



## Disciples Making Disciples



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## The Lord Provides

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Aug 2021

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15  
Eph 4:17, 20-24  
Jn 6:24-35

While the Israelites were heading towards the Promised Land, they grumbled about their hunger saying they would rather remain and die in Egypt, eating "bread to our heart's content" instead of following Moses (Ex 16:3). The Israelites had forgotten the love God had bestowed on them in rescuing them from the harsh slavery of Pharaoh. Despite their complaints, God promised he would provide bread from heaven and indeed, the Israelites found "a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground." (Ex 16:14) Moses told them, "That... is the bread the Lord gives you to eat." (Ex 16:15)

In last week's Gospel, although there were only five loaves and two fishes, Jesus miraculously multiplied them to feed a crowd of five thousand. In today's Gospel, we see the same crowd seeking out Jesus and wanting to follow him but were met with Jesus' disappointment. Jesus asked why they refused the signs [of his divinity] but preferred instead the bread he multiplied. He told them not to work for food that perishes but for the food that endures to eternal life. The crowd were like the Israelites in the desert – they were concerned only with their physical needs.

Nevertheless, although Christ has advised us not to seek for the food that perishes, it is only human for us to want to satisfy our natural appetite.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to trust in him especially when it

comes to our basic needs of survival. "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], ...Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they?" (Mt 6:25-26, 31-32). Many saints have witnessed miracles of God's providence. Saint Teresa of Calcutta had immense trust in God's providence. She said, "Every day God works for us true miracles, we realise them concretely. If it wasn't for these everyday wonders, we couldn't go any further, we couldn't do anything."

Despite the call to trust in God's providence, Scripture also seems to present it otherwise. St Paul wrote, "...if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat." (2 Th 3:10) In Genesis, God told Adam after he had sinned, "You will have to work hard all your life to make it [the ground] produce enough food for you." (Gn 3:17)

As Christ's disciples, we are called to lead our life responsibly and not be like the prodigal son, who squandered his inheritance from his father. As written in 1 Peter, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Pt 4:10). Jesus also taught through the "Parable of the Talents" (Mt 25:14-30; Lk 19:11-27) that when we are blessed with gifts and talents, including wealth and time, we are not to squander them or use them only for ourselves but also to manage them responsibly so that we can use our gifts and talents to serve and build his kingdom. Perhaps this is what Saint Teresa meant when she said they "*realise* [God's miracles] concretely" – the nuns themselves make *real* God's miracles of their talents by serving others diligently



*"Every day God works for us true miracles, we realise them concretely. If it wasn't for these everyday wonders, we couldn't go any further, we couldn't do anything."  
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

and they use whatever is donated prudently – all for God's kingdom.

Yes, we are all called to trust in God's providence, but that does not mean that we do not work for our food. Our purpose of work is not merely to work for food "that cannot last" (Jn 6:27), but rather, in the work that we pursue, we are called to also sanctify the world through our gifts and talents. When we are blessed with wealth, we are called not to use them only on ourselves, we are also to bless those in greater need. When we experience lack, perhaps through unemployment, we are called to trust that God will provide. God gives us Jesus, "the bread of life" at every Mass (Jn 6:35), we can therefore trust that he will also provide for our physical needs.

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### 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).

### 1COR12 RETREAT INTERCESSORY

*'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.'* - Matt 12:49-50

As brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers in Christ, let us join in prayer with our Blessed Mother and St Joseph to 'Come and intercede for your children, our SFX youth and the young adults in the 1Cor12 Retreat from **6 - 8 Aug.**'

Be part of this Powerhouse of prayers for our SFX young people! They are the future of our Church!

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYER TIMINGS:

##### Fri 6 Aug 21

Led by Intercessory Prayer Ministry  
**8pm - 9.30pm**

##### Sat 7 Aug 21

Led by SaLT  
**9.30am - 11am, 2.30pm - 4pm,  
5pm - 6.30pm**

##### Sun 8 Aug 21

Led by Charismatic Prayer Group  
**10am - 11.30am**

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 814 8664 9850  
Password: SFX YOUTH



### ST FRANCIS XAVIER MAJOR SEMINARY DIOCESAN VOCATION RETREAT (ZOOM)

**How does answering God's call look like to you?** Come and discover how the Diocesan Priesthood is at the same time a life taken by God and a life of a gift to others on **6 - 8 Aug.** For more details, visit <https://seminary.catholic.sg/vocationretreat/>

## AUGUST MASS BOOKINGS

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

### Tue 3 Aug, 12pm

2nd booking for any weekend Mass\*

\*Weekday Mass bookings for whole of Aug are open throughout the month and subject to availability with a cap of five weekday Masses per booking.



#### Things to note:

- Mass bookings/cancellation will be **3 hours** before Mass. Do remember to cancel your bookings if you are unable to attend.
- Masses for up to **100 persons** on **Saturdays 5.30pm** (subject to individuals who have either completed the full vaccination regimen or undergone approved Pre-Event Testing [PET]).

Let us remain vigilant at all times and cooperate with our church volunteers to ensure that our parish community remains safe for all to come and worship.

### SFX BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM: THE MYSTERY OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis declared 2021 the year of St Joseph. Come join SFX BAT in a 3-part series of Zoom talks by Helen Chong on the mystery of St Joseph. Using Dr Brant Pitre's new study, we will explore the biblical and historical perspectives of St Joseph as:

#### PART I - The Hidden King:

Fri 6 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm

#### PART II - The Most Chaste Spouse:

Sat 7 Aug, 9am - 10.30am

#### PART III - The Shadow of the Father:

Sat 7 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm



#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 631 162 3232

No password required



### 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**.

### CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: SOWING SEEDS DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

We are called to bring Jesus to those around us. During these uncertain times while facing challenges and difficulties in our own daily lives, how can we fully respond to this call to sow seeds of faith and love to our neighbours?

**Dates:** 16, 23 & 30 Aug (Mondays)

**Time:** 12.30pm - 1.30pm  
(via Zoom)

**Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/3279k6m9>

(Registration is required)



### CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION (CAFE): METANOIA - A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST INTO CONVERSION

METANOIA - to repent, to change, to be converted. Come join CaFe through this 11-part series filmed on location in the Holy Land, to explore areas of our lives where conversion is so often necessary. Examine topics such as who Jesus is, what we must do to inherit eternal life, and many others. Be inspired to seek to encounter Jesus and the new life He is constantly inviting us to.

**Date:** 13 Aug - 22 Oct (Every Fridays)

**Time:** 8.30pm - 10pm (via Zoom)

For enquiries, please contact Theresa at 9730 6507

Please register via the QR code or link: <https://forms.gle/BKN1cAFa1W5HaGPAA>



## CATHOLIC200SG SFX INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Our parish will be leading an intercessory prayer session on Zoom, in conjunction with Catholic200SG. Come join us online on **Tue 17 Aug, 8pm** as we pray for the 200th anniversary of the Catholic Faith in Singapore, that God's love and grace may ignite our hearts and lead us to launch a new era of faith, so that once again we may be a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Do invite your family and friends!

### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 944 2696 7285  
Password: Faith200



### HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

#### EVANGELISATION: THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

### IN THE MONTH OF JUL 2021

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Song Wei Hao Leonard Marc & Chua Sze Min Melissa
2. Fabian Wee Liang Hao & Neo Qian Hui
3. Ong Ju Tsiang Jonathan & Lee Kee Hui Felicia
4. Matthew Gregory Zhi-Lun Verkaik & Victoria Wee Zi Yin

#### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Mrs Cecilia Chua nee Cecilia Cheng
2. Lee Hock Kee
3. David Theresa nee Joseph Theresa
4. Francis Lee Teng Sai

#### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Chua Rui Ying Anna
2. Olivia Jane Foo Ling Ying
3. Ariel Grace Tay
4. Holly Rei Chan

## 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)** from **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](mailto:singapore@landings.org.sg) or visit [www.landings.org.sg](http://www.landings.org.sg).

## FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

### WATCH

#### COMPANIONS IN SHIPWRECK

Good relationships are a vital part of human well-being. In fact, studies show that those with the healthiest relationships live the longest! But where can we see these friendships

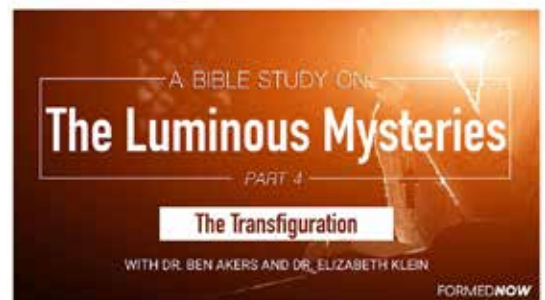


lived out? Look no further than the life of famed author J.R.R. Tolkien. The relationships he exhibited are a wonderful example for all of us to follow, especially with those we may disagree with. As Tolkien described marriage, it's all about being "companions in shipwreck." <https://watch.formed.org/companions-in-shipwreck-1/videos/companions-in-shipwreck>

### LEARN

#### A BIBLE STUDY ON THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES: THE TRANSFIGURATION

This week we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration, the mountaintop manifestation of Christ's glory that we read about in the Gospel. As we recall this wondrous event,



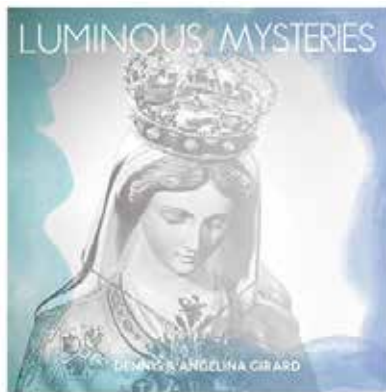
however, many questions might come to mind. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? Why did Jesus only bring Peter, James, and John? Hear the answers to these questions and more in this episode of FORMED Now. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/a-bible-study-on-the-luminous-mysteries-the-transfiguration-part-4-of-5>



# LISTEN

## LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

The Transfiguration is part of the Luminous Mysteries, which were introduced to the Church in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II. These mysteries recall events that demonstrate the light of Christ during his public ministry. On this feast day, let us ponder this miraculous episode of Jesus' life by praying along with this recording of the Rosary.



<https://watch.formed.org/videos/luminous-mysteries-3>



## God Provides Bread word puzzle

John 6 24-35

Fill in the missing words.

Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the bottom.

The people came looking for Jesus after the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus said to them, "You are only looking for me because you  <sup>4</sup> the loaves and were filled. Don't work for food that perishes but for the  <sup>7</sup> that lasts for eternal  <sup>8</sup>." The people asked, "What can  <sup>11</sup> do to do the works of  <sup>6</sup>?" Jesus said to them, "This is the work of God, that you  in the one he sent." So they asked him, "What  <sup>9</sup> can you show us so that we can believe in you? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, like it is written in the Scriptures, "He gave them bread from Heaven to eat." So  <sup>3</sup> said to them, "It was not Moses who gave you bread from Heaven; my  <sup>10</sup> gives you the true bread from Heaven. The bread of God comes down from Heaven and gives life to the  <sup>5</sup>." So the people said to Jesus, "Sir, give us this  <sup>2</sup> always!"

Jesus said to them, "I am the

<sup>1</sup>  <sup>2</sup>  <sup>3</sup>  <sup>4</sup>  <sup>5</sup>  <sup>6</sup>  <sup>7</sup>  <sup>8</sup>  <sup>9</sup>  <sup>10</sup>  <sup>11</sup>



Source: The Kids' Bulletin



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)!

## Mass Timings

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:  
6.30pm

Fri:  
8pm

### WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset  
(VACCINATED/  
PET ONLY):  
5.30pm

Sun: 9am, 11am,  
1pm, 5.30pm  
(There is currently  
no Confession  
before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC  
HOLIDAYS  
9am

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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)