



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,
Singapore 558758



Disciples *Making Disciples*



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151, cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

United with the Spirit in Prayer

Pentecost Sunday
23 May 2021

Ac 2: 1-11
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn 20: 19-23



*By virtue of our baptism,
we have already received
the gift of the Holy Spirit!
We need only seek him
who has already made
his home in us.*

The readings today establish the Cenacle on Mount Zion as the archetypal Church. A pattern of faith, prayer and good works enlivened by the transformative power of the Holy Spirit; a model of Church we ourselves should imitate. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI observes that the "Eucharist and Pentecost together are the origin of the Church. The Church can exist only because she is Christ's organism, because she comes from him. But she can exist only because this organism is animated by God's Spirit, also." (*Teaching and Learning the Love of God*)

This revelation brings greater significance to Christ's final words at the "Great Commission" where he commands us: "go, make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... *And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" (Mt 28:19-20)

Though Christ has ascended into heaven, his earthly mission continues through the Holy Spirit. **God thus continues to be present here, animating the Church – the living body of Christ.** God is present in the Eucharist (Christ's true flesh) and in the person of the Holy Spirit who continues to breathe life into the Church; sanctifying and enriching us with his virtues (St Basil the Great, *Liber de Spiritu Sancto*, IX, 22-23)

As co-constituents of this living organism that is the body of Christ, we are called to be Christ to the world, to

bear witness to the love of the Father! This requires **openness to the Holy Spirit's presence within us**; he who transforms us to God's will, he who *collects us*. Pope Emeritus observes:

"Only someone who is recollected can collect ... Someone who is torn, who lives superficially, is scattered amidst all the many distractions ... who has no interior unity... how is he, the unrecollected man, supposed to be able to collect? *Only someone who is recollected himself and has the habit of recollection can convey recollection to others, can radiate that peace and inner unity which in turn re-collects and unifies.*" (*The Eucharist and Pentecost as the origin of the Church*)

Before Christ's resurrection, the disciples, torn apart by fear, were scattered. Spiritually discombobulated, they returned to living lives incongruous with God's plan. They fled toward Emmaus (Lk 24), returned to their old lives (Jn 21), and even doubted the resurrection (Mk 16). It was **only through encountering the resurrected Christ that they were again recollected, both internally and as an assembly – gathered, collected, and in prayer, ready to receive the Holy Spirit.**

"Christ in man, draws man into himself" (Romano Guardini, *The Lord*) and thus to be recollected is intelligible to those in whom the Holy Spirit is dwelling, working, and transforming (Pentecost Sequence). Guardini adds, **"only he can understand Christ**

who lives in *That* which comes from Christ" – The Holy Spirit!

It may seem tautological to say that preparing a home for the Holy Spirit within necessitates recollection, that we are only recollected when we encounter the risen Christ within, and that we find Christ within only through the Holy Spirit working in us. But let us not forget that **by virtue of our baptism we have already received the gift of the Holy Spirit! We need only seek him who has already made his home within us (Jn 14:23). Seek him through Prayer.**

Blessed Francis Palau y Quer, OCD, tells us that the "Apostles, who were sent to preach and to teach all nations, acknowledged that the results of their preaching sprang from prayer more than from their words... Notice carefully that they say they would devote themselves first of all to prayer and only afterwards to the ministry of the Word. For they would never convert any nation until prayer had first obtained the grace of its conversion."

Following the example of the Apostles who prepared for the coming of the Holy Spirit with prayer, let us always remember to seek him within us, praying:

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth!"

Announcements

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

COLUMBARIUM VISITS & SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Both are suspended until further notice.

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 (**T08CC4033**).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

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: SFX28MAY



BAT: THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR OUR FOUR MARIAN DOGMAS - MARY'S ASSUMPTION, BODY AND SOUL

Why do Catholics believe that Mary was taken up, body and soul, to heaven? Did Mary die? Where is Mary's tomb? What is Mary's Dormition? Must Catholics believe in Marian apparitions?

Join SFX BAT online on **Sat 29 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



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Parish Office will be closed on Vesak Day, **Wed 26 May**.

CLOSED

JUNE MASS BOOKINGS

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

TUE 25 MAY, 12PM

Booking for a 1st weekend Mass*

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

CHANGE OF MASS VENUE:

Our Main Church will be closed and all Masses will be held at JPil Hall.

Things to note:

- **Only either the TraceTogether Token or App will be accepted for entry into SFX Premises.** Parishioners with tokens/batteries that are not working will be denied entry even if you have a valid booking.
- **Entry is via the Plaza (outside JPil 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 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.
- From June 2021, all bookings in MARS will come with a booking number. This will reduce the need for a Mass re-booking exercise should regulations change.

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: JPil 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: JPil Hall

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

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

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 "**T08CC4033**". 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**.

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Understanding the Power of the Holy Spirit

The celebration of Pentecost is a reminder of our need for the Holy Spirit. How often do you pray to and invite the Holy Spirit into your life? Jesus left us with the Advocate to help us grow in holiness, but many of us don't understand how to incorporate this aspect of the Holy Trinity in our day to day lives. The Spirit is here to empower, enlighten, and instruct us so that we may live out our faith in the everyday world. How and when do we call on him?



1. Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives. With this gift, we do not judge according to our superficial and egotistical criteria but with the criteria that we find in the Gospels.



what is good, what makes us happy, and what is most convenient for us. We are often confronted with important decisions in our lives and the lives of others. When they happen to ask our help, sometimes we don't know exactly what to think, what to say and even less how to act ... This is the precise moment when we should open up to the Holy Spirit that lives within us! With this openness, then we will be able to see, to give good counsel, and to know how to act.



2. Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message. How many times do we find ourselves complaining or thinking in our pews: the priest doesn't know how to give a good homily; it's too complicated; it's boring; I don't understand a thing. Then you stumble across a podcast that gives you insight, the Spirit is granting you understanding.

4. Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him. It helps us to see and discern



3. Knowledge is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us. With this gift, we come to know the true value of creation in relation to the Creator. This is important for all those times when we are surrounded by beauty, but we don't think of anything except ourselves.



5. Fortitude is the courage to do what one knows is right, especially when it comes to dealing with or overcoming life's difficulties or those moments where we must resist our internal passions and external pressures. One of the realities that is most evident in our human lives is the fact that we are fragile; yet it is there that we find God, and perceive just how much we need Him.

(continued on pg 4)



*Be sure to ask freely and expectantly, to ask the Lord to fill us with even more of his gifts so that we can better serve him.
Remember, God "does not ration his gift of the Spirit."
(John 3:34)*

6. Piety helps us pray to God in true devotion. It heals our heart of all types of hardness and allows it to be tender in relation to God and to our brothers and sisters. Many times I thought that being pious meant praying like the ladies that I saw praying in church. But, in so far as a gift of the Holy Spirit, it implies that we put ourselves in the shoes of another, to feel like he or she does. By loving others in the little things: by sharing a word of encouragement, by stepping outside of your comfort zone to help another, by no longer looking to prove that you are always right and the other wrong, etc. This is the path of love through which piety guides us.



7. Fear of the Lord is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose. It doesn't mean being afraid of God because he is some sort of avenger that is looking to punish. It means having a mature spirit that is aware of our guilt and of the weight of our sins; still it also means trusting in His Mercy. It means that we recognize the weight and

significance of our actions, especially those that separate us from Him. A great means of living out this gift is the frequent use of the sacrament of reconciliation when we need it.



Source: (Article adapted from catholic-link.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

**MASS ON PUBLIC
HOLIDAYS**
9am

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION**
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