



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

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier
6280 8331
xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
23 Jan 2022

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10
1 Cor 12:12-30
Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus presents himself and his mission in the synagogue at Nazareth, citing a passage from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me" (Is 61:1). And then he tells his audience that the scripture passage has been "fulfilled in your hearing".

This reading must be situated in its context. In the liturgical calendar, we read this passage after the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord and the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, in which the passage of the Wedding at Cana is read. Jesus' baptism formally invests him with his messianic office, and his first miracle at Cana inaugurates his public ministry. We thereafter read about him preaching in the synagogue. There is a natural flow to our readings throughout the year.

The scene in the gospel also parallels the First Reading, in which Ezra stands on a wooden platform to read out the Law to the people of Israel. An expert in the Law, Ezra interprets and makes sense of the Law for the people. Similarly, Jesus deciphers the scripture passage from Isaiah for his audience.

But nota bene: the reactions of the people to Ezra and to Jesus are wholly different. After Ezra reads the Law, the people "bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground". However, in Jesus' case, the reactions are polarized. In the lines immediately following our gospel reading, people "spoke well" of him and were "amazed" with him. Shortly later, they drove him out of Nazareth.

What are we to make of this contradiction?

A key theme in Christology is that Jesus fulfills the old, and yet presents something completely new. In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI points out that the Fathers of the Church saw Jesus' baptism as analogous to the anointing by which kings and priests in Israel were installed in office. Pope Benedict continues, this 'anointing' consists

"precisely in the fact that the Spirit of the Lord comes down to rest on him". Jesus can thus truly proclaim that the words of Isaiah are being fulfilled: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me".

In doing so, however, Jesus sets himself apart from all other prophets, and indeed, all other religious figures. In *God in the Dock*, CS Lewis argued that it would have been ridiculous to ask Socrates, Mohamed, and Confucius if they were Zeus, Allah, or Heaven respectively. But for Jesus, he claimed to be both Messenger and God. He both proclaimed and fulfilled Scripture. The reactions to Jesus were thus never of "mild approval"; instead, "he produced mainly three effects – hatred, terror, adoration".

The Second Reading thus emphasizes the paramount importance of remaining connected with Christ, for he is the Anointed One, even as each disciple is a different part of Christ's body. Be it Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, all are baptized in the one Spirit – the same Spirit Jesus was baptized and baptizes with. What matters is not which part of the body we are, but that we are all united in one body with Christ.

As we reflect on this Sunday's readings, let us recall that Jesus is the Anointed One, and we are all parts of his one body. Let us then use our various gifts for the collective good of the Church, the Body of Christ. And in doing so, let us remember, that "the joy of the Lord is [our] stronghold".



***"The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me, for he has
anointed me"***

Is 61:1

Announcements

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

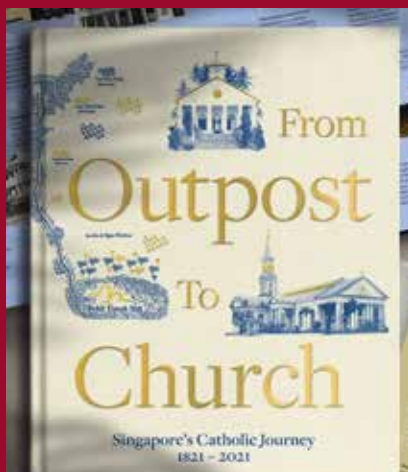
Blessed birthday, Fr Nathaniel!



We thank God for the gift of Fr Nathaniel in our Parish. As we celebrate his birthday on Tue 25 Jan, may the good Lord continue to shower him with more graces and blessings as he serves God's people!

CATHOLIC 200SG COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Drop by our Parish Centre after each weekend Mass to get a copy of this commemorative book at \$30, while stocks last! Please bring the exact cash amount.



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please note there will be no intercessory prayer on Mon 31 Jan. You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 24 Jan, 8pm - 10pm**. There will be praise & worship followed by a talk on 'Reconnect, Recharge, Renew' by Martin Fernandez. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685

Password: HOLYSPIRIT

Join us at <https://bit.ly/SFXCPGNW>



February Mass Bookings

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

Sat 29 Jan, 12pm

1st booking of all weekday and weekend Masses, usual policy of 1 weekend Mass, and 5 weekday Masses per booking session.

Fully Vaccinated 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 **Choir Entrance**.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.
- Vaccinated parishioners should refrain from booking unvaccinated Mass slots.

MASSES FOR FULLY VACCINATED 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**
Pre-Event Testing (PET) results for the unvaccinated will no longer be used as a criterion for entry into Vaccinated-Only Masses.

✓ **Children aged 12 years and below**
The 20% quota for children will no longer be applicable for vaccinated Masses. This means that for February's booking, all unvaccinated children will be able to attend Masses without any restrictions.

✓ **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



The availability of both Vaccinated-only and Unvaccinated Masses will be subjected to mandatory adherence to the latest regulations and advisories from the Government.

Key February Masses

Lunar New Year Masses:

Tue 1 Feb: 9am (180 pax), 11am (180 pax)

The Presentation of the Lord:

Wed 2 Feb: 9am (180 pax), 11am (50 pax)

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd:

Mon 14 Feb: 6.30pm (50 pax)

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**.

CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

A 12-week DVD-based programme to support those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage, divorce or separation. The video presentations by priests, theologians and teachers will help you cope, and lead you to God's divine mercy and love. For more information, visit www.catholicdivorce.sg/events or email catholicdivorce.sg@gmail.com.

Dates: 10 Feb - 12 May 2022

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Via Zoom

Cost: S\$60 (non-refundable)

To register: <http://bit.ly/SD-register>



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

All Christians are invited to join in prayer and reflection during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022. Organised by the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) and Host Churches. Please register early due to limited vacancies. All prayer services at 8pm:

Mon 24 Jan: The Salvation Army Singapore Central Corps

Tue 25 Jan: Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

For more info, visit

www.catholic.sg/event/wpcu2022/all/

Sunday of The Word of God

Introduction

The Sunday of the Word of God in the Roman Catholic Church takes place on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, during January. In 2022 it will fall on January 23. According to Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, it "is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God".

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. He had already proposed something similar at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

The Sunday assembly gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the unique moment in the week where a community gathers in a particular place and when their communal identity is nourished by Word and Sacrament. An important advance in 20th century theological reflection is that every sacramental celebration is founded and constructed upon the Word of God, and that every proclamation of the Word of God is sacramental.

The Sunday of the Word of God is not a new feast! After all, the Word of God is proclaimed at every Sunday Eucharist, and one of the great blessings of the liturgical reform and renewal flowing from the Second Vatican Council is a greater appreciation of the foundational role of the Word of God in every liturgical celebration. The reform of the lectionary has led to much more scripture being proclaimed during our liturgical gatherings and a greater awareness of the role of the Word of God in the life of faith.



This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes just after the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies. Pope Francis urges us to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to continue our prayer for Christian unity.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from. Is the Gospel book carried in procession? Is it a well-made book that shows forth its life-giving content? Is it honoured with incense, and do we sing during the Gospel procession? Are the readers who proclaim the Word formed in the art of proclamation, and the knowledge of what they are announcing?

Pope Francis suggests in his letter that this Sunday is an ideal time to reflect on these issues. For presiders, it is also a call to reflect once again on their preaching of the Word of God. This Sunday has in the past offered an appropriate opportunity to commission and bless those who serve the community as readers and initiate new ones to this essential ministry. If the parish community does not enthrone the Word of God every Sunday, maybe today is an opportunity to start. Another way of nourishing the role of scripture is



This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from.

> Continued from page 3

praying quietly together in a lectio divina style of prayer.

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.




Pope Francis suggests in his letter that this Sunday is an ideal time to reflect on these issues. For presiders, it is also a call to reflect once again on their preaching of the Word of God. This Sunday has in the past offered an appropriate opportunity to commission and bless those who serve the community as readers and initiate new ones to this essential ministry.

The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit's work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit's inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

Adapted from: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/01/19/sunday-of-the-word-of-god-24-january-2021/>

Celebrating Sunday of the Word of God

 **The Bible Apostolate Team (BAT) in SFX has arranged for a 2-part video on Bible Basics to be made available on the SFX Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier from 22 to 29 Jan.** If you have never studied the Bible but have always wanted to, start here. These two videos are based on the work of Dr John Bergsma. Part One takes you on a whirlwind tour of salvation history, our story, as God's people, while in part two, you will be taken on a tour of the salvation story of the New Testament.

For those who think they know their bible, why not try this quiz? **Scan the QR code (below) and you will be directed to the document. Answer all the questions correctly and you may just win yourself a very attractive prize. All entries must be received by 2359 hours Sun 23 Jan.** For those who may not know how to scan the quiz electronically, do please ask your friends/loved ones to help. Best of luck.

Have a wonderful week exploring the Word of God!



Scan the QR Code to take the bible quiz and find out how well you know your bible? Stand to win a prize!



Looking for more Information?
visit 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 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