



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

Jesus – Bread of Life for Unity & Eternity

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
8 Aug 2021

1 Kgs 19:4-8
Eph 4:30-5:2
Jn 6:41-51

Tomorrow we celebrate our country's 56th National Day! Majulah Singapura!

This year's theme, "Together our Singapore Spirit", zooms in on our shared values of hard work, care for each other, and commitment to love each other despite our racial and religious diversity.

Providentially, for us as Catholics, August is also a grace-filled month where the celebration of two major feasts awaken us to our Lord's gift of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. This share in the glory of the Trinity has been given us so that our perseverance may in turn inspire others to seek Christ.

Just two days ago, we celebrated the Transfiguration (6 August) – the manifestation of our Lord's glory ahead of his self-offering on the cross for our salvation; next Sunday (15 August) is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary wherein we are invited to have faith that just as God granted Mary the singular privilege to be "*kecharitomene*" – "full of grace", he also pours out the Holy Spirit unceasingly on us for our conversion, so that we, like our Blessed Mother, may one day be received into our Lord's heavenly glory.

The Transfiguration and the Assumption are therefore events manifested to buoy our faith: "Christ's Transfiguration aims at

strengthening the apostles' faith... Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: 'the hope of glory.'" (CCC 568)

In today's first reading, Elijah received supernatural food to sustain him for his forty-day walk to his blessed encounter at Horeb with God. We too, in the Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ's Body, receive supernatural bread to sustain us in the witnessing of our Christian life - never having grudges against others, losing our temper...calling each other names, or allowing any sort of spitefulness (Eph 4:31-32). This unity we live by is "The first and fundamental mission that we receive from the sacred mysteries we celebrate... We become witnesses when, through our actions, words and way of being, another [Christ] makes himself present." (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, Sacrament of Love, 85)

Our Lord has not left us on our own in calling us to be his witnesses. Throughout all of the gospel readings this August (from John 6), our Lord reminds us that he has united himself to us by taking on flesh and

becoming our "Bread of Life", our "living bread". In today's gospel, Jesus points out that the manna was a sign of his coming – he is the true bread "that came down from heaven", the Son sent by the Father (Jn 6:41,44). His purpose in coming was to grant eternal life to those who desire to be God's adopted children. Eternal life is a reality received when one "eats this bread...my flesh." (Jn 6:51)

In a 2004 talk, "Christians' Responsibility for Peace," Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (then Cardinal Ratzinger), said belief in eternal life did not mean "constantly dream[ing] only of the life to come". To have eternal life means living responsibly with God's judgment in mind, "It is precisely the one who spends his days exercising responsibility for eternal life who gives these days their full weight. We see this in the parable of the talents: the Lord does not summon us to a comfortable existence but to trade with our talents...the present age is the time for work...the great feast comes afterward."

Perhaps we can turn to Blessed Carlo Acutis as a contemporary example of living an eternal life here and now. He would have been 30 this year had he not died of leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006. Although just a teen, he was concerned for those whose parents were going through divorce. He loved the Eucharist. A year before he died, he completed cataloguing all the approved Eucharistic Miracles of the world into his website, miracolieucaistici.org – a venture he started when he was just 11. He faced death fearless, "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything displeasing to God."

May Blessed Acutis inspire us to cherish Christ's True Presence in Holy Communion and strive to live every minute as his witness so that Christ may be revealed to others.



"I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything displeasing to God."

-Blessed Carlo Acutis-

Announcements

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



WISHING ALL OUR
SFX PARISHIONERS A
Happy National Day!

SPECIAL NATIONAL DAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

Come join us in prayer for our country and our people on **Mon 9 Aug at 3pm via Zoom**. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708
No passcode required

COLUMBARIUM AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that both will be closed on National Day, **Mon 9 Aug**.

SSVP SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by the 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 Plaza. Please give generously.

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. Do invite your family and friends!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 944 2696 7285
Password: Faith200



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION: PRAYERS WITH MARY

Let us honour our Blessed Mother by gathering online as a family to pray the rosary as she has been exhorting us to do on this special feast day - **Sun 15 Aug, 8pm**. Led by the lectors, all are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 681 479 6504
Password: Rosary7



Blessed Sacerdotal Anniversary



FR BEN, FR CORNELIUS & FR GARCIA!

Today we pray in thanksgiving specially for our beloved shepherds - **Fr Ben, Fr Garcia and Fr Cornelius** who will be celebrating their sacerdotal anniversaries this weekend (**8/9 Aug**). We thank them for saying "yes" to the Lord and we pray that they will continue to be strengthened in their vocations and be good shepherds after the Lord's heart. May the good Lord bless them abundantly as they continue to serve him and his people with zeal, humility and love!

AUGUST MASS BOOKINGS

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

Tue 10 Aug, 12pm

3rd 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.

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:

- 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.
- Cheque** - Payable to 'Church of St Francis Xavier' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

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

An opportunity to unite in prayer as a family in Christ, to intercede for the youth/young adults in our various communities who will be in retreat from **6 - 8 August**. Please join us at any of the various scheduled timings, to pray for 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



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION: YOUNG STEWARDS CONFERENCE

The Catholic Foundation invites all fellow young adults in the Catholic community to come discover how to nurture your God-given gifts via this virtual conference.

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



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?

Date: 16, 23 & 30 Aug (Mondays)

Time: 12.30pm – 1.30pm

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

(Registration is required)

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, and 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 (Fridays)

Time: 8.30pm - 10pm

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

forms.gle/BKN1cAFa1W5HaGPAA

For enquiries, please contact Theresa at 9730 6507



LANDINGS: 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

Register for the Returned! event at <https://bit.ly/35jTpZm>. After Returned!, Landings Singapore will start a 10-week programme on **Tuesdays (8pm - 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.

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

CARITAS SINGAPORE: MODULE 5 OF MY PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS 2021 BY REV FR DAVID GARCIA, O.P.

Are there universal moral principles that can help human societies progress even at a time of great change like today?

The Catholic Social Teaching has been called the “best-kept secret of the Church” despite its practical nature. In this module on “Christians in the Social Community”, we will look at how the Church’s social teachings can be applied to a wide range of issues including fair wage, private property, political rules of engagement, the nature of business and economy, and other important social problems. Come and join us!

Dates: 19 Aug - 6 Oct (Thursdays)

Time: 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3xwb4cV>

For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

August, the month of the Immaculate Heart

The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

This devotion has received new emphasis in this century from the visions given to Sr Lucy Dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in her convent in Tuy, in Spain, in 1925 and 1926. In the visions Our Lady asked for the practice of the five first Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men. Our Lady explained those five first Saturdays to Sr Lucia in the following way:

“See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the first Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.”

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. Let us remember this devotion year-round, but particularly through the month of August.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus, your Son. Receive with understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you today, especially... (special intention).

We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen.





SaLT (Servants at the Lord's Table) turned four this year on 1 July and its members celebrated in full force, with a fun community bonding day out.

Sharon Woo from the Community Day organising committee said, "As we have not been able to meet face to face as a whole community for more than a year, this was our way of giving SaLT members and new enquirers a chance to re-connect in the flesh and immerse themselves in the fellowship aspect of our faith journey."

So, on the morning of 26 June, over 30 SaLTers met at SFX for the start of an outdoorsy and meaningful morning together, the main event of which was a Discovery Walk that sent seven groups of five members traipsing all over Church grounds, as well as parts of Serangoon Gardens, looking for answers to fun questions they had to answer.

Each SaLT team had its own moniker and they ran the creative gamut of Amigos, Blue Sky Sojourners, CIA (Christ is Alive), LEGGSS, Love Bugs, Ninjas for Christ and Salted Caramel Popcorn. Members also sportingly came dressed according to the theme of their team names, complete with ponchos, bug head bands and popcorn seller bow ties!

Fr Ben kicked off the event with prayers and blessings, including that of the 'birthday gift' for each SaLter - a personalised commemorative prayer bookmark and miraculous medal.

Fresh air and exercise notwithstanding, "It felt really good to connect with my fellow SaLTers again after so long," said Grace Cheong from Team LEGGSS. "We spent some time in small groups exploring our newly-renovated Church and discovering the history of Serangoon Gardens. Thank God for the grace of a little reprieve during the pandemic."

The sudden downpour mid-way through the Discovery Walk did not dampen any spirits. On the contrary, it fostered more camaraderie, as many SaLTers sought shelter at the nearby coffeeshops and bonded over hot kopi and delicious snacks.

SaLT enquirer Cynthia Chew said, "I'm so glad I finally joined SaLT and I look forward to the Bible sharing sessions each week. The sharing in my group, the formation talks, as well as the very fun and spirit-filled Community Day have really enriched and renewed my faith. I'm feeling blessed to be in this very warm and loving community."

For newly-elected SaLT Core Team member Andrew Toh, it was a most memorable and enjoyable day. "We finally met as a big group face to face, rekindled friendships and welcomed new SaLTers to our community. I'm looking forward to our next Community Day in 2022," he shared.

SaLT is a community of Christ's disciples, committed to knowing, loving and serving him and his people. Its mission - to be disciples making disciples.



Looking for more Information?
visit 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

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. Submit your envelopes at least one week 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