



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Recollected with Christ our Shepherd

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 Jul 2021

Jer 23:1-6
Eph 2:13-18
Mk 6:30-34

Following last Sunday's gospel in which Jesus sends the Apostles out to preach repentance and cure the sick (Mk 6:7-13), today's gospel describes the Apostles returning to report all they had done. Rich with symbolism, today's Gospel poignantly imparts three key revelations: (1) the importance of being **recollected** with Christ; (2) to seek **intimacy** with Him; and (3) to find Him, our **Shepherd**.

Recollected with Christ – Going away to a lonely place

The concept of "work-life balance" is modern-man's aspiration. The idea that the toils of daily life should be adequately balanced with rest, relaxation and recreation. However, have we considered that even our spiritual selves - our souls - likewise require rest? A time to be with God in a lonely place; spiritually fed, recharged, renewed.

Jesus instructs the Apostles – to come away alone; away from the distractions of the world to find rest and be **recollected with Him**. Notice that Christ did not respond to their hunger by offering food. Nor did Christ offer corporeal rest and relaxation. Instead, Christ offers the Apostles something far more important and valuable - *His presence among them in a lonely place*.

Like the Apostles, we too are wearied and tired from all our comings and goings of daily life. Yet Christ ever at the door of our hearts, gently knocks



"Like the Apostles, we too are wearied and tired from all our comings and goings of daily life. Yet Christ ever at the door of our hearts, gently knocks and invites us to come away with Him to a lonely place, away from the shore of the world."

and invites us to come away with Him to a lonely place, away from the shore of the world - *That we may bask in the presence of God and be recollected with Him who is the source of our every coming and going; to draw strength from intimacy with Christ.*

Intimacy with Christ – Seeking Christ upon the Boat

The Boat is the premier symbol of the Church (*Apostolic Constitutions* II, LVII) and thus takes on a deeper meaning, for it is used to transport Christ and His apostles to the lonely place. Not only is the boat (ie the Church) the abode of Christ on Earth, she is also the vehicle to that "lonely place".

Perhaps sensing this, the townsfolk left their homes and hurried towards Christ. Like us they had their own lives to live, but recognised Jesus as the true shepherd who alone could bring them to pasture. Seeing Him depart on that Barque - which is the Church - they too desired to go away to be recollected with and find intimacy with Him.

Do we, like the townsfolk, zealously seek intimacy with Christ? Even amid our toil, do we recognise his presence in our midst? Notice that the townsfolk remain ashore, suggesting that they have yet to enter into deeper union with Christ; they desired to be with Him but are ashore, off the boat, in the world. We on the other hand, by virtue of our baptism are already in

the boat with Christ. However, we find ourselves occasionally distracted by the world, gazing at and longing to be ashore, forestalling greater intimacy with Christ in the boat.

Finding our Shepherd – Becoming His Sheep

We may even be so distracted by our own comings and goings that we leave the boat to engage in other matters on the shore. We forgo the necessity of being recollected, we eschew intimacy with Christ for 'more pressing matters' of livelihood. But we forget that Christ our Good Shepherd has already set the path straight for His Sheep - only sheep without a shepherd need worry for their own survival, need concern themselves with matters beyond them.

Christ was so moved by the shepherdless townsfolk that He stepped ashore to minister to them which directly alludes to His incarnation to free us from sin. Again, by virtue of our baptism we already have Christ as our Shepherd, entitled to a place on the boat. The question now is whether we are willing to become His sheep - be detached from the world that we may be more conscious of His presence in the Boat with us; seeking Him daily; desiring to be recollected with our Shepherd.

Announcements

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

GIFT COLLECTION



This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese.

Scan to watch the video on how our Church has continued to carry out Her mission despite the pandemic.



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 23 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: SFX23JUL



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic session via Zoom is on **Mon 19 Jul, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Life on Wings' by Edmund Ang. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 836 3543 9497
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



COLUMBARIUM VISITS AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Please note that both will be closed on Hari Raya Haji, **Tue 20 Jul**.

CLOSED

ALL JULY MASSES ARE FULLY BOOKED! Tue 20 Jul, 12pm

Booking for a 4th weekend Mass and all weekday Masses in July*

**subject to availability.*

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

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:

MASSES FOR UP TO 180 PERSONS

Masses 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

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

- 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.
- 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**.



YOUNG STEWARDS CONFERENCE: (RE)CLAIMING OUR GIFT OF FAITH

Come discover how to nurture your God-given gifts and unite with fellow young adults in the Catholic community via this virtual conference.

Date: Sat 14 Aug
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Register: tinyurl.com/youngstewardsconference



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.

Date: Sat 24 Jul
Time: 10am - 4pm
Register: bit.ly/NEC24July2021



CARITAS SINGAPORE & CHARIS: IGNITUS! SOCIAL MISSION WITH LOVE

An online event jointly organised by Caritas Singapore and CHARIS as part of Catholic200SG. Join us on **Sat 4 Sep, 9am - 6pm** to learn more about the social mission of our Catholic Church these past 200 years. Discover how our Church helps those in need, the vulnerable and marginalised. Find out more at www.bit.ly/IGNITUS.



WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings Singapore presents Returned!, a testimony event on Zoom. If you are exploring a reconnection with the Catholic faith, we welcome you to join us on **Sat 14 Aug, 10am - 12pm**. What to expect:

- Testimonies by Landings participants
- Understand how Landings works

Scan the QR Code in the poster or register for the Returned! event at <https://bit.ly/35jTpZm>. After Returned!, Landings Singapore will start a 10-week programme on **Tuesdays (8pm to 10pm)** commencing on **14 Sep - 16 Nov**. There will also be a virtual retreat conducted over one of the weekends. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to register. More details to follow for the registration for the 10-week programme.

For more information, please email singapore@landings.org.sg or visit www.landings.org.sg.



CATHOLIC 200SG COLLECTIVE DISCERNMENT

COME AND 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.

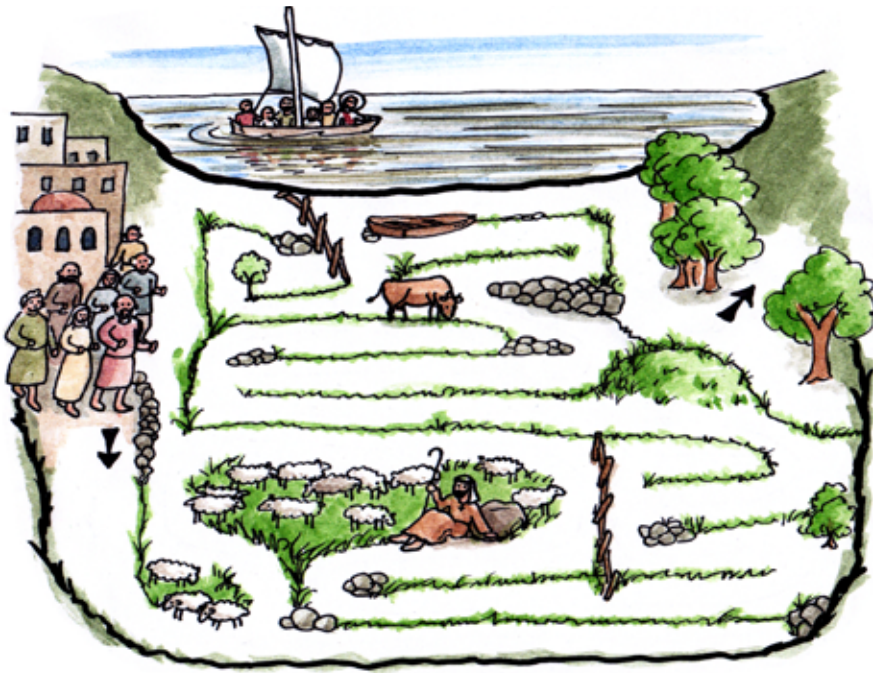


Register for Wednesday:
<https://tinyurl.com/discerntogetherWed>



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

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus wanted to take the tired apostles across the lake to rest in a quiet place. But the people saw where Jesus was going and ran ahead. See if you can find their path through the maze.



Source: <https://thekidsbulletin.com/>



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

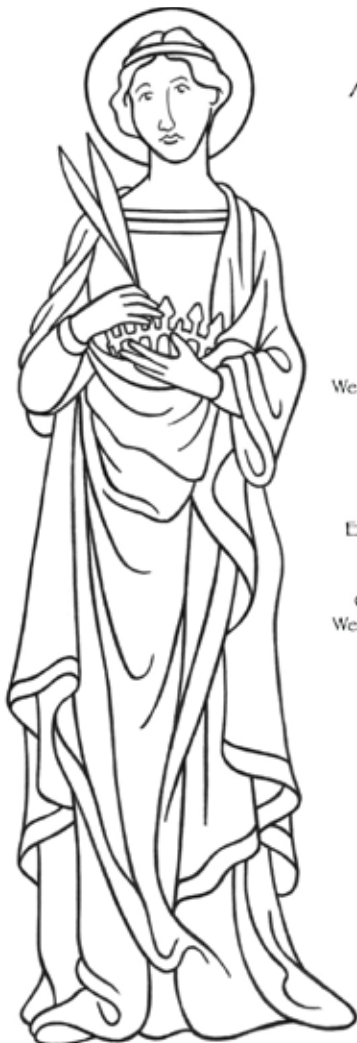
Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

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



A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.

Saint Corona, pray for us!

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.

Source: www.thecatholickid.com

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg