



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples Making Disciples



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55th World Communications Day

7th Sunday of Easter
16 May 2021

Ac 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
1 Jn 4:11-16
Jn 17:11b-19

This week, we celebrate the 7th Sunday of Easter as well as World Communications Day. Pope St John Paul II says in *Redemptoris Missio* 37: "The world of communications is the first Areopagus* of the modern age, unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a 'global village'. The communications media have acquired such importance as to be for many the chief means of information and education, of guidance and inspiration for many people in their personal, family and social behaviour."

Indeed, from the time of the Second Vatican Council, we as a Church have had to acknowledge the necessity of using the media to fully engage with the world. We have the responsibility to master the use of new media, for the purpose of evangelisation – of bringing good news to peoples everywhere. Yet, it is not just about providing pieces of information and facts.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says in *Spe Salvi* 2: "Christianity was not only 'good news' – the communication of a hitherto unknown content... the Christian message was not only 'informative' but 'performative.' That means, the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known – it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing."

In his message for the 55th World Communications Day, Pope Francis focuses on the power of technology and new media to facilitate such a life-changing encounter with people.

The words "come and see" echoes Jesus' constant invitation to the many people he meets, where they are and as they are, drawing them deeper into relationship with him.

Pope Francis says in his message: "Any instrument proves useful and valuable only to the extent that it motivates us to go out and see things that we otherwise would not know about, to post on the internet news that would not be available elsewhere, to allow for encounters that otherwise would never happen." Our use of media should amplify Jesus' invitation and enable encounters in all the ways that were previously not possible.

Upon reflection of our own media usage as content generators – as bloggers, micro-bloggers, comment leavers, message forwarders – are we magnifying the Good News by facilitating an openness to a genuine heartfelt encounter? Or are we bombarding others with mere information and closing off any attempts to reach out for connection?

The philosopher Hannah Arendt warns of the possibility of alienation,

division, and hostility that this powerful instrument can bring, even as she acknowledges its potential to connect people. She describes her observations in *The Human Condition*, "To live together in the world means essentially that a world of things is between those who have it in common, as a table is located between those who sit around it; the world, like every in-between, relates and separates men at the same time."

We should further ask ourselves, how can we use technology in a way that unites us more than it divides? Particularly in these times when social distancing has compelled us to turn to technology, has our over reliance on the myriad of gadgets and apps caused a neglect of those who need connection the most? How should we create spaces in social media to have mutual dialogues and avoid echo chambers that lead to extreme polarisation of views?

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' reminder and prayer for all of us: "I am not asking you to remove them from the world but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth." (Jn 17:15-17)

Jesus does not ask us to renounce the use of technology and new media, but to master it instead of becoming slaves to it. Jesus consecrates us in his truth and sends us into the world to be heralds of his Good News. May we remain connected to God and to the world, so that his truth may indeed reach the ends of the earth.

*a hill in Athens on which St Paul gave a noteworthy sermon as recounted in Acts 17:16-34



The Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. (Spe Salvi 2)

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 located at the two entrances of the Main Church. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY COLLECTIONS

All Mass collections for this weekend will be set aside for the Archdiocesan Media Apostolate. Mass collections received through PayNow, Cash or cheques during the week **15 - 21 May 2021** will constitute receipts for World Communications Day.

BAT: THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR OUR FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS - MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Was Mary born without sin? What does "full of grace" mean? Did Mary need a Saviour? Did Mary suffer labour pains? The woman in Rev 12 had labour pains – is that woman Mary? Join SFX BAT online on **Sat 22 May, 9am - 10.30am** for answers to these questions and more! All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 880 1767 6363
No password required



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 17 May, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Facing the Scandal of the Cross with the Holy Spirit' by Karen DeSouza. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



MANDATORY USE OF TRACETOGETHER APP/TOKEN FOR SAFEENTRY

With effect from **Mon 17 May**, it is mandatory to use the TraceTogether app or token for SafeEntry into SFX premises. **Other means will be discontinued.** Parishioners with tokens without working batteries will be denied entry even if you have a valid booking.



Please bring along your photo identification card (NRIC/FIN/Passport) for MARS booking verification.

Let us cooperate with our volunteers and keep our parish community safe!

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

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



All weekday Masses will begin with the Rosary.

TUE 18 MAY, 12PM

Booking for a 4th and 5th weekend Mass*

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

Things to note:

- Entry is via the Plaza (outside JPll Hall).
- Please come at least **30 minutes before** Rosary/Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Rosary/Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 24 hours in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

RCIA AND RCIY 2021/2022: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles?

We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY.

RCIY journey (13 – 23 years old) 'Come and See' Session

Date: Sun 20 June 2021

Time: 10.15am - 12.30pm

Sessions start: Sun 27 June 2021
Every Sunday, 10.15am - 12.30pm

Venue: JPll hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup
or enquire at rciy@sfxchurch.sg

RCIA journey (24 years old and above)

Sessions start: Tue 6 Jul 2021

Every Tue, 8pm - 10pm

Venue: JPll Hall

Register: tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup
or enquire at rcia@sfxchurch.sg

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**.

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**).

9-DAY NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join our Charismatic prayer group and Intercessory prayer ministry from **12 - 21 May, 8pm - 9pm** as we pray a 9-day novena to the Holy Spirit to prepare for Pentecost. There will be **no session on 17 May**.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
854 3433 9146
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



ONLINE ROSARY

Come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings

WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary

Date & Time: Mon to Fri (except Public Holidays), 3pm

Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708

No passcode required

EVENING ROSARY DEVOTION

tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp

Date & Time: Mon, Wed & Sat - 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 984 7131 7782

Password: 172017

ROSARY BY SALT

tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary

Date & Time: Tuesdays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234

Password: 465481

SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS

bit.ly/SundayRosary

Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm

Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379

Password: 305946

PHASE 2 Heightened Alert Updates



Due to the increased number of Covid-19 community cases, stricter safety measures have been imposed and announced by the Covid-19 Multi-ministry Taskforce. This means that all Masses for the period of **16 May to 13 June 2021** will be limited to only **50 persons per Mass**. In view of this reduced congregational size for Masses during the affected time frame, please note the following changes in our Parish:

1. CANCELLATION OF ALL SUNDAY MASSES ON 16 MAY

All physical Masses for this Sunday 16 May will be cancelled. Under the revised Phase 2 heightened measures, parishes would need time to implement the revised measures required by MCCY and for the Mass re-bookings to take place. We would like to encourage parishioners to attend online Masses instead for this Sunday at www.catholic.sg/mass.

2. REBOOKING OF MASSES

It will take place this **Sun 16 May, 12pm** at <https://mycatholic.sg>. All Mass bookings are to be done via MARS and no walk-ins are allowed for all Masses. **The date for the fourth and fifth bookings for weekend Masses in May remains unchanged on Tue 18 May at 12pm**, subject to availability.

3. CHANGE OF MASS VENUE

Our Main Church will be closed and all Masses from **17 - 31 May** will be held at JPII Hall. **Check in will be at The Plaza (outside JPII Hall).** No walk-ins are allowed for all Masses. Please promptly leave the premises once mass is over.

4. COLUMBARIUM VISITS & CONFESSION

Both will be suspended until further notice.

Please see a doctor promptly and stay home if you are feeling unwell. Let us cooperate with our volunteers and keep our parish community safe!

Follow us on our SFX social media and Telegram Channel for the latest updates: <https://t.me/sfxchurch>



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

*"We are faced
not with two
separate crises, one
environmental and
the other social,
but rather with one
complex crisis which
is both social and
environmental."*

Pope Francis



*"for we know that things
can change"*

(LS 13)

16-25 May 2021



Laudato Si' Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis' world-changing papal encyclical letter, *"Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home."*

The encyclical has helped the world's 1.3 billion Catholics better understand that "everything is connected" and put millennia of Catholic teaching in the context of today's ecological crisis and climate emergency.

Pope Francis finished writing Laudato Si' on 24 May 2015, and one year later, thousands of Catholics united to celebrate the encyclical that had already spurred prayer and action for our common home.

Laudato Si' Week 2021, held 16 - 25 May, will be the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.

Laudato Si' Week 2021 will also be a time to reflect on what the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us and prepare for the future with hope.



Scan the QR Code to check out the video. Pope Francis invites you to celebrate the **#LaudatoSi6** Anniversary!

Join thousands of Catholics around the world and unite to protect our common home. Together, through action and faith, we can solve the ecological crisis. Learn more at www.laudatosiweek.org



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PROCLAIMING TRUTH, BEAUTY AND GOODNESS IN THE MEDIA?

As we grow, Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is open to people who would like to join us in building and edifying the church with your five loaves and two fishes in the areas of: Digital Design, Photography, Videography, Editing, Media. Email to find out more mmm@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)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Suspended until
further notice

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

Suspended until
further notice

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