



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Is the Kingdom of God only for the poor and hungry?

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
13 Feb 2022

**Jer 17:5-8**  
**1 Cor 15:12, 16-20**  
**Lk 6: 17, 20-26**

As Christians, we know that the way to salvation is through Jesus Christ, placing God at the centre of our life. Today's readings tell us what is the most important thing we have to do to achieve this.

At first, Luke's account of our Lord's Sermon from the Plain can come across as being unduly blunt and unrealistic.

"How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God", our Lord says (Lk 6:20).

A few lines later, he zeroes in on those at the other end of the income ladder: "Woe to you who are rich for you have received your consolation."

In the same vein, Jesus praised those who are hungry compared to those filled, and the weeping as opposed to those in laughter.

Is Jesus really saying that to find favour with God, you need to be poor, hungry, sad and rejected?

Or that if you are rich and happy, you will receive his condemnation?

If this is indeed the message, most people might say, thank you but let me find a more favourable Saviour.

Obviously this is not what our Lord meant, and the first reading makes that clear.

In the prophet Jeremiah's account, we are told to place all our trust in God if we want to find real happiness and interior joy (Jer 17:7-8).

If instead we rely solely on our own actions or that of others, moving away from God, we will never find the peace that we ultimately seek.

This is the central message of today's readings.

So Jesus is not really saying that you cannot be wealthy and happy but that if you believe that your riches and happiness come solely from your own doing you will not find eternal peace.

Neither is he saying that only the poor and miserable will be saved but that if you happen to be in such a state, know that life on earth is a temporary phase and that your reward for being close to God will come with eternity.

To put it another way: Nothing in this world can deny you true peace and happiness - not poverty or persecution - because the source of these wonderful blessings is God and not man.

There is one other critical element that is central to these teachings and it is in the second reading, about the belief in the resurrected Christ.

Many Christians take this for granted as part of their faith.

But do we really believe deep in our hearts that Christ died for us, and was resurrected so that we too might conquer death?

It is only when the belief in Christ's resurrection becomes an unyielding part of our faith, that we will see our life on earth from the horizon of the Kingdom of God.

It is from this perspective that the poor and persecuted will be able to overcome their sufferings and the rich and happy change their ways.

St Paul could not have put it any stronger: "If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain." (1 Cor 15: 16-17)

"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all." (1 Cor 15: 19)

The Beatitudes in today's Gospel reading are about how to live a happy Christian life.

They are not impossible to follow - God will never do that to us - but they have to be accepted and understood in the context of Christ's death and resurrection and the salvation he is offering.

Most importantly, they help us achieve happiness only if we put our complete trust in God.

As Pope Francis puts it, "The joy of the Christian, then, is ... above all the joyful discovery of being God's beloved children ... the certainty of being able to face every situation under God's loving gaze, with the courage and strength that come from him. Even in the midst of many tribulations, the saints experienced this joy and bore witness to it." (Homily 1 Nov 2021)



*"But do we really believe deep in our hearts that Christ died for us, and was resurrected so that we too might conquer death?"*

## Announcements

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

### SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$6,001.60** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

Please note that if you wish to make a cheque payment or PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

- **OCBC Bank Account No:** 686 596 768 001
- **PayNow UEN:** S61SS0149B

### RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front of Main Church Foyer/JPII Hall/Choir Entrance by **28 Feb**. Please help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.



### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

You may submit your prayer request to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online every Monday to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: **Mon 14 Feb, 8pm**  
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFXIP14FEB



### 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).

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 14 Feb, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'What Does Discipleship Mean In Modern Days'. All are welcome!

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685  
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



## February Mass Bookings

From 1 Feb, all Masses registered through [mycatholic.sg](http://mycatholic.sg) will be strictly for the vaccinated. If you are unvaccinated and would like to attend Mass, please register your contact details with the Parish Office by Sun 13 Feb.

### Tue 15 Feb, 12pm

4th booking of all weekday and weekend Masses, usual policy of 1 weekend Mass, and 5 weekday Masses per booking session.

#### UPDATED MASS CAPACITY:

- **Tue & Thurs:** 100 pax
  - **Fri and ALL weekend Masses:** 180 pax
- All Masses are Vaccinated Masses.

#### Things to note:

- Mass Entry: Tue & Thur Masses via Church Foyer, all other Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.

### Admission Criteria:

- Fully vaccinated, as indicated by TraceTogether or HealthHub status.
- Recovered from COVID-19 infections and granted a 180-day exemption period (including unvaccinated or partially unvaccinated) & have an official MOH Discharge Memo.
- Medically ineligible for vaccination, as indicated by either TraceTogether or HealthHub status or an official certificate issued by MOH.
- Children aged 12 years and younger (born on or after 2010)

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



## 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**.

### ONE: 2022 LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLET

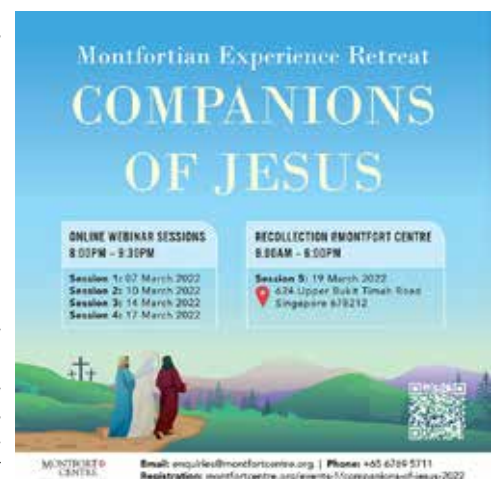
The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection theme is "The Word Renews". Please download the e-booklet at: <https://bit.ly/Lenten2022>



### MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT: COMPANIONS OF JESUS

It is at the Incarnation that the companionship of Wisdom for humanity appears most strikingly. Jesus Christ - Wisdom Incarnate - no longer calls us servants but friends, for he has made known to us all he has received from the Father (cf. John 15:15). Jesus longs to share all he has with us and to be our consolation in our cares and sorrows (cf. LEW 59).

Come discover the true and holy joy of Wisdom's friendship everywhere, in everything and in the everyday as Companions of Jesus. Register at [www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/companions-of-jesus-2022](http://www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/companions-of-jesus-2022)

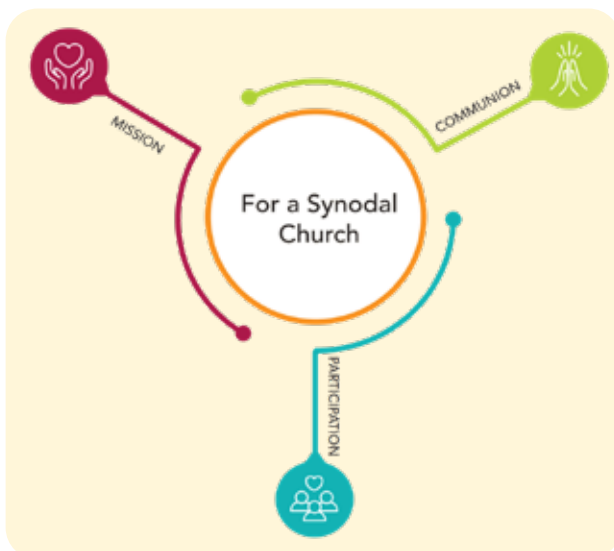




# *Let us Journey Together in* **SYNODALITY**

Synodality is the “way” of being Church. Pope Francis says it is the “path... which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.” The word “synod”, has its roots in two Greek words: syn meaning “together” and hodos meaning “road” or “way”. A Synod is a “coming together” of bishops from all over the world who counsel the Pope on various doctrinal or pastoral concerns of the Church.

On 17 October 2021, following the call of Pope Francis, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei (CBCMSB) began the diocesan phase of the XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS. The theme for 2023 on Synodality is: **FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION & MISSION.**



Every Diocese in the conference will now actively engage in listening and in dialogue with Catholics of all ages. Catholics all over the world are invited to journey together in a way that allows the whole Church to listen to each other’s faith experiences, joys and challenges. It calls on us to pray and reflect, then share and listen to what God’s will might be for the church going forward. This process of listening is not a garnering of opinions, a survey or a problem-solving forum, but it is one of mutual listening with a view on how we can better hear God’s voice through the dialogues we have. The following guide is intended for use by Catholic groups in and affiliated to the Roman Catholic Church in Singapore:

## **STEP 1:**

### **Invitation to pray & converse**

Gather the people for the conversation, be it your family, friends or community members (i.e. people you are familiar with). Start with the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer (*see below*). Include songs or scriptural passages, if you wish.



### **Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus**

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*



## STEP 2:

### Reflect, Pause & Share

Start with the topic "Journeying Together". Reflect on the two conversation starter questions:

- Share about your personal journey of faith and if possible, how has this shaped you.
- What hopes & worries do you have for the future of the Catholic Church?

Journal or draw, if you wish. Share in small groups. Have someone take notes of the points shared.

## STEP 3:

### Share with the Church

Scan the QR code or log into [mycatholic.sg/synod](https://mycatholic.sg/synod). Where possible, use group form. However, do allow people to submit personal forms if they either choose not to share with the group OR still prefer to lodge in their own views after the sharing. Select group form and fill in the information required. You will be asked to share on 4 points: summary of points raised, important points/areas to note, feelings of the group, was there a Spirit of consensus in the end and why (or why not)?



## STEP 4:

### Come back for more

There are 10 more topics of conversations. (Refer to [www.catholic.sg/synod-theme/](https://www.catholic.sg/synod-theme/)). Select topics that fit your group well. It is recommended to schedule no more than one conversation topic at a time. It is NOT compulsory to complete all 10 themed conversations.

#### Having Authentic Conversations

We have heard a bit about the ongoing Synod, about how it is a time for us to truly listen and dialogue together as one church. But how exactly do we do that? Especially to the Holy Spirit? How does such a spiritual conversation take place? Spiritual director Lance Ng shares his insights with us. To find out more, check out the following links from 'The Faith Perspective' podcast:



Spotify

<https://spoti.fi/3qG3XgO>



CatholicSG Radio Podcast Player

<https://bit.ly/32iTYow>



Apple Podcasts

<https://apple.co/3rA2szY>

Extracted from [www.catholic.sg/having-authentic-conversations/](https://www.catholic.sg/having-authentic-conversations/)

For more information, visit [www.catholic.org.sg/synod](https://www.catholic.org.sg/synod)



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](https://www.sfxchurch.sg)!

#### Mass Timings

##### VACCINATED WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:  
6.30pm

Fri:  
8pm

##### VACCINATED WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:  
5.30pm

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

##### VACCINATED 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

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>  
(by appointment only)

#### 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 two weeks 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)