



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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Easter, the Hope of our Resurrected Bodies

3rd Sunday of Easter
18 Apr 2021

Ac 3:13 - 15, 17 - 19
1 Jn 2:1 - 5a
Lk 24:35 - 48

As Christmas approaches, the streets light up with decorations and scriptural passages may be displayed at shopping malls, reminding us of the meaning of Christmas. Some of us may even listen repeatedly to our favourite carol as we await Christmas Day itself. Easter, however, seems to be treated differently.

Unless one understands its significance, there seems to be less excitement over Easter. Yet, in the Liturgical Calendar, Easter is ranked as the highest among all our feasts. In fact, throughout the year, every Sunday is a "little Easter". Regardless of whether it is Advent, Ordinary Time or Lent, each Sunday celebrates the Resurrection, the day of the new creation. Even in Lent, penitential practices are set aside on Sundays. Unlike Christmas which lasts a little over 12 days concluding on the Baptism of the Lord, Easter lasts 50 days and ends on Pentecost. This certainly highlights how important the celebration of Easter is.

The Church also teaches that "... *Easter* is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts,' the 'Solemnity of solemnities,' just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'... St Athanasius calls Easter, 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week, 'The Great Week.' The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until

all is subjected to him." (CCC 1169).

One may then ask, why is the Resurrection of our Lord ranked as the 'Solemnity of solemnities' and not the celebration of the birth of Christ?

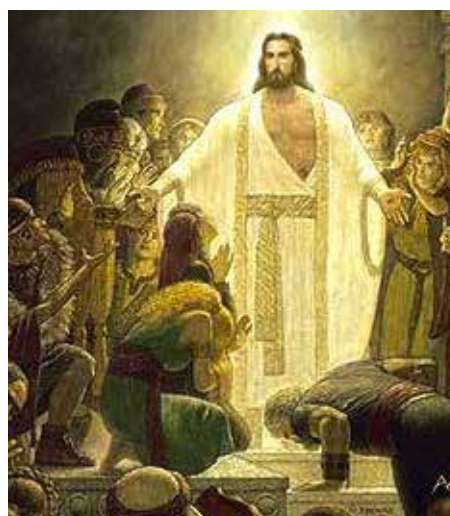
It may surprise us that the Church Father, Origen, spoke harshly about birthday celebrations, "Not one from all the saints is found to have celebrated a festive day or a great feast on the day of his birth. No one is found to have had joy on the day of the birth of his son or daughter. Only sinners rejoice over this kind of birthday. For indeed we find in the Old Testament Pharaoh... celebrating the day of his birth with a festival and in the New Testament, Herod... But the saints not only do not celebrate a festival on their birthdays, but, filled with the Holy Spirit, they curse that day." (Homilies on Leviticus 8:2). Origen probably meant this as a hyperbole for we should always rejoice in God's gift of life. Nevertheless, as Christians, we

have perhaps been so influenced by contemporary culture to emphasise our birthday into the natural world that we have overlooked the truly important day - the day of our baptism. Through baptism, we took part in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we too therefore, have died to our old selves and are reborn as a new creation. This probably explains Origen's harshness over the commemoration of birthdays. Would it not be more fitting to focus on one's new life in Christ instead of the old?

In today's Gospel, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples in his glorified body. The disciples initially thought they were seeing a ghost but Jesus told them "a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have." (Lk 24:39) Jesus even requested for food and ate the grilled fish given him to prove he had a body.

As we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, we are reminded that we will one day die - our souls will separate from our bodies, which will decay - and our immortal soul will go to meet God, while awaiting its glorified body. "God, in his almighty power, will definitively grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls, through the power of Jesus' Resurrection." (CCC 997) St Paul explained that our earthly bodies are "perishable...weak...natural" (1 Cor. 15:42 - 53) but with Christ's resurrection, our new bodies will not be "natural" bodies, subject to decay and death; we will live in "victory over sin and death," won by Christ on our behalf (1 Cor. 15:57).

So let us rejoice in God's mercy and love. Just like Jesus, God will give us a spiritual and glorified body; and just like Jesus, his Blessed Mother and all the Saints, God will welcome us to stand in adoration forever in his presence.



"God, in his almighty power, will definitively grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls, through power of Jesus' Resurrection."

- CCC 997

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 box. More info 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

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?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at their 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. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFX23APR



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

CHURCH MAIN ENTRANCE UPGRADE NOTICE

Please note that the Church main gate is undergoing upgrading. Drivers, please exercise caution and navigate carefully when entering the Church premises. **Kindly exit via the Church backgate (Cooling Close).**

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

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

TUE 27 APR, 12PM
Booking for a 1st weekend Mass*

* Weekday Mass bookings for the whole of May 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 JPPI 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.**

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 19 Apr, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Called to be Good Shepherds and Good Sheep' by Michelle Voo. All are welcome.

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 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 7 - 9 May 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.

CARITAS: MODULE 3 OF MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2021

Do Christians follow a different morality? Is there a difference between Christian and secular morality?

Join us virtually for the third module of My Personal Moral Compass by Fr David Garci as we contemplate what God has to do with ethics in general, and how the Christian understanding of God has an impact on human ethics. Our conversation will cover issues like the existence of God, what we understand about God, the moral standard that Jesus called for, what is grace and how that grace helps us in our daily lives, and more.

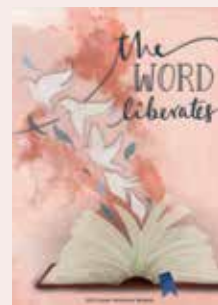
Date: Thu 29 April 2021 (7 Thursdays)
Time: 7.30pm via Zoom
Register: <https://bit.ly/3a0542c> or email to Caritas
 mpmc@caritas-singapore.org to find out more.



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>.



O Holy Night - Easter Vigil Baptism 2021

On 3 April, we welcomed 24 newly baptised brothers and sisters into the SFX family! At the same time, we also celebrated the reception of 11 Candidates who came into full communion with the Catholic Church.

For Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." - John 3:5

Let us hear from some of them as they reflect on their RCIA journeys and share their encounters with Christ.



"For the last 34 years, I have been attending mass diligently - even when I travel. I would make every effort to attend mass or visit Catholic churches just to pray. As I was not baptised and unable to receive Holy Communion, I felt like something was missing in my faith. I had made a promise to my mother then that I would not convert.



To finally be able to make the decision to embark on the RCIA journey and to receive Christ wholeheartedly through the sacrament of Holy Communion was one of my most rewarding experiences. At the Easter Vigil celebration, I was finally baptised, confirmed and was able to receive my first Holy Eucharist and drank the blood of Christ. I was filled with tremendous joy, and I felt God's unconditional love and a sense of peace. Knowing that I am now a child of God makes me look forward to mass and receive the Holy Eucharist, to be in union with Jesus Christ."

- Emmanuel Cheng Tee Yeow

O Holy Night - Easter Vigil Baptism 2021

"I embarked on this RCIA journey in search of God and it has been both rewarding and surprising. Three months into RCIA, I felt God's steadfast love for me when I was wrongly accused at work. My name was later cleared, and I even got a promotion a month later. I have also noticed a gradual change within as I feel Jesus healing me from the pain and hurt I suffered during my childhood. Miraculously, I found myself forgiving my mother during one of the sessions. I am now able to move on with my life and look forward to the future with God's continuous guidance."

-Edmund Tay



"I came to join RCIA carrying a heavy baggage, not knowing what to expect or where it would lead to. Baptism was never in my plan. But I considered myself rather religious since young as I would spend time kneeling and praying when faced with difficulty.

As I progressed in RCIA, I started to experience improvements in my life as the faith teachings resonated with me. I also felt lighter and happier. Still, I was hesitant about baptism. My godparent asked me to let go of my worries and have faith. Two weeks before baptism, Father Ben asked me not to fear, to pray and to read the Bible as it may shed some light. This message from the Bible stood out: "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe in me also." (John 14:1) It spoke to me. I got all my answers reading that scripture which led me to a sense of inner calm and peace.

Before baptism, there were three things that I needed to do to feel complete peace. Firstly, to seek blessings from my parents. Secondly, to reassure my children and thirdly to visit the religious place I used to frequent one last time. God certainly made all these things happen as they were accomplished in two weeks! I also found myself being able to verbalise things that have been trapped within me for a long time. It is only then I felt released and my heart felt free.

My RCIA journey is truly miraculous. I can now see that it was all part of God's plan when my husband and I were directed to SFX (instead of the parish we signed up for!) I am extremely thankful and grateful for God's blessings, and all the support we received throughout our journey." - Karen Raphaelle Lim

Congratulations! Let's welcome the new members to our community of faith and pray for them as they embark on their spiritual journey.

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

-Galatians 3:26-27



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

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