



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples
Making Disciples



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Rising with Christ

Easter Sunday
of the Lord's Resurrection

4 Apr 2021

Ac 10:34a, 37-43

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-9

Surrexit Christus! Alleluia Alleluia!
Today Christ is risen from the grave! Today he has conquered sin! Today he has triumphed over death! (cf Easter Sequence) Let us celebrate therefore with great joy, remembering that his resurrection opens the door for us to Heaven and breathes forth the eternal waters of salvation — flowing through his Church born by the piercing of his side at the cross; his Church invigorated by his triumph over death! (cf Rite of Blessing of Baptismal Water)

This Easter joy we experience is born from the *newness* of Christ's triumphal resurrection, a newness we, as Easter people, share with him. The crosses we bore with Christ during our Lenten sacrifices are now triumphal symbols of our salvation, certain proof that death has no hold over the Church of Christ - "death where is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55)

Being Easter people, we *joyfully anticipate and eagerly journey towards the day when we will truly rise with Christ to eternal life*. If we desire to rise like him on the last day, it behoves us to consider how eternal life must be lived out daily now, and not merely as a phenomenon after our physical death. **For to triumphantly rise with Christ we must die to our old selves each day, that we may be free from sin which holds us down in the grave;** free to be born afresh through Christ, and with Christ. (St Basil the Great, *De Spiritu Sancto*, 15:35)



"To triumphantly rise like Christ we must die to our old selves each day, that we may be free from sin which holds us down in the grave."

Our daily crosses must be the gibbet on which we nail our sins; becoming salvific ladders to newness of life in Christ. Should we continue to hold on to our old ways, we will never truly rise but be weighed down by our sins in a grave of our own making; our gaze firmly fixed upon earthly things, instead of "things that are in heaven" (Col 3: 1-4).

To triumph in these purgative practices and other daily mortifications, we need to look to Jesus "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12: 1-13) who lived perfectly a life of Faith, Hope and Love.

Christ carried his cross for our sins, he died for us that we may live! In return, he asks us to carry our crosses and follow him: to die to ourselves that we might *rise with him*. Faith illumines this ascent for without faith in the resurrection, without faith in his Church, and without faith in things invisible, we will only cleave to things visible in this world. Faith on our ascent of the cross is thus the light of sight: sight of the path that Christ took before us, sight of Christ who continues to make the ascent with us, and sight of things to come. (Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei* 29-30)

Hope is the *belief in the sight* which faith provides: to believe that we

were born to be with God in eternity and to believe that on the last day we too can rise like Jesus. Hope therefore *invigorates* our assent, for without Hope our struggles, the crosses we carry, and the desire to die to ourselves for Christ would be for naught. Hope on our ascent of the cross is thus "faith disposed towards the future, making all the difference in the present" (Fr Richard Neuhaus, "Saved in Hope"); knowledge that our end is eternity with Christ, not the tomb of this world. (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi* 12)

Finally, Love, the very reason we celebrate Easter - the reason behind Christ's passion and resurrection (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* 6) must be the primary motivating force behind our desire to ascent to the cross to rise with Christ. God, for love of us "died from what was ours, that we will live from what is his" (St Augustine, Sermon 30). *To Love God therefore is to desire to be with him for eternity*, to follow him, to be crucified with him, and to rise with him to eternal life. May we always live out this Easter life that we may rise to newness of life with Christ and see him face to face at the end of time.

Announcements

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

SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection this weekend to help the poor and needy with monthly rations and other aid programmes. As you leave the Church, our Vincentians will be standing just outside the church exits. Kindly give generously.

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).

EASTER 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 this **Easter Sunday**. Don't want to miss the series? Stay updated with us by subscribing to our SFX Youtube channel.



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 5 Apr, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by a Bible sharing facilitated by Andrew Toh. All are welcome. (Entry to Zoom session starts at 7.30pm SGT)

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



CATHOLIC200SG 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 - 11.30am**.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 982 5400 0162
Password: 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



THE LORD IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Wishing all parishioners a blessed Easter and may you come to believe and experience the living hope and joy of Christ in these extraordinary times.

APRIL MASS BOOKINGS

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

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.

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**.

CATHOLIC WELFARE SERVICES (CWS): EMMANUEL SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION (ESCE) PROGRAMME

The ESCE programme is seeking to support those who desire a second chance for a brighter future through further education but have encountered adversity and need financial assistance. This is a mandatory personalised mentoring programme where someone is assigned to accompany them through their issues. Participants may pursue a course of his or her choice either at college, university, vocational, or technical school, on condition that the course of learning must lead to employable skills.

If you are interested, additional information can be found at <https://www.catholicwelfare.org.sg/ESCE.html>.

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 <https://tinyurl.com/TheWordLiberates>.



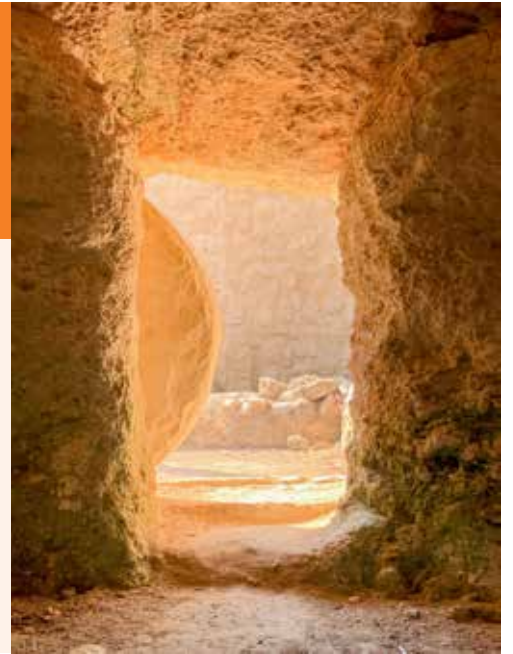
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

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

Eastertide: The 50 Days of Easter

For most people, Easter is only one weekend in the year that begins with Good Friday and ends with Easter Sunday; or for more secular people, it is a long weekend to enjoy to the fullest - since many countries declare Good Friday and Easter Monday as public holidays.

Unfortunately, what many do not understand (even some Catholics) is that Easter is not just one day or one weekend, it is actually a whole season. In fact, Eastertide or Paschal time as it is also known, lasts a full 50 days, from Easter Sunday till Pentecost. This makes it the longest liturgical season in the liturgical year, longer than both Christmas or Lent.



Why is this not common knowledge?

Part of the reason is that Easter does not have the same commercial appeal that Christmas has, for example. However, it is also important to understand that Eastertide is not an open invitation to party on for 50 days straight. Instead, we should consider the Easter season as an invitation to explore more deeply and celebrate our relationship with God, and his presence in the world. To reflect on what was a crucial period of time for the early days of the Church, which defined early Christianity's existence.



The Tradition behind Eastertide

In Christianity, the 50 days which pass between Easter Sunday and Pentecost are symbolic of the days that passed between Christ's Resurrection and Pentecost, which commemorates the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Christ. This moment was instrumental in cementing Christianity's place in history.



What can I do to connect more closely with God during this time?

Attending Church throughout this time is important. One way the Church welcomes this period, and reflects more deeply on it, is through reading the Acts of the Apostles at Masses all through Eastertide. These readings of course tell the story of the Church's earliest days, and the struggles and strife as it persevered in spreading the faith throughout the ancient world. We celebrate the stories of heroism, contention, miracles and persecution as a testament to the presence of a Risen Christ in the world, and the actions of the Holy Spirit, operating through the lives of his disciples.

Eastertide should be considered a time of hope, a time as was then where war and violence were all too commonplace, and yet God as he demonstrated then has not abandoned us. So, let us continue to find hope and encouragement through faith!





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



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

UNIVERSAL: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

IN THE MONTH OF MAR 2021

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Pilo Thomas Anthony
2. David Tan Hai Chew
3. Irene Lim Sock Cheng
4. Chong Pauline
5. Tham Koun Hao Benedict Desmond

INFANT/ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Daniel Yeoh Jie Ren
2. Jerome Loh Jun Yi

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

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)

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

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until
further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended until
further notice

COLUMBARIUM

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

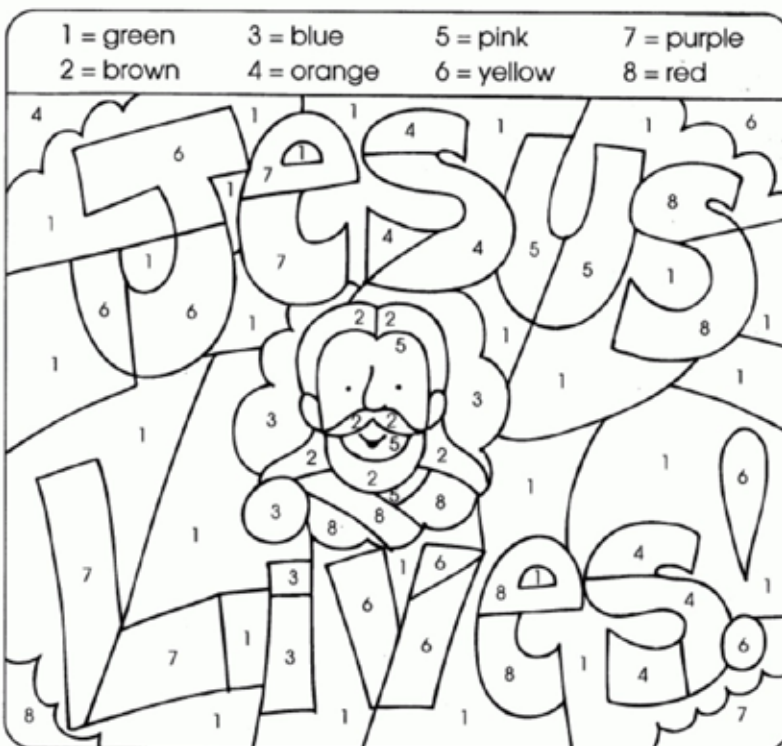


Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!



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#7100 Bible Brain Teasers

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