



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

Anticipating Christ, Always

1st Sunday of Advent
28th Nov 2021

Jer 33:14 -16
1 Th 3:12 - 4:2
Lk 21:25 - 28, 34 - 36

Anticipation. The feeling of eager expectation, hopeful suspense, and growing excitement of something to come. Perhaps more than any other feeling, these couple of years anticipation has been most salient for most of us. During last year's 'circuit-breaker' we eagerly anticipated its end when we could finally visit loved ones again. During the 'heightened alert' we were hopeful that dining-in could soon resume. And now as the world gradually opens up, many of us are excitedly anticipating the prospect of being able to travel.

We anticipate many things in life:



Advent is time of preparation for Christmas and is a very evocative religious season because it is interwoven with hope and spiritual anticipation.

from an impending promotion to the birth of a child. Each time, in the lead-up to these events our *expectation spurs us to make preparations in anticipation for their inception*. Children about to take their final examinations would have, in anticipation, prepared themselves academically by cutting down on play to focus on their studies. Parents preparing to receive their new-born child would, in anticipation, be making material preparations long before its nativity, and most importantly preparing their hearts to receive, in the flesh, the fruit of their love.

The many things we anticipate in our lives, however, pale in comparison to the one thing necessary that we as Christians must always behold: Christ. If we truly believe Christ to be the Lord of All Things, then, expectantly making preparation for His incarnation within our hearts each day should simultaneously remind us that the "cares of life" (LK 21:34-36) are but transient distractions along our journey from this world to the next; a journey of anticipation towards eternal life with the divine - Christ's Parousia (see Eschatology: the Expectation of the Parousia - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

A good indicator of our interior readiness for Christ can be gleaned from our response to today's gospel. Does Christ's apocalyptic proclamation engender disquiet within us? If we truly love God above all else and are ready to receive him, then we should not fear the prospect of His arrival but *look forward to it with a sense of eager readiness*. However, if expectation of Christ causes us to "die of fear" (LK 21:25-28), we may yet possess a disordered affection towards temporal things; distracted by the frivolous preparations of worldly pursuits which lead only to "debauchery and drunkenness" (Ibid).

Ostensibly, the secular festivities this time of year can distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. With shopping malls and eateries already offering sales and discounts, urging us to "prepare for Christmas" through retail therapy and culinary delights, we run the danger of forgetting *Christ as the true reason for the season*. Thus neglecting the need to spiritually prepare for Christmas by *interiorly anticipating Christ within our hearts*. At his first coming, Christ did not find a room at the inn. Similarly, the 'inns' of consumeristic pursuits and fraternal gatherings will have no room for Christ if we do not first prepare a crib in the manger of our hearts for Him.

Beyond the festivities, Christmas is first and foremost a celebration of Christ's incarnation, the divine fulfilment of God's salvific plan through the incarnate gift of his Love in the person of Christ (St John Paul II - Redemptor Hominis). It commemorates the categorical point in history where the Lord first came in the flesh with his definitive return and our salvation already secure (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI – 1st Sunday of Advent 2008).

Advent is thus a time of preparation for Christmas and is a very evocative religious season because it is interwoven with hope and spiritual anticipation. "Recognizing that Christ present in our midst makes himself our travelling companion ... Advent becomes for all Christians a time of expectation and hope, a privileged time for listening and reflection... which invites us to advance to meet the Lord who comes" (ibid).

This advent, as we advance towards the Lord's incarnation at Christmas and His ultimate coming at the Parousia, let us always bear in mind that He is with us, He walks with us, He will be with us till the end of time. Doing so, may we be eager to anticipate Him, preparing a crib for Him in our hearts always.

Announcements

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

GIFT COLLECTION 2021: IGNITE AND SHINE OUR FAITH

This weekend, Catholic Foundation is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge – the most reliable source of funding for the archdiocese. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: **201231391K**). Pick up the GIFT 2021 brochure or visit catholicfoundation.sg for more info.

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**).

CHOIR RECRUITMENT



We are recruiting musicians (non-wind instruments, eg. violin, cello, percussion, etc) and singers to serve at our Sunday Masses. Open to all who are 13 years and above. Liturgical music training will be provided. WhatsApp Christopher Wong at 8128 4797 for more information.

THE 2022 BIBLE DIARY - 365 DAYS WITH THE LORD

It is available for sale at **\$20** by the Daughters of St. Paul. This year's issue has a write up on the Synod which the whole Church is now celebrating. For orders please text 8348 2804. May the Word of God bring you closer to the Lord during this trying time of the pandemic and the coming year!



December Mass Bookings

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

Tue 30 Nov, 12pm

2nd booking of all weekday and weekend Masses. Usual policy of 1 weekend Mass, and 5 weekday Masses per booking session.

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



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Booking: Tue 14 Dec, 12pm

Parishioners will only be able to book **either** a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass, and not both, to enable as many parishioners to attend.

These will not count to parishioners' quota of 1 weekend Mass and 5 weekday Mass bookings for the month.

MASS TIMINGS:

Christmas Eve Masses (Fri 24 Dec):

- 50 pax: 4pm, 8pm
- 180 pax: 6pm, 10pm, 12mn

Christmas Day Masses (Sat 25 Dec):

- 50 pax: 11am
- 180 pax: 9am, 1pm

Holy Family Masses (Sun 26 Dec):

- 50 pax: 11am, 5.30pm
- 180 pax: 9am, 1pm

New Year's Eve Masses (Fri 31 Dec):

- 50 pax: 8pm
- 180 pax: 11pm

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**.

ADVENT JOURNEY WITH SFX CHILDREN'S LITURGY

5 December is the second Sunday of Advent! Join us for the exciting activities on the SFX YouTube channel from **9am**, or at your own pace during the week.

Materials needed:

Cake Decoration:

- ✦ Make or buy a cake. If you are using a cake mix, you may need vegetable oil, eggs and milk depending on the recipe you choose.
- ✦ Buy some Christmas decorations for the cake or make drawings or paper cut-outs of the Holy family, manger and wisemen. Place them on toothpicks as cake toppers.
- ✦ You will also need plain or coloured paper, crayons and colouring pencils or pens.

"My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should LOVE one another." - 1 John 4:11

Other SURPRISES await you so remember to find us on the SFX YouTube channel from **5 to 19 December!**

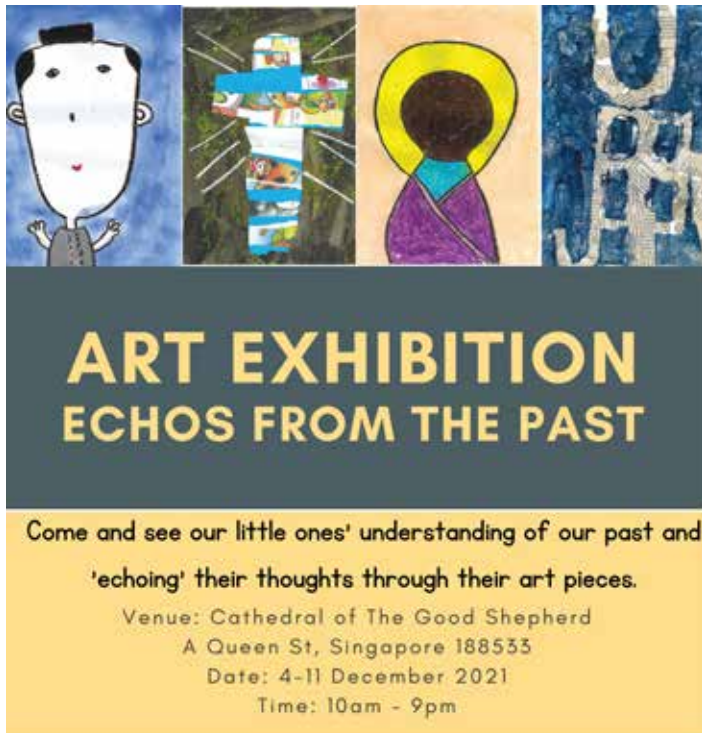
P.S. Please post photos of your work or the family participating in our weekly activities on our SFX Palette Wall through this link <https://tinyurl.com/SFXAdventjourney2021>

CATHOLIC200SG

Exciting events to note for Catholic200SG, happening between **4 – 11 December 2021!** Let us celebrate as one church, 200 years of Catholic faith in Singapore! Visit **<https://mycatholic.sg/festival>** for more information.

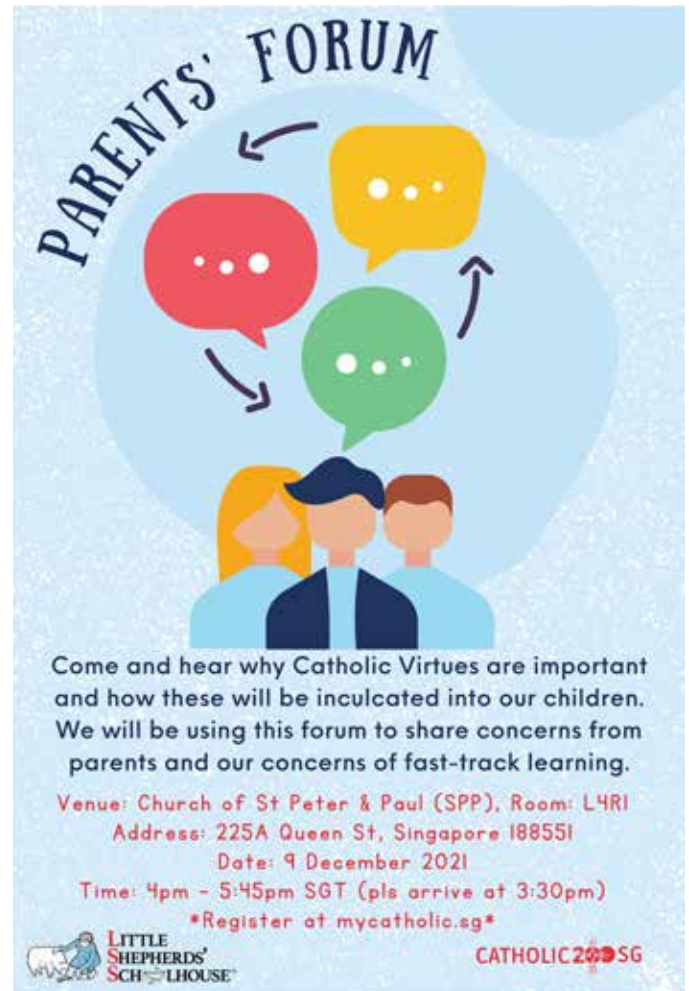
Art Exhibition of works

by the children of Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse:



Parents' Forum on inculcating Catholic Virtues into our children

by Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse:



The 4 Marian Dogmas

SFX BAT is reprising a series of 4 talks on Marian Dogmas and their compatibility with Sacred Scripture, which took place in May, as part of the Catholic200SG Festival. While the talks are fully-subscribed, you may contact Helen at 9757 4853 for a chance to be registered.

The 4 talks on Marian Dogmas are:

1. Mary, Mother of God

Do Catholics believe that Mary is divine? Is the Hail Mary prayer biblical? Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

Date & Time: Sat 4 Dec, 7pm - 8.45pm

Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul

2. Mary, Perpetual Virgin

Did Mary remain a virgin all her life? Did Mary and Joseph have a real marriage? Did Mary have other children?

Date & Time: Sun 5 Dec 5pm - 6.45pm

Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

3. Mary, Immaculately Conceived

Was Mary born without sin? Did Mary need a Saviour?
Did Mary suffer labour pains?

Date & Time: Sun 5 Dec 7pm - 8.45pm

Venue: Church of Sts Peter & Paul

4. Mary, Assumed into Heaven

Was Mary taken up, body and soul, to heaven? Did Mary die?
Must Catholics believe in Marian apparitions?

Date & Time: Fri 10 Dec 7pm - 8.45pm

Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd

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

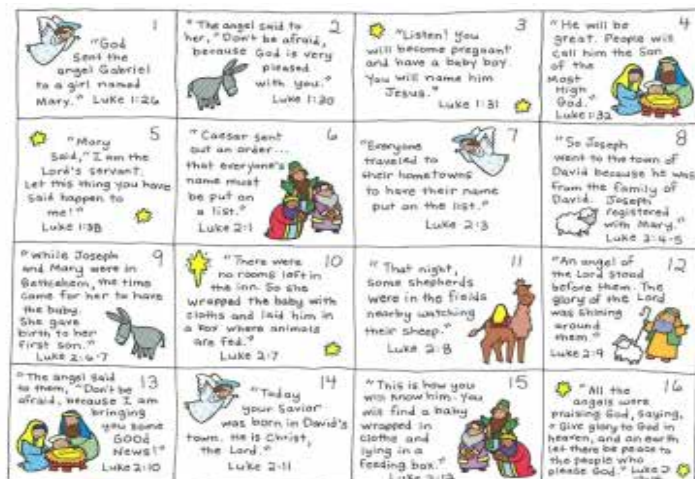
COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:

10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm

Booking via

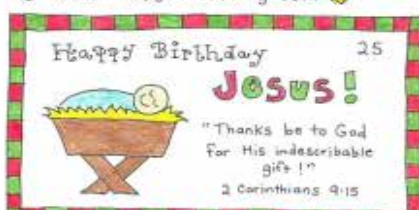
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>



25 Bible Verses to Countdown to CHRISTMAS Day!



www.happyhomefairies.com



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