



# THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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## Disciples *Making Disciples*

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## Who is My Enemy?

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
20 Feb 2022

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23  
1 Cor 15:45-49  
Lk 6:27-38

The gospel today teaches us how to treat our enemies. Just as we ask ourselves "who is our neighbour?", it is equally important to ask "who is our enemy?" The word "enemy" comes from the Latin "*inimicus*", which means "not a friend". We often contrast the hatred we feel towards our enemies with the affection for our friends. Friendships arise because of a common understanding, sharing mutual goodwill for each other. But that does not make anyone who is not our friend an enemy.

Perhaps we can consider an enemy as someone who has deep convictions in opposing views from us. Conflicts with them can bring about some really intense reactions—frustrations, anger, desire for destruction or revenge etc. Yet, Jesus says it is possible, even necessary, to love them just as they are. Our interactions with our enemies may involve debating over a contentious issue, out of a motivation to correct them and lead them to the truth. Inadvertently it may result in our own aggression and dominance without any real conversion. On the other hand, if our reactions to such dynamics is to completely avoid a conflict, it may lead us to betray our fundamental beliefs.

Jesus does not imply that we let our enemies walk all over us. Instead,

he instructs us to fight back but in a different way — with love and not violence. When we "bless those who curse [us], [and] pray for those who treat [us] badly," (Lk 6:28) we continue to hold fast to our own convictions without giving in to hatred and destruction. Ultimately, it is to respect others and be respected for our differences even if they disagree with us at the end of the day.

We do this not out of fear of judgment or desire for reciprocity and reward, but because we are living proof that the kingdom of God is here and that we are already living in it. Indeed Jesus warns us of the transactional approach to relationships that is prevalent not just in those days but in our contemporary society as well. "For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same." (Lk 6:32 NAB) Instead, give freely without expecting anything back. St Paul exhorts us in the Second Reading, "just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one."



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(Lk 6:49 NAB) As children of God, our actions should reflect with clarity the unconditional nature of love.

Sometimes, our struggle to love unconditionally may involve a family member or a friend who is abusive or manipulative. If there is an ongoing relationship with this person, we need even more wisdom, prudence and clear boundaries to love in the right way. What is certain is that Jesus does not mean for us to remain silent in an abusive situation or to let others continue to harm and destroy us.

We can learn from David's example in the First Reading. Before this, David fought and rose in ranks in Saul's army as he successfully engaged the Philistines in battle (1 Sam 17). Saul depended on David to defeat the Philistines but was overcome by jealousy and tried to kill David several times. David did not allow himself to remain in danger and fled. Although his men tried to persuade him that God had delivered his enemy into his grasp, David refused to take revenge nor did he justify the need to kill Saul out of self-protection. He recognised that Saul was still God's anointed and would not raise his hand against him (1 Sam 26:9).

David trusted in God's promise that he will inherit the throne of Israel and that God will deliver his promise in his own way and time. "The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty" (1 Sam 26:23). Even though we may be tempted to seek justice for ourselves, we ought to recognise the Lord God as the rightful judge. Our responsibility is to hold fast to our conviction in God and refrain from paying back the violence inflicted upon us. May we grow in our generosity to love purely and altruistically without expecting anything in return.

## Announcements

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

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You may contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

- **Tuesdays & Fridays:** 4pm - 6pm
- **Saturdays:** 10am - 12pm

### 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 21 Feb, 8pm  
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFXIP21FEB



### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 21 Feb, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The Jewish Roots Of The Papacy' by Helen Chong. All are welcome!

#### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685  
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



### 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>



### SAFETY MANAGEMENT MEASURES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are appealing for more volunteers to help manage the increased Masses in March and beyond. We especially need volunteers to help with the following Mass timings:

**Weekdays 6.30am, Fridays 8pm, Sundays 7am and 5.30pm**

If you are willing to serve, please provide the Parish Office with your name, mobile number and your preferred Masses to serve by **Tue 22 Feb**. There will be a compulsory training session on **Sat 26 Feb**.

Thank you in advance in helping to keep our church safe.



## March Mass Bookings

**1st booking date - TO BE ADVISED**

Please do look out for more information and updates which will be made available on our social media platforms and on MyCatholic.sg.

### 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**.

### COME, ADORE AND PRAY WITH JESUS

John Paul II Hall is available for silent prayer every **Wednesday** from **7pm to 10.30pm**. No booking is required, but a maximum of 25 people at one time will be allowed. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The usual safe distancing measures are applicable.

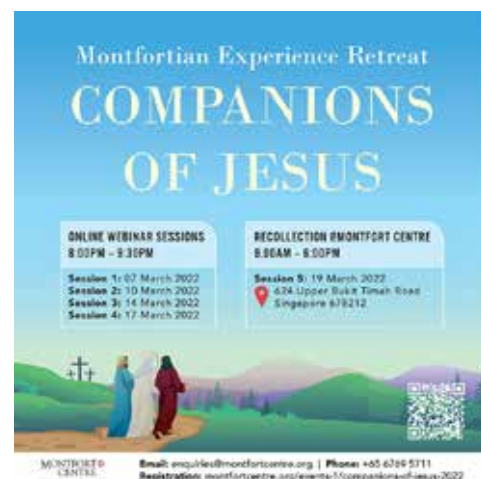
### WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

A Virtual Landings programme (conducted over Zoom) organised by The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd will commence on **4 March 2022**. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register at <https://landings.typeform.com/run12022> by 1 March 2022. Please email [returning@landings.org.sg](mailto:returning@landings.org.sg) or find out more at [www.landings.org.sg](http://www.landings.org.sg).

### 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)





# Synodal Church - Themed Conversations

In last week's issue, we introduced the Synodal process and how we can journey together for a Synodal Church in the 4 steps mentioned. This week, let us look at the themed conversations or topics that can be used.

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

This is the compulsory 1st question:

Our faith is a journey, which starts when we are baptised and ends when we eventually meet God in Heaven. We invite you to share your journey and experience as a Catholic, and where possible, to suggest what can be done to better our journey together.

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?*

Additional points to help you deepen your reflection:

- *What were the joys you experienced?*
- *What tensions and challenges have you faced?*
- *What were the moments that brought you closer to God?*
- *What were the moments that brought you away from God?*
- *What do you think God is prompting you to, in this life you have led?*
- *Where do you see the Church walking with you on this journey?*

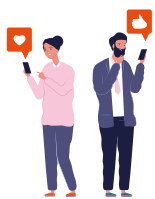
## 10 THEMED CONVERSATIONS

For subsequent sessions, choose one that fits you/your group. It is recommended to complete one themed conversation at a time. It is NOT compulsory to complete all 10 themed conversations.

### 1. THE JOURNEYING COMPANIONS:

In the Church and in society, we are journeying on the same road. *(Suitable for children)*

As baptised Catholics, we are all companions on this "faith journey" to understand and love God better. Let us think about how we are growing in our faith and who are the people who are helping us do this. We also think about the ones we need to help to get to know Jesus better.



- *In our Church, who are the "companions" in our faith life?*
- *Who are the people that we have not reached out to? Why?*

**2. LISTENING:** Listening is the first step. We need to have an open mind and heart, and be without prejudice. *(Suitable for children)*

- *Pope Francis said that "Listening is never easy. Many times, it is easier to play deaf. Listening means paying attention, wanting to understand, to value, to respect and to ponder what the other person says." We want to know whether we are really listening to the people around us. Are we listening with an open heart and mind or are we choosing to ignore the people that need our love?*
- *In the Church, what stops us from listening to those who have different views than ours?*
- *As the people of God, how can we better listen to the voices of the elderly, the youth, the poor and the socially excluded (e.g. special needs, marginalised, divorced)?*



**3. SPEAKING OUT:** All of us are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, integration of freedom, truth, and charity. *(Suitable for children)*

Words have the power to either give people hope or to destroy them. As people turn to social media to share their views, how do we react when we receive false information or fake news? In this topic, we want to explore how ready we are to speak up for what is right and for God's Truth.



- *Do I always speak up courageously, honestly and responsibly?*
- *Do we do this in our Church, family, workplace, school and society? If not, why?*

**4. CELEBRATION:** "Journeying Together" is only possible if it is based on the communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. *(Suitable for children)*

Jesus is inviting every one of us to a celebration every time we go to Mass. For our Almighty God, it is a celebration every time we take time to pray, to read the Bible and to truly celebrate the Eucharist at Mass. In this topic, we want to think about our prayer life, our attitudes towards Mass, and how close we are to God.



- *Share about my prayer life - Why and how do I pray? What is my prayer life with God like? When do I turn to God in prayer?*
- *What can we do to better encourage people to read the Bible and celebrate Mass?*

### 5. CO-RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MISSION:

Synodality is at the service of the Church's mission, in which all her members are called to participate. *(Suitable for children)*

We are called to listen to Jesus' call for us to 'Go out and make Disciples of all the Nations.' We do not need to travel to a foreign country to do this. All Jesus is asking us to do is to live a missionary life. This means we do not just speak about God but we show God's love in a real way through the lives we lead, especially by showing mutual love among us. As the people of God, we share this mission and responsibility to bring people to Jesus. People who see and witness God's goodness in us will then also want to know who this Jesus is.



- *What stops me from telling others about Jesus & my faith? Am I shy, afraid or unwilling?*
- *How are we supporting one another on this Mission to make Jesus known to others?*

Stay tuned for the next 5 themes next week. Article extracted from [www.catholic.sg/synod-theme/](http://www.catholic.sg/synod-theme/)





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

# Help Needed In Church

As we slowly get used to living in this pandemic and as our parish starts to increase Mass capacity, there are many areas in which the church needs your help.

If you have started coming back for physical Masses, you may have realised that there are many safety management measures (SMM) put in place to ensure everyone's safety. These measures range from checking in of parishioners to guiding them on what the next step should be. And as always, though technology can help in many ways, the human touch is very necessary. The SMM team is urgently asking for volunteers to step up to help as we try to look into increasing the frequency of Masses and to reinstate our morning and other evening Masses.



The requirements are simple. Just be willing to give up your time on the days you can to help support the team. Training and support will be provided. All that is needed is your "YES".

The Choir Ministries have also been asking for help and not just for people to sing. If you have some skills in playing an instrument or even in other ways, please do not hide your "light", let your light shine forth so that others will be blessed and you can help our choir communities reach out to more people.

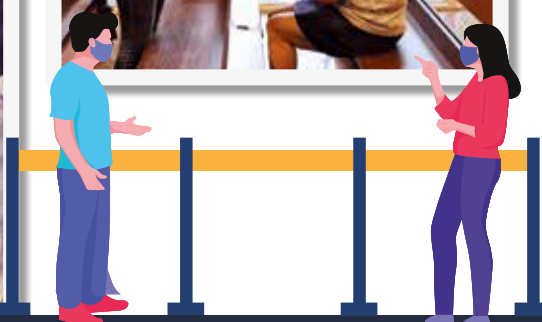
The Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is the group who tries to keep our communication lines open. We use the whole range of media from print (in our bulletin, The Manna) to online channels like Facebook and Telegram to do this. As such, we are desperately in need of writers, designers, content producers, artists... the list goes on. It is indeed a sacrifice in terms of time and effort but at the end of the day, the question to ask is, who am I working for?

*So if you are reading this and there is a little stirring in your heart, please get in touch with us. The numbers are as follows:*

**SMM volunteers** - call the Parish Office at 6280 6076

**Choir volunteers** - call or text Denis Leong at 9663 9274

**MMM volunteers** - call or text Irene at 9769 4008



## 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)