



Disciples Making Disciples



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Dealing with rejection as God's prophets

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 Jul 2021

Ez 2: 2-5
2 Cor 12: 7-10
Mk 6: 1-6

The significance of today's readings may not be obvious, and might in fact be puzzling. But they speak directly about our role as Christians and what we must do. Two themes run through them: prophecy and rejection.

All Christians are called to be prophets, to bear witness to Christ and his teachings through the lives we lead. Prophecy is not always about foretelling the future but also about speaking the truth about God. This was precisely the task that God had for Ezekiel as recounted in the first reading: It was not an easy task as the Israelites were rebellious and had turned away from God. But God was very clear about what Ezekiel was to do. He did not ask the prophet to convert his fellow Jews against their will. His instruction was to proclaim God's message so that they know that "there is a prophet among them." The rest of the heavy lifting would be done by God, in his own way and time.

Ezekiel's prophecy foreshadowed that of our Lord whose coming offered us the hope of eternal life, and our own duty as Christians to spread the good news.

Just as with Ezekiel, our task is not to go out and win converts. God will not set us an impossible target. How do we spread the good news so that others know there is a prophet among them?

We do so best by being faithful witnesses to Christ through the lives we lead, placing God at the centre of what we do.

As prophets of our faith, we will face many obstacles and rejections, which is the theme of the Gospel reading. Jesus had returned to his hometown Nazareth whose people had already heard of his teachings and the miracles he had performed. You would have expected them to rejoice and embrace him as their Messiah. Instead he was mocked, insulted and rejected. The reading makes clear it wasn't because they did not believe reports of what he had done. "They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him?'" (Mk 6:2) Instead their issue was with accepting that such a lowly person, a carpenter and the son of Mary, can be their Saviour. Our Lord's response to their rejection is surprising but highly revealing. He said: "A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house." (Mk 6:4)

One interpretation is that their pride and envy got in the way, preventing them from accepting Christ despite evidence to the contrary. They just could not accept that someone they were familiar with, from such an ordinary background, could be their Lord and Master. This is a very human failing which we too should guard against. But the reading is also about faith and what it means.

Faith is not about believing something because you have seen it with your own eyes or about accepting the logic of someone's argument. "Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the

eyes of the mind, and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.'" (CCC153)

The people of Nazareth were not ready, and their response was a precursor to the rejection by the Pharisees who condemned Jesus to be tortured and killed on the Cross. As Christians, we know these rejections were part of God's plan to save us from our sins. Indeed, the Scriptures are replete with many instances of rebellion against God, and about his firm but patient way in dealing with them. His plan is unshakeable and his patience infinite. We too will face many obstacles, in our own internal struggles, and with the people around us. But if we understand how God intended our faith to work, we will be better able to overcome these adversities. Taken together these readings are an invaluable guide in our journey as God's prophets.



*"Faith is a gift of God,
a supernatural virtue
infused by him." (CCC 153)*

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 by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously.

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?

Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 9 Jul, 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: SFX9JUL



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic session via Zoom is on **Mon 5 Jul, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by Bible Sharing facilitated by Andrew Toh. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



MAIN GATE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION WORKS

Please note that the main gate of the Church at Chartwell Drive will remain closed for renovation works until **Tue 6 Jul, 7am**. During this time, there will be no access for pedestrians and vehicles.

The only access will be by the back gate at Cooling Close. This back entrance will be a two way avenue, so please avoid parking along this stretch. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. Thank you for your kind understanding.

JULY MASS BOOKINGS

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

Please note that from July 2021, we will be introducing the following:

- A cap of **five weekday Masses per booking**.
- Mass booking/cancellation will be **3 hours** before Mass. Do remember to cancel your booking if you are unable to attend.
- Masses for up to **180 persons** on **stipulated Saturdays 5.30pm** (*subject to individuals who have either completed the full vaccination regimen or undergone approved Pre-Event Testing [PET]*). More details below:

Tue 6 Jul, 12pm

Booking for a 2nd weekend Mass and all weekday Masses in July*

**subject to availability.*

Additional Mass at JPil Hall

Hari Raya Haji: Tue 20 Jul, 9am (*no evening mass*)

MASSES FOR UP TO 180 PERSONS

Masses for up to 180 persons will be held in the **Main Church** on the following **Saturdays at 5.30pm**:

- **Sat 17 Jul:** 100 persons
- **Sat 24 Jul:** 100 persons
- **Sat 31 Jul:** 180 persons

Please note the following:

1. Individuals must undergo **PET*** or have completed **both doses of the Covid-19 vaccinations****
2. **Results from self-test kits will not be accepted.**
3. Test results are only valid for **24 hours** – that is from the time an individual registers at the testing premises for the test.
4. Parishioners are to ensure that the result of the test is valid until the end of the Mass that he/she is attending.
5. **All PET must be done by individuals on their own before they attend Mass.**
 - Parishioners will need to have a test report showing they are Covid-free from an approved MoH service provider taken less than 24 hours from end of Mass time.

* Under MOH guidelines, accepted PETs are the approved Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test (ART) or the Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR) which must be administered by an approved test provider.

** Persons are deemed to have completed their Covid-19 vaccinations only 14 days after they received their second dose. **The vaccinations refer only to Pfizer or Moderna jabs.** Sinovac vaccine is currently not under the MOH's list of vaccines recognised. Those who have completed their Covid-19 vaccinations will be required to show proof via their Trace Together token or app.

Failing the above criteria, parishioners will be turned away from these Masses.
For more information, please visit www.catholic.sg/resumption-of-mass32 or more details on PET at www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet

MASSES FOR UP TO 50 PERSONS (JPil HALL)

All Masses aside from the three stipulated Saturday evening Masses mentioned above, will be capped at 50 persons.

- For these Masses, pre-event testing is not required.
- All parishioners are welcome for these Masses, regardless of whether you have been vaccinated or not.
- For persons who have not been vaccinated, including families with young children, you are encouraged to continue to attend Masses under this category.

Things to note for ALL Masses:

- Do stay at home if you are unwell or at high risk.
- Entry via the Plaza (outside JPil Hall) except for the stipulated Saturday Masses. Registration starts **50 minutes** before Mass and ends **10 minutes** after Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

ONLINE MASS BROADCAST

Due to the reduced capacity of 50 persons per Mass, you can tune in to the Archdiocese Daily Mass broadcast via [Youtube.com/CatholicsSg](https://www.youtube.com/CatholicsSg)

Weekdays: 12noon

Sundays & Public Holidays: 10.30am



MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT: AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP

We are all called to be disciples of Jesus, though sometimes, it feels like we are just his fans, much like the crowd in a football stadium. We merely admire Jesus but are not ready to take up the cross and follow him. Come away, reflect and pray in this Authentic Discipleship retreat for the freedom and courage to be true disciples of Jesus.

Online webinar sessions

Mon 19 Jul, Thu 22 Jul, Mon 26 Jul,
Thu 29 Jul, 8pm - 9.30pm

Recollection at Monfort Centre
Sat 31 Jul, 9am - 7pm

Register at www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/authentic-discipleship

CPS LUNCHTIME ZOOM TALK: AM I READY FOR MISSION?

The pilgrim Church is missionary by Her nature, and I am part of Her. What does mission mean? Is everyone called to one? How do I know I am ready?

Dates: Mondays 5, 12, 19 & 26 July

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Registration is required. Register by scanning the QR code or use this link <https://tinyurl.com/ytwmsdk7>



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**.

A CALL TO TEACH IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Attention all MOE educators! If you are interested in answering the call to teach in a Catholic School, or if you want to receive news and resources about Catholic education, join the mailing list and fill up the form accessible via the QR code. The Archdiocesan Commission for Catholic Schools (ACCS) has compiled a list of vacancies in our Catholic schools in 2022. ACCS will email you the instructions to access this list.



ACCS: Primary One Registration Phase 2B (26 & 27 Jul)

Calling all Catholic parents whose children are ready for Primary One. Priority for registration under Phase 2B is for a child of a baptised Catholic parent.

Requirements:

- One parent has to submit the baptism certificate as evidence of Church membership.
- If the Baptism Certificate is not in English, it is mandatory to have it translated into English and certified by a parish priest in Singapore or a notary public.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

UNIVERSAL: SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

IN THE MONTH OF JUN 2021

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. John Liauw Wei Sheng Javier & Melly
2. Gareth Alexius Tan Yuan Zhe & Patricia Pang Jing Xuan
3. Lee Chong Jin Justin Triverius & Lim PeiRong Brina

CONDOLENCES

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

1. Tay Chay Sen Norman
2. Cecilia Wee



Saints are the heroes of the Catholic faith. They inspire us with their lives and holiness as they dedicate themselves to serving God and spreading His message of salvation. Today, more than ever, the saints serve as examples for all of us, showing us how to lead a more spiritual life in communion with our Lord. The month of July has many saints with fascinating stories. Part of what separates saints from the rest of us is their humble ability to learn from their failings and their willingness to keep serving the Lord in spite of them. May we all learn how to keep moving forward, no matter what!



Saint Augustine Zhao Rong and companions

This feast day on 9 July commemorates 120 martyrs, 87 native Chinese and 33 Western missionaries. The one saint the Church names on this feast is Saint Augustine Zhao Rong. Like so many other saints, he began his professional life as a soldier. As part of his military duties, Augustine was assigned to escort a French priest in China. The priest's holy example made such a deep impression on Augustine that he decided to convert to Catholicism. After his baptism, he entered the seminary and became Father Augustine. His priestly ministry was short lived. Father Augustine was jailed, tortured, and left to die in prison during the reign of an emperor insanely hostile to Christianity and to Chinese priests in particular. Numerous other Chinese and foreigners were swallowed up in the same persecution along with Father Augustine. All refused to apostasize and many were atrociously tortured.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

On 14 July, the Church celebrates the feast day of St Kateri Tekakwitha, Kateri was a Native American born in 1656. As a teenager she became a Catholic even though her family and friends were against the idea. When her life became hard, she turned to God in prayer. She focused on helping others, sharing stories about Jesus and doing everyday chores as acts of love.



Saints Anne and Joachim

The Church celebrates the feast day of Saints Anne and Joachim on 26 July. They both lived in Nazareth, a small village in Galilee. Though happily married, their one great sorrow was that they had

no children. Having no children was not only a hardship for Anne and Joachim, but it was a source of shame, since children were considered a blessing from God. One day, after Joachim heard the neighbours making fun of him and Anne for being childless, he went out into the desert to pray for a child. Anne remained at home, dressed in mourning clothes and weeping in sadness. A servant girl, seeing her distress, reminded Anne to put her trust in God.

Both Anne and Joachim were assured by angels that God would bless them with a child who would be known throughout the world. Anne and Joachim placed their faith in God. Anne gave birth to Mary, who was to become the Mother of Jesus! Anne and Joachim remind us that we need to trust in God always.

Saint Ignatius Loyola

On 31 July, the Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Ignatius Loyola. Ignatius Loyola was born in Guipúzcoa, in northern Spain. He was the youngest of thirteen children. His family was wealthy, and his father was a nobleman. While recovering from his injuries, he read 2 books about the life of Jesus Christ and lives of the saints. These inspired him to devote long hours in prayer and to caring for the sick. He wrote a book called The Spiritual Exercises to help people become more like Christ. He founded a religious order called the Society of Jesus, which soon came to be known as the Jesuits.

Sometimes referred to as a "soldier for Christ," Saint Ignatius Loyola worked to strengthen the Kingdom of God on earth by trying to be like Christ in everything he did. He and the order he started were able to accomplish great things by focusing on this simple goal. The Spiritual Exercises that he wrote can help us to stay focused on this goal as well.



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

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tue & Fri: 4pm - 6pm
Sat: 10am - 12pm

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

Mon to Sat:

10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm
Booking via
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>

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. 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