



Disciples Making Disciples



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What is your mission?

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11 Jul 2021

Am 7:12-15

Ep 1:3-14

Mk 6:7-13

Reading today's gospel, I can't help but wonder, is it relevant to us in our modern times? Is Jesus really asking all of us to leave our jobs and families, to forgo all our essential items? Do we have to travel to far flung countries to tell strangers of God's love in order to be his disciples?

Perhaps that is our only idea of missionaries. Perhaps even, we may think that is the only way to be a good Catholic, and furthermore, feel guilty or unworthy for having fallen short of the gold standard.

It is not so.

St John Paul II exhorts us in *Christifideles Laici*, the laity — the non-Religious and non-Consecrated common folks — are also sharers of Jesus' mission. "The Church, in fact, lives in the world, even if she is not of the world. She is sent to continue the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which by its very nature concerns the salvation of humanity... Certainly all the members of the Church are sharers in this secular dimension but in different ways." (*Christifideles Laici* 15)

Lumen Gentium (31) also affirmed that the laity are called to "seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering these in accordance with the will of God."

"Their own field of evangelizing activity is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics,

but also the world of culture, of the sciences and the arts, of international life, of the mass media. It also includes other realities which are open to evangelization, such as human love, the family, the education of children and adolescents, professional work, and suffering." (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 70)

The many exhortations flowing from The Second Vatican Council is clear: our mission remains as long as we are Christians. Therefore, "the lay faithful are invited to take up again and reread, meditate on and assimilate with renewed understanding and love, the rich and fruitful teaching of the Council which speaks of their participation in the threefold mission of Christ." (*Christifideles Laici* 14)

Today's gospel highlights three things. First, is the sense of purpose and mission in our lives. Are our hearts ordered towards raising physically and emotionally healthy children, practising kindness in the workplace, and labouring for a just society etc? Or are we merely concerned with our own welfare, climbing the corporate ladder, and preoccupied with our own self-care while ignoring the intangible needs of our family members? Is it right to pray for blessings and success if our hearts and minds are not given over to the mission of love?

Secondly, the gospel highlights a radical dependence on God. The disciples did not plan beforehand where exactly to sleep or where their food would come from. Similarly, we are called to the same kind of radical dependence even though we seemingly have more control over our possessions. Even in our financial management, how should we be guided by the wisdom of God? Are there fears and insecurities within us masquerading as prudence and responsibility?

Finally, God calls us to a certain detachment from things of this world.



*"Faith is strengthened
when it is given to others!"
(Redemptoris Missio 2)*

If a place does not welcome us, we are told to shake the dust off our feet and not to cling to anything we have left behind. This requires a total surrender to the ways of God. We are to cultivate an interior disposition of utter freedom even as we have all our possessions at our disposal. This is precisely the spiritual poverty that makes the children of God rich in the kingdom of heaven (Mt 5:3).

St John Paul II expounds in *Redemptoris Missio* on the permanent validity of the Church's missionary mandate. He says: "missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!" Leaving a job and family to bring the Good News to foreign lands is hard. Navigating the complicated secular world and bringing the gospel values to these spheres is also hard. But take heart, for Jesus has overcome the world (Jn 16:33). May we be undaunted by the mission that God has called each of us to.

Announcements

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

SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$3,162.05** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

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 16 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: SFX16JUL



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic session via Zoom is on **Mon 12, Jul, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'The Mountain is You!' by Delphine Ang. All are welcome.

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



JULY MASS BOOKINGS

ALL MASSES ARE FULLY BOOKED

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 13 Jul, 12pm

Booking for a 3rd weekend Mass and all weekday Masses in July*
*subject to availability.

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 & 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. Test results are only valid for **24 hours** – that is from the time an individual registers at the testing premises for the test.
3. Parishioners are to ensure that the result of the test is valid until the end of the Mass that he/she is attending.
4. **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.
5. **Results from self-test kits will not be accepted.**

* 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 (JPPII 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:

- Do stay at home if you are unwell or at high risk.
- 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.
- With effect from **Wed 21 July** onwards, individuals will be able to make a **one-time change** of their Parish Church via mycatholic.sg under their myProfile page.

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**.

ONE: 2021 NEW EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE

Join us at this virtual conference to learn how we can live the life that we are called to. Learn from our speakers what it means to evangelise in this world and join our breakout sessions to be inspired as our presenters share how they integrate evangelisation into their work, family, and life. Find out more at bit.ly/NEC24July2021 and register now!

Date: Sat 24 Jul
Time: 10 am - 4pm



CATHOLIC200SG: COME & DISCERN WITH US

A jubilee celebration is a key moment of discernment. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Archdiocese, join us in a meaningful spiritual exercise to reflect on our Catholic faith, and how our faith journey has been thus far. Centred on the Catholic200SG prayer, this spiritual exercise consists of 3 sessions conducted on Zoom. Simply have a journal, a bible and a cross to discern with us. Weekday and weekend sessions are available. To secure a spot, please register via the given links to receive a confirmation email with the Zoom details.

Weekday run

Wed: 21 Jul, 28 Jul, 4 Aug (8pm - 10pm)

Register for Wednesday: <https://tinyurl.com/discerntogetherWed>

Weekend run

Sat: 31 Jul, 7 Aug, 14 Aug (9am - 11am)

Register for Saturday: <https://tinyurl.com/discerntogetherSat>

HOW TO EVANGELISE? GO FISH-ING!

We often hear our Catholics bemoan that while they are aware of the need to evangelise, there is little clarity on how to go about it. Let us look at the 'hows' of sharing one's faith with others. There are two aspects to evangelisation.



WITNESSING WITH OUR LIVES

We want the people in our lives to hear the Good News that they are loved and saved by God. Witnessing to this divine offer means living the kind of life that gives others a glimpse into what a relationship with this amazing God looks like. God's deepest desire is for us to be in perfect union with Him. It affects the way we work, play, make decisions and relate to others - all because our orientation is to do all things pleasing to God. When others see how joyful and loving we are despite life's challenges, they will be curious and are attracted to find out more.

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

While it is important to live our faith in an open and consistent manner to the people around us, we must also look out for opportunities to proclaim the Good News in ways our friends can understand and act upon. To proclaim the Good News is to speak about the message of Jesus Christ, God who became man to reach out and heal us of our sins and brokenness. It is passing on Jesus' message to others that we were made to dwell in God's kingdom and to teach them how to live the Christian life when they are ready to decide to follow Christ.

"To proclaim the Good News is to speak about the message of Jesus Christ, God who became man in order to reach out and heal us of our sins and brokenness."

How Can We Witness And Proclaim Effectively?

*In the gospels, Jesus promised to make his disciples 'fishers of men.' As we live out our calling as evangelisers, we would like to propose the acronym **F.I.S.H.** as a simple 4-step way to lead others to faith.*

► Be a **FRIEND** to others

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me something to drink." (Jn 4:7)

Befriending others allow us to truly listen to their joys and pains in life. If we are genuine, it may lead to an open door for us to share about the way our faith in Jesus influences the way we deal with our own joys and challenges. This gives them an opportunity to consider an alternative way of navigating through life.



► **INITIATE** meaningful conversations

He said to them, "What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?" (Lk 24:17)

Initiate conversations that lead people to think about the world through the eyes of faith. A good conversation is two-sided and informal; the key to a good conversation is asking good questions. Example of questions that open the door to further spiritual conversations might be along the lines of: What do you believe about God? Do you ever think about why

you do that? How do you find the strength to love your parents/spouse/kids? Be a good listener and never marginalise their views. Remember that spiritual conversations can lead to spiritual conversions.

► **SHARE** the Good News at every opportunity

Simply proclaim the Lord Christ holy in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Pet 3:15)

We share this because of how much God has loved us and we want to love God by loving others. However, we want to be prudent in how we do our sharing. We speak from the position of our own experience and our beliefs, allowing our listeners to ask questions and to decide for themselves.



► **HELP** the other person on the journey

Remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.' (Heb 13:2)

After sharing the Good News with others, help them take the next small step. This might mean offering to take them to church, inviting them

to your Christian community or helping them sign up for RCIA. If they decide they are not ready to take the next step yet, continue to journey with them and look for more opportunities to invite them to faith.

Our lives are shaped and informed by our Christian faith and values. It is our mission to live a life that reflects the light of Christ to others. Start by taking an interest in the lives of others, learn to listen, care and serve others especially those who are marginalised. Then learn to pray for them, entrusting them to God. Remain open and be led by the Holy Spirit. You will live a life of evangelisation - witnessing and proclaiming Jesus to others!

Source: The WWWH of Evangelisation via <https://one.org.sg/>



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