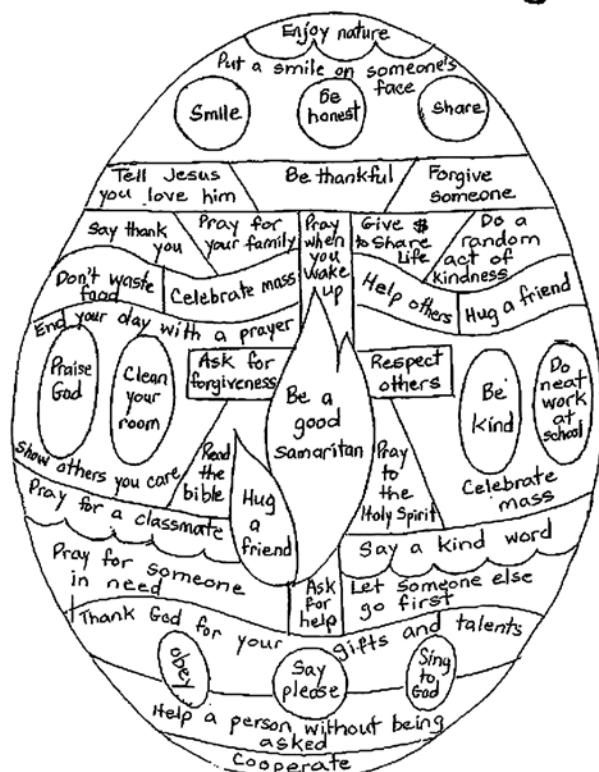
Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office and Church. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg



Lent is For Loving



Spirit of God, fill me with Jesus' life