



Disciples Making Disciples



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Feast of Mercy

2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

11 Apr 2021

Ac 4:32-35
1 Jn 5:1-6
Jn 20:19-31

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us." (Diary of St. Faustina, 475)

Many Catholics would be familiar with this prayer from the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Being Divine Mercy Sunday today, it would be appropriate for us to recall that Jesus himself delivered this message of his great mercy to sinners through a lowly educated, poor nun of the Congregation of Sisters of our Lady of Mercy in Poland. At an early age, Sr. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) had reported visions of Jesus and having conversations with him which she subsequently noted down in a diary. Despite great opposition and difficulty, including being banned by the Catholic church from 1959-1978 (due to a faulty translation of its contents), what is in the diary became a great source of grace and hope to many who are devoted to praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

To be sure, St Faustina's conversations with Jesus recorded in her diary did not deliver a new revelation from Christ. Rather, it was a gift from our Lord; a gift of special enlightenment to help us better understand and appreciate Easter - that Jesus' mercy for us knows no bounds. Whereas we have sinned against God; broken our baptismal promises; and thus severed our

covenantal relationship with God, Divine Mercy is ever ready to forgive and re-establish our kinship bonds, if only we will return to God in trust, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus said to St Faustina "I am love and mercy itself. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. ... My mercy is greater than your sins ... I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come then with trust to draw graces from this fountain. ... The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (Diary of St. Faustina 1074, 699, 1485, 1578)

Our faith and hope in, and love of God is seldom perfect. Therefore, praying "Jesus, I trust in you", brings together faith (which is accepting and believing in all that God has revealed to us through Christ and his Holy Church) and hope (relying on Christ's promises of forgiveness, the help of grace, and eternal life) and our albeit imperfect love of God (loving Jesus for benefit rather than for his own sake). St Faustina tells us that if we approach Jesus with such trust, divine mercy will flow into our souls.

Jesus said to St. Faustina about the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Divine Mercy Sunday, "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of



"There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy."
- Pope St. John Paul II

man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity." (Diary of St. Faustina 699)

In today's Gospel, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into his disciples and demonstrated his mercy towards us by giving his disciples the power and authority to forgive sins on earth (cf Jn 20:22-23). On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us lay our hands on this mercy and once again be united to Christ by his grace. As Pope St. John Paul II declared "There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy - that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weaknesses to the infinite heights to the holiness of God."

Announcements

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

SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$5,206.20** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

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).

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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.

Join us online **every Fri, 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: SFX16APR



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>.



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SAFETY MANAGEMENT OFFICERS AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

To keep our parish community safe, we appeal for more volunteers to come forward to serve especially if you have basic IT skills. Please contact the Parish Office for more details. Training will be provided.

CHURCH MAIN ENTRANCE UPGRADE NOTICE

Please note that as of 8th Apr the Church main gate will be undergoing upgrading. Drivers, please exercise caution and navigate carefully when entering the Church premises. Kindly exit via the Church backgate (Cooling Close Rd).

APRIL MASS BOOKINGS

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

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.

Things to note:

- To enter our Church premises, check in must be done via the TraceTogether token or the mobile app.
- Entry is via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPII Hall).
- Please come at least 30 minutes before Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking one day in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

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**.

LITTLE SHEPHERD'S SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

Come visit to find out more about the programme. In celebration of Catholic200SG, registration fees are waived. For further enquires, contact 6280 8929 or email to enquires@catholicpreschool.edu.sg.

Date: Sat 17 Apr
Venue: Parsonage Level 2 (63A Chartwell Drive, S558758)
Admissions for Kindergarten: Age 3 - 6



Easter Vigil – New Life

**THE LORD IS RISEN, ALLELUIA.
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

Easter Vigil 2021 was a special night for 18 catechumens from RCIA and 6 youths from RCIY. They were baptised during a mass that was meant only for them and their families because of the restrictions imposed by the authorities. Notwithstanding the lesser numbers, the event was a joyous occasion for all present as they celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and sang Alleluia quietly in their hearts.





The Divine Mercy devotion

7 ASPECTS

This devotion which is based on the 1930s writings of Sr Maria Faustina Kowalska (a Polish nun of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy) focused on Christ's limitless mercy and love for mankind. There are seven aspects to this devotion.

1

The actual **Feast of Divine Mercy or Divine Mercy Sunday**, celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter. Pope John Paul II made this an official feast day at the canonisation of St Faustina on 30 April 2000. Entry 699 of St Faustina's diary states that a "whole ocean of graces" will be poured out on that day for those souls who go to confession and receive Holy Communion.

3

The **Divine Mercy Novena**. Ideally, the novena is to begin on Good Friday and completed the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday, though it can be prayed at any time. The novena divides souls into different groups, which are prayed for on a specific day.

2

The **Image of The Divine Mercy**. The Lord directed St Faustina to have it made. It was to be signed, "Jesus, I trust You!" and was to be venerated.

4

The **Hour of Great Mercy**, also known as the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls Jesus' death on the cross. St Faustina records in her diary that "It is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. It is Jesus' desire that the moment of His Death on the Cross (3 p.m.) be venerated."

5

The **Chaplet of The Divine Mercy**. Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, this is an intercessory prayer that may be said at any time but Christ specifically told St. Faustina to recite it during the nine days before Divine Mercy Sunday.

6

The sacraments of **Reconciliation and Communion** through which we meet our Lord and are enveloped in His Divine Mercy.

7

The **deeds of mercy** in answer to Jesus' call to mercy. St Faustina's diary entry 742 records Christ's words, "I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it." Christ gives us 3 ways of exercising mercy toward our neighbours: by deed, by word and by prayer. Through these means, a soul glorifies and pays reverence to His Mercy.

As we pray and take part in this devotion, it is also helpful to remember the 7 spiritual works of mercy and the 7 corporal works of mercy.



7 Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Teach the ignorant • Pray for the living and the dead
- Correct sinners • Counsel those in doubt • Console the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently • Forgive wrongs willingly



7 Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry • Give drink to the thirsty • Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless • Comfort the prisoners • Visit the sick • Bury the dead

(Adapted from thedivinemercy.org)

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)

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