



Disciples Making Disciples



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Jesus, Ruler of my Life

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
31 Oct 2021

Deut 6:2-6
Heb 7:23-28
Mk 12:28b-34

Many of us have a life maxim or a philosophy that we live by. Perhaps something like "Family first", or "Health is Wealth", or maybe even "Carpe Diem (Seize the day!)" There were many laws in the Jewish tradition, 613 to be precise. But out of them all, which exactly is of utmost importance? Is there one that is absolutely above all others? That was the question of the scribe in today's Gospel.

Jesus directs us firstly to the Shema from Deuteronomy 6. This is a well-known and defining verse which distinguishes the Jews from all other peoples. Jesus does not give them something entirely new and foreign, but draws them back to the heart of all the other laws. Instead of negating the Old Law, this New Law that Jesus gives "'fulfills,' refines, surpasses, and leads the Old Law to its perfection." (CCC 1967)

Jesus continues, "The second is this, you shall love your neighbour as yourself." It is striking that these two commandments are not prohibitions (You shall not) but prescriptions (You shall), which we would need the help of the Holy Spirit to abide by: "The New Law is the *grace of the Holy Spirit* given to the faithful through faith in Christ." (CCC 1966) This kind of right living is reflected in everything - in our relationships with those closest to us, the movies or books we consume, our words in the comment box on social media, our behaviour and ethics at work etc. Indeed, we are called to reflect more deeply: how can I love the Lord better with all that



I am in every aspect of my life. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will do more than avoid wrong doings, we will live by doing good.

Furthermore, by answering the scribe's question with these two commandments, Jesus insists that loving others is as equally important as loving God, and suggests that there are no conflicts between the two. We could well argue that surely there would be some circumstances in which it is necessary to prioritise God over neighbour or vice versa, neighbour over God. If we see it as yet another requirement to fulfill to be good, it will fail us. We will try to find a thousand and one scenarios to put this principle to the test and see if it holds. When we do this, our inner disposition is one of a sceptic; we wonder in disbelief how it can be so simple and think that there must be a loophole somewhere. We may even use it as a justification for our unloving actions, that we are only trying to love God over neighbour or vice versa.

But if we take this as an invitation for deeper spiritual growth, our trust in God deepens even when we are torn between conflicting values of goodness. Submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit includes a radical acceptance of the consequences that

"The New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit given to the faithful through faith in Christ."

- (CCC 1966)



may result from loving and doing our best. Our inner disposition will then be one of surrender and humility, acknowledging that we may not have all the answers especially in grey situations where the most loving thing to do is not at all clear. But the grey areas are precisely where the Lord teaches us, refining our sensitivities and stretching us to hold polarities in tension.

"The New Law is called a *law of love*, because it makes us act out of the love infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than from fear; a *law of grace*, because it confers the strength of grace to act, by means of faith and the sacraments; a *law of freedom*, because it sets us free from the ritual and juridical observances of the Old Law, [and] inclines us to act spontaneously by the prompting of charity..." (CCC 1972)

If we live by any other maxim or life philosophy, we would be putting other things like family or health above God. As Christians, our lives should declare "The Lord our God is Lord alone!" May we find the grace and freedom to live out the New Law that Jesus gives every day.

Announcements

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the parish office will be closed on **Deepavali, Thu 4 Nov.**

EXTENDED HOURS FOR COLUMBARIUM VISITS

All visitors to the Columbarium are required to make an advanced online booking via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>. A maximum of **two people** are allowed per slot for a duration of **20 minutes**. All visitors are required to wear a mask, check in with TraceTogether app/token. If visitors are late for their booked timeslot, no additional time can be accorded. The Columbarium will be opened for the following time slots:

1 Nov - 3 Nov, 5 Nov: 10am - 6pm
4 Nov and 6 Nov: 10am - 4pm

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **1 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?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at its weekly prayer sessions. Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. Rest assured that all prayer requests are kept confidential.

You may also join us online to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday. If you are joining us for the first time, please email intercessory@sfxchurch.sg for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Fri 5 Nov, 8pm
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP5NOV



November Mass Bookings

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

Parishioners are entitled to **1 weekend Mass** and **up to 5 weekday Mass bookings** every Tues at 12pm when the booking system opens.

DATES FOR MASS BOOKINGS:

- Tue 2 Nov, 12pm
- Tue 9 Nov, 12pm
- Tue 16 Nov, 12pm

ADDITIONAL MASSES:

DEEPAVALI (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)*
9am (50 pax)
*there will be no evening mass

ALL SAINTS' DAY & ALL SOULS' DAY

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

- Mass booking/cancellation closes **1 hour** before Mass. Please be gracious to cancel your booking earlier if you are unable to attend.
- Mass registration 45 minutes before Mass.
- Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.

FULLY VACCINATED/PET MASSES (180PAX):

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

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



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. Parents are expected to be present as catechists to journey alongside 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



CATHOLIC200SG ROADSHOW @ SFX

This weekend, drop by our Parish Centre after each weekend Mass to check out the lovely Catholic200S souvenirs and find out more about the upcoming Catholic200SG Festival. There will be a bundled sale which includes a notebook, umbrella and cap in an exclusive Catholic200SG woven bag - this is going at \$45! You can also get the Catholic200SG t-shirts at \$18 which can also serve as an Entry Pass, granting you access to all the free events and activities at the Festival. While stocks last! Alternatively, you can also purchase these merchandise online at <https://catholic200.sg/product-category/souvenirs/>



RCIY Day of Recollection 2021

RCIY met on 9 October 2021 for a Day of Recollection (DoR) for enquirers to ponder intentionally upon their journey thus far. Led by Father Cornelius, the enquirers revisited what prayer really is, and further explored the mystery of the Eucharist as Jesus' true presence. A Church tour was given to shed light on the intricacies of the mass and richness of Church tradition.

Finally, the enquirers were asked to reflect deeply upon the questions: "Where are you now? Where are you going?" The day wrapped up with an intimate Mass, during which the enquirers went through the Rite of Acceptance. Through their "yes", they move onto the next stage in this journey towards Baptism and Confirmation as Catechumens and Candidates.



"Recollecting the past few months of the RCIY journey was an overwhelmingly meaningful experience, for it gave us an opportunity to look back on the wisdom we have gained about the faith and the concomitant emotions we have felt. Personally, the day culminated in the Celebration of the Rite of Acceptance, when Father Cornelius began to sign the cross on our foreheads and when our facilitators signed the cross on different parts of our body to represent that Christ is now with us, in us and is leading us. The feeling of being loved and cherished for who I was as a person was very real and tangible, and the words which were spoken to us moved me to tears. I am extremely grateful for everyone who is part of the RCIY journey, as their loving presence made it easier to get closer to God and to learn more about him."

Perlyn Quek, 22

"The DoR helped me think deeper about the path that I am taking towards Baptism and how I am preparing myself for it. It also made me rethink my priorities in life and my relationship with God. It felt really good to reflect as I was able to better understand myself and my faith amidst all the external challenges I face. Since my national exams are around the corner, I was constantly inundated by my preparation for it. As such, spending quiet time with God has been challenging. The DoR gave me the space to talk to God and to surrender all the anxiety I feel to him."

Natalie Ong, 16

"DoR served as a checkpoint for me to look back on my faith journey. Though I came in tired and distracted, the experience of meeting new and familiar faces within the community reaffirmed my desire to be a part of his church and among his people, as I journey towards Confirmation."

Thérèse Soh, 22

"The DoR not only allowed me to reflect on my spiritual life, but also helped deepen my knowledge on the Catholic faith. We were warmly welcomed to the Church with the Rite of Acceptance by our sponsors. As a participant, the DoR was indeed an enlightening experience as it did not only signify the next step of my RCIY journey, but also made me look back in time and reflect on it. Moreover, it made me want to further commit myself to the journey and to know more about God and to experience his grace."

Arun Jude Lopez, 17





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg/

27 NOVEMBER — 3 DECEMBER 2021

Feast Day Fiesta

RETHINK • RECONNECT • RECHARGE

Embracing the theme of Catholic200SG to 'Ignite and Shine with Faith,' we welcome every parishioner to be part of our community celebrations marking the patronal feast of St Francis Xavier.

Don't miss out on this year's carefully curated line-up of events* - each an opportunity to reaffirm our identity as Catholics and like St Francis Xavier, to be boldly empowered on the mission to shine with Christ to the world! Mark your calendars; God is our victory and joy so let's come together, celebrate and give thanks!

PILGRIMAGE WALK

Sat 27 Nov, 7am - 5pm

Journeying with others and God through a prayer walk to various Churches in Singapore.

TREASURE HUNT

Sun 28 Nov, 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Discovering the hidden gems in our Church and neighbourhood in a fun way.

ABIDE

Tue 30 Nov, 8pm - 10pm

A night of worship, prayer, adoration and fellowship for youth and young adults.

MARATHON ADORATION

2 Dec, 10pm - 3 Dec, 6pm

1-hour intimate time with Jesus in worship and adoration.

FEAST DAY TRIDUUM

1 - 3 Dec, 8pm - 10pm

Eucharistic Celebration and Collective Discernment Exercise.



To find out more, visit
WWW.SFXCHURCH.SG/FEASTDAY2021

*subject to prevailing MCCY guidelines.

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>

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