



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples *Making Disciples*



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Enter In

Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord

28 Mar 2021

Mk 11:1-10

Is 50:4-7

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 - 15:47

This week's readings offer us various interesting conflicts and contradictions. Let us focus on a few as we walk with Jesus into Jerusalem towards Calvary to listen to what God may be saying to us today.

The passage read at the opening procession speaks of Jesus arriving at Jerusalem. He enters the Holy City on a colt. When the Jews saw that, they recalled the words from Zechariah 9:9: "...Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you; a just savior is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." In *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explained these words in relation to Jesus: "He is a king who destroys the weapons of war, a king of peace and a king of simplicity, a king of the poor... Jesus is not building on violence; he is not instigating a military revolt against Rome."

This is the first paradox, that a man who calls himself king would come so openly without political power or intention to overthrow the incumbent. Instead he rides unarmed on a humble animal. Indeed this humility is affirmed by the Second Reading, "he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped...but humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death." Here, we ask, is Jesus a leader we desire to follow? Can we imitate his humility and obedience?

In the gospel of Mark, we see some examples of Jesus' followers: a



"He is a king who destroys the weapons of war, a king of peace and a king of simplicity, a king of the poor." - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

woman pouring expensive perfume all over Jesus' head, and "anointing" him for his impending death. She gives to him unreservedly and is prepared for the difficult road that he is about to take. Compare this with his disciples who fell asleep when their master's needs were at its greatest, and eventually ran away out of fear. This juxtaposition makes us question, do we give unconditionally to Jesus come what may? Or do we still have fears and limitations we need to admit to and work on?

As we enter deeper into Jesus' passion and suffering, we see clearly the difference in the Jews' treatment of Jesus between his entrance into Jerusalem and when he trudged along Calvary carrying his cross.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux offered in a homily: "How different the cries that now are calling him 'King of Israel' and then in a few days' time will be saying, 'We have no king but Caesar!' What a contrast between the green branches and the cross, between the flowers and the thorns! Before they were offering their own clothes for him to walk upon, and so soon afterwards they are stripping him of his, and casting lots upon them."

Jesus was clothed in purple, a royal colour, but was crowned with painful thorns. The soldiers saluted him "Hail King of the Jews", but spat on him

and struck his head. What an irony between the words of adulation and the acts of torture and mockery. The text on Isaiah's Suffering Servant further highlights the violence inflicted and Jesus' acceptance without retaliation. When we reflect on ourselves, are there areas where we have only paid lip service to God and continued in our own life-destroying ways?

Finally, we look at the contrasting characters of Pontius Pilate and the centurion. Even though Pilate knew deep within that Jesus is who he says he is - the king of the Jews - he chose to listen to the crowd and sentenced Jesus to a gruesome death. Yet at his death, even when hope is snuffed out, the centurion's words of truth proclaimed "Truly, he was the Son of God." Who do I understand Christ to be? Am I able to see Christ in my life and in everyday situations? Will I be able to recognise him when he comes again in his glory?

Many times, we are so familiar and desensitised to the events of Holy Week that we become indifferent and dispassionate. Perhaps this year we can contemplate on the different juxtapositions and paradoxes to enter more fully into Jesus' passion, and to walk with him through adulation, accusation, torture, death and eventually into his glory.

Announcements

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



PRAY FOR OUR RCIA AND RCY PARTICIPANTS

Our RCIA and RCY elects and confirmands are inching closer to the Sacrament of Baptism. We continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord as they journey towards Baptism this Easter!

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).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

There will be no intercessory prayer on Fri 2 Apr. You may submit your prayer request at www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer and all prayer requests are kept confidential.

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION 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 **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**. Don't want to miss the series? Stay updated with us by subscribing to our SFX Youtube channel.



ONE: EASTER REFLECTION E-BOOKLET 2021

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced an e-booklet of reflections for the season of Easter. The theme is **"Thy Word Liberates"**. The e-booklet is available for download at bit.ly/TheWordLiberates. Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will be uploaded on Thurs 8pm, starting 1 Apr at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel.

CATHOLIC200SG: COMMUNITY CALL

Find out more about the myriad of Catholic200SG events and activities that you can either participate in or organise, via the following QR code on **Sat 10 Apr, 10am - 11.30pm**.

Zoom: Meeting ID: 982 5400 0162

Passcode: 200



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?

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 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 Fully Booked!

Things to Note:

- 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

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| Maundy Thurs 1 Apr 6.30pm | Good Friday 2 Apr 9am, 12pm, 3pm | Easter Vigil 3 Apr Livestream 8pm Mass via Archdiocesan YouTube http://youtube.com/catholicsg | Easter Sunday 4 Apr 9am, 11am, 1pm, 5.30pm |

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**.

CHARISMATIC: THE 7 LAST WORDS OF JESUS

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 29 Mar, 8pm via Zoom**. Come join us for a Lenten Meditation on "The 7 Last Words of Jesus". (Entry to Zoom session starts at 7.30pm SGT)

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPIRIT



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.

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.



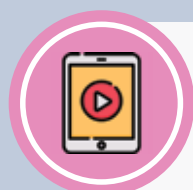
- 1. Say prayers specific to each day of Holy Week.** The different prayers will teach you and open your heart to what Jesus was going through.



- 2. Listen to Sacred Music** – it will help you calm down and get in the mood to reflect.



- 3. Get mummy and daddy together to make or buy traditional food** – such as hot cross buns!



- 4. Attend Mass at home** by live-streaming the service and pray with your family as a second option if you are unable to attend Mass physically.



- 5. Bless yourselves with holy water** after renewing your Baptismal promises at Easter.



L10 Confirmation Retreat 2021

This year's L10 confirmation retreat was a non-stay-in event (due to the pandemic) and was held on 12 – 14 March. It was for the same reason that this year's cohort had missed out on the L9 retreat last year.

The camp's theme was inspired by the passages in Luke 19:1-10 about the conversion of Zacchaeus from a sinful tax collector, into a true follower of Jesus giving away half his riches to the poor and paying four-fold those he had wronged. Just like Zacchaeus, the retreatants came as who they were without any pretensions, answered the call of God when they recognised his voice, cherished the very moments of their encounters of him, and committed themselves to stay with the Lord in their lives. The retreat aimed for each teen to experience Christ's love and encouraged them to heed the call for discipleship. Some of the quotes from the retreatants:

“ My facilitators were very easy to talk to, and I felt like we were able to communicate more comfortably about God with them. I definitely questioned my trust and relationship with God. I felt like I understood a bit better my faults in trying to become closer to him. - **Dawn Tan** ”

“ One thing I really liked were the sessions because it allowed me to hear other people's faith journey. I think it was especially touching to hear some of my own struggles being talked about during these reflection sessions, and I felt inspired to overcome them as well. - **Sherilyn Wong** ”

“ After this retreat, I feel closer to God after all the activities and I am more certain of my relationship with God now. I also got to talk to my group and I'm more comfortable with them too. - **Isabelle Seah** ”



Generally, the teens wished for more interactions with one another, which was restricted by the safe management measures. Some of the feedback from the service team on the challenges they faced:

“ The splitting of venues was a big challenge as it was difficult to engage the participants in venues where the session presenter was not physically present. Plus presenting a session with face masks and shields was difficult. - **Eliot Ng** ”

“ We had to work round so many time constraints as the teens could not stay over plus we had to work round mass timings on Saturday and Sunday. The venues and seating positions were far from ideal too because of safe distancing measures - some were too near, some too far away or the screen was blocked by pillars....but praise God, I believe we did what we could and we hoped the teens were able to get a sense of His love for them. - **Ethel Tseng** ”

We glorify the Lord for the success of the retreat and we thank the service team for doing their utmost best in overcoming the difficulties they had faced! Let us continue to pray for our teens as they head towards their confirmation.



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