





## Disciples Making Disciples

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## We are all Bartimaeus

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Mission Sunday  
24 Oct 2021

Jer 31: 7-9  
Hebr 5: 1-6  
Mk 10: 46-52

We are all Bartimaeus!

At first sight, this might seem an odd thing to say. As recounted in today's Gospel reading, the man was a pitiful sight along the road from Jericho to Jerusalem when Jesus passed by heading for the Holy City. He was blind and a beggar. Yet, Mark's story speaks to each of us and our struggle with our own "blindness."

Unlike Bartimaeus who knew exactly what his defect was, too many of us fail to recognise our shortcomings and acknowledge that we are even blinder than Blind Bartimaeus.

What we cannot see is not the physical world but who we really are and what is important in our life. When we continue to seek earthly pleasures and pursue wealth and status single-mindedly, despite knowing that it will never give us true peace and happiness, our shortsightedness is blinding.

But we are also Bartimaeus because like him we often yearn for God's help. We know there is something missing in our life when we are apart from God and every one of us has at some time or other, like Bartimaeus, cried out: "Master, let me see again." (Mk 10:51) What we desire to see is a closer relationship with God so that we may truly understand his love for us and be better able to fulfil his will. We want our sight of God restored to what he originally intended when he created us in his image.



*"We know there is something missing in our life when we are apart from God, and every one of us has at some time or other, like Bartimaeus, cried out: 'Master, let me see again.'"*

Like Bartimaeus we want to throw off the cloak that weighs us down and gives false protection against the ills of the world. If we could only dispose of it the way Bartimaeus did, we would discard our old self and seek a renewed life as our Lord's disciple.

But do we have the courage to do so?

For Bartimaeus, wanting his sight back was the most natural thing for him to ask the Lord.

But our spiritual blindness may not be so obvious, especially when we are living too comfortable a life. It requires courage to reject our present life and transform it in the way Jesus wants us to do. Will we be prepared when he asks us, as he did Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Will we be as quick with our answer or are we more likely to hesitate and demur, unsure of what we want to give up?

Bartimaeus' life was completely changed when his sight was restored. We too must believe that when we are able to see God and what he wants for us, we will become transformed and see life in a new way.

What was it that Bartimaeus had which made him so ready for the Lord? Jesus knew the answer immediately when he said to him: "Go, your faith has saved you." (Mk 10:52) Faith is what enables us to see God. As explained in the

Catechism, "Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below. Then we shall see God 'face to face' as he is. So faith is already the beginning of eternal life." (CCC 163)

Our spiritual journey to come face to face with God is no different from the exiled Jews in the first reading. While they were looking forward to the end of the Babylonian exile, we struggle in the modern secular world with its earthly temptations and man-made problems. As exiles in this world, we too will find God by our side and his comforting words of hope and promise.

"They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble." (Jer 31:9) To hear these words, we have to respond with faith when Jesus calls us. As others notice our growing faith, Pope Francis says our persistent reliance on God becomes missionary - "a privileged occasion for anointing everything and everyone with the Spirit of the Lord." (Message for Mission Sunday)

Trusting in God's guidance, let us then not be afraid to admit that we are all Bartimaeus!

## Announcements

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

### MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

All Mass collections for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, will be set aside for the spread of the Gospel. The total amount collected will be placed at the disposal of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Mass collections received through PayNow, cash or cheques during the week 23rd to 29th Oct will constitute receipts for Mission Sunday.

### 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

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please submit your prayer request to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 29 Oct, 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: SFXIP29OCT



### TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance. The Finance Department will then provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number when making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

### ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST

Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Please update your address and any other details with the Parish Office or send an email to [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg).

## November Mass Bookings

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

### Tue 26 Oct, 12pm

1st booking for all weekday and weekend Masses\*

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

#### Fully Vaccinated/PET Masses (180pax):

- **Fridays:** 8pm • **Saturdays:** 5.30pm
- **Sundays:** 9am, 1pm

#### Things to note:

- All Masses will be held in the Main Church. Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.
- Vaccinated parishioners should refrain from booking unvaccinated Mass slots.

### MASSES FOR FULLY VACCINATED/PET INDIVIDUALS:

#### Admission Criteria:

✓ **Fully Vaccinated**  
14 days after 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna/WHO EUL vaccines.

✓ **TraceTogether**  
Check in via TraceTogether token/app.

✓ **Pre-Event Testing**  
Taken from MOH-approved test provider. No earlier than 23 hours before Mass.

✓ **Children aged 12 years and below**  
can participate in Pre-Event Testing (PET) or Vaccinated-only Masses. The total number of children allowed is no more than **20%** of worshippers present for the Mass.

✓ **Vaccination Proof**  
ONLY local vaccination certificates or Health Hub vaccination proof are accepted.

✗ **Other Vaccines**  
- Self-test Kit

For more information on the MOH guidelines, visit [www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet](http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet)



### ADDITIONAL MASSES: Deepavali (Thu 4 Nov)\*

- 9am (50 pax)
- \*no evening mass

### All Saints' Day & All Souls' Day

- 9am (50 pax)
- 6.30pm, 8.30pm (180 pax, Vaccinated/PET Masses)

## 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**.



### CATECHISM REGISTRATION

You can now register your child born between 2015 to 2017 for the K1, K2 and L1 Catechism session groups. Scan the QR Code to download and complete the registration form, and submit it together with a scanned copy of your child's baptism certificate to [catechism@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:catechism@sfxchurch.sg). Parents are expected to be present as catechists to journey along with their children. Registration closes on **Sun 14 Nov 2021**.

2022 Catechism sessions are held on Sundays at the following timings:

**K1 - L6: 3pm - 4.30pm**  
**L7 - L10: 2.45pm - 4.30pm**





## MENTAL HEALTH IN PANDEMIC TIMES: SOLIDARITY IN A COMMUNITY OF LOVE

Struggles with mental health conditions have become more difficult and widespread during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this, as part of the Creed on the Street series, Caritas Singapore (Young Adults) and Clarity Singapore are organising a virtual night of discussion for young adults to reflect on and discuss young adults' mental health concerns in the context of the pandemic and through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. Do sign up and join us!

**Date:** Tue 9 Nov

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9pm

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/3IEoUX9>



## CHRIST@WORK CONFERENCE

The biennial Christ@Work Conference returns with the theme, IGNITE Faith@Work, which is in line with the spirit of the Catholic200SG celebrations. Archbishop William Goh is the Keynote Speaker and ex-Cabinet Minister George Yeo will give the Afternoon Address. There will be 4 Panel Discussions featuring 16 Speakers. Watch our programme video here: [https://youtu.be/sLNk2Z\\_UsXQ](https://youtu.be/sLNk2Z_UsXQ).

**Date:** Sat 30 Oct

**Time:** 8.30am - 5.30pm

Register: <https://bit.ly/CBNChristAtWork2021Reg>  
Find out more at <https://bit.ly/CBNChristAtWork2021>

## FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE: THE JOY OF LOVE

*"Families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity."*  
*Amoris Laetitia by Pope Francis*

The Family Conference "Family Life: The Joy of Love" on **5 and 6 November**, is organised by Catholic Family Life with a mission to form, empower and restore individuals, couples and families to flourish in the intimate love of God.

The fully virtual conference is made up of 3 parts where professionals, teachers, social workers, any volunteers who work alongside families, as well as parents, will find resources that will support them in their journey to help form, empower and restore families. Find out more about the conference and register via [www.familylife.sg/GeneralRegistration](http://www.familylife.sg/GeneralRegistration)



# World Mission Sunday 2021

*'We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard' - Acts 4:20*

World Mission Sunday takes place on 24 October and encourages Catholics to stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in poverty, violence and oppression. Pope Francis says of the occasion: "Jesus needs hearts capable of experiencing vocation as a true love story that urges them to go forth to the peripheries of our world as messengers and agents of compassion".

We are invited to join our Holy Father in every way we can, through prayer, reflection, and donation to help missionaries worldwide continue their important work of bringing the good news of Christ to the ends of the world.

### Prayer for Peace Between People of All Faiths

Father of all goodness, mercy and love,  
You call people of all Faiths to live and work together  
for the coming of your Kingdom on earth.

Make us instruments of your peace,  
and cultivate in us the fertile seed of your healing love.

Create in us the spirit of understanding, acceptance,  
and respect for one another, irrespective of our differences.  
Stir within our hearts a renewed sense of reverence for all life.

Give us the vision to recognise your spirit in every human being,  
and help us to break the cycle of violence by realising  
that peace begins with me. Amen.



**Pope Francis calls us  
to renew our missionary  
commitment to share the  
Good News with all peoples.  
Through our prayers and  
donations, we:**

- help missionaries share the love of Jesus
- train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters
- give hope to the world's poorest children
- create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

# World Mission Sunday: Short Film

Missio offices from around the world have come together to create a short film for this year's World Mission Sunday.

This short film contains the voices of missionaries from more than 50 countries. The film, translated into more than 30 languages, features both lay people and religious, and is inspired by the Holy Father's theme for World Mission Sunday 2021: 'We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20).



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**  
5.30pm\*

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

\*Fully vaccinated/PET 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>



Fill in the missing letters. Then use the letters to fill in the blanks at the very end. The number at the end of each line tells you where the letter goes.

When the \_ \_ ord brought back (8)  
the captives of Z \_ on, (7)  
we were like men \_ reaming. (11)  
Then our mouth was \_ illed with laughter, (6)  
and our t \_ ngue with rejoicing. (17)  
Then they said among the n \_ tions, (3)  
"The Lord \_ as done (15)  
g \_ eat things for them!" (4)  
The Lord has done great \_ hings for us; (14)  
we are g \_ ad indeed. (9)  
Restore our fortun \_ s, O Lord, (5)  
l \_ ke the torrents in the southern desert. (13)  
Those that so \_ in tears (12)  
shall reap re \_ oicing. (16)  
Although they go forth \_ eeping, (1)  
carrying the s \_ ed to be sown, (2)  
They shall com \_ back rejoicing, (10)  
carr \_ ing their sheaves. (18)



## 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)