



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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The Urgent Call to Repentance

3rd Sunday of Lent
20 Mar 2022

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk 13:1-9

As the Israelites were journeying towards the Promised Land, God displayed his remarkable love and incredible power for Israel such as holding up the walls of the Red Sea so that they could pass through dry ground (cf. Ex 14:21 – 31), miraculous provision of food and drinks while they were in the wilderness (cf. Ex 16:35 and 17:6), providing shelter through the cloud that overshadowed them (cf. Ex 13:21 – 22). Yet, in the midst of all these spiritual blessings, the Israelites were not contented with what they had been blessed with, they remained complacent, and grumbled. Eventually they were struck down in the desert even before they reached the Promised Land. This was to serve as an example and warning for ages to come, thus a reminder that we should not be too overconfident that we will not fall.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to repentance through two calamities that had been subjects of recent conversation around the local watering hole of his day. One - an instance of state-sanctioned terror while the other, a random accident. These two occurrences lead us to realize how precarious our existence is. Neither of the victims did anything wrong, nothing could have caused their demise. When an unfortunate event occurs especially to good people, we always question God why

good people suffer. Sometimes we mistake our good fortune as evidence of God's special blessing. However, the point Jesus highlights does not give us the opportunity to challenge God's management of the universe. Rather he is emphasising the call for repentance for all mankind. Life's fragility demands urgency and urgency shows that life itself has carved out opportunities for us to seize God's graciousness.

Similar to Jesus' description of the unexpected collapse of the tower of Siloam that crushed eighteen people, no one could have ever imagined that there would be such a long-drawn global pandemic or that Russia would invade Ukraine. Despite these two major calamities, our loving Father is not deaf to the pains and sufferings that we are going through and in fact, he is very close to the broken hearted. Just as he has reached out to the Israelites through Moses, our Father poured out his heart to Moses that "[he] has witnessed the affliction of [his] people in Egypt and have heard

the cry against the taskmasters, so I know what [Israelites] are suffering" (cf., Ex. 3: 7 – 8), the outpouring of charity and generosity we see in the pandemic and the Ukrainian refugee crisis gives us hope that God's grace will continue to move hearts.

Likewise, our loving Father is reaching out to us in another way. Through the Holy Father, our loving God is reaching out to us through the Synod of Synodality. Pope Francis has initiated a two-year period of hearing everyone's voice without judgement. Regardless of whether a Catholic is active or not, all baptised Catholics are invited to participate in the synodal process where Catholic voices can be heard. We are all invited to participate in this process to contribute to the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation which will emerge from this Synod.

As the Church continues to listen to her people, she responds with unconditional love in the hope of leading the People of God to repentance. God's unconditional love remains to give his children additional time – time of mercy - before the imminent judgement. There is still hope in a cultivated yet unproductive tree as they may live without bearing fruit, only because it has been granted additional time to do what it is supposed to do. Unless it begins to bear fruit (an image of repentance, according to Luke 3:8), the result will be its just and swift destruction. Jesus' tone of the parable in today's Gospel emphasizes that his patience and mercy temporarily keeps judgement at bay. Let us heed the words of the Divine Mercy, "Before I come as the Just Judge, I first open wide the door of My Mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My Mercy must pass through the door of my Justice..." ~ Saint Faustina's Diary, 1146.



"Before I come as the Just Judge, I first open wide the door of My Mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My Mercy must pass through the door of my Justice..."

~ Saint Faustina's Diary, 1146

Announcements

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

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

You may submit your prayer request to 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 Mar, 8pm
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFXIP21MAR



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

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 21 Mar, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Bible Sharing. All are welcome.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685
Password: HOLYSPIRIT



CPS LUNCHTIME TALK (ZOOM)

"Laudato Si" - Journey with Rev Fr David Garcia to create the future we want: a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world. Registration is required. Register by scanning the QR code or via <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksLaudato>

Dates: 4, 11, 18 and 25 Apr (Mondays)
Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm



April Mass Bookings

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

Tue 29 Mar, 12pm

Parishioners are entitled to book **1 weekend Mass** and up to **6 weekday Masses**. Subject to availability. Seating capacity for **all weekend Masses will be increased to 450**. You can also book for Masses at another parish.

Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thurs 14 Apr
7.30pm
Livestream Mass via SFX YouTube Channel



Good Friday 15 Apr
9am, 12pm, 3pm



Easter Vigil 16 Apr
7.30pm
Livestream Mass via SFX YouTube Channel



Easter Sunday 17 Apr
7am, 9am, 11pm, 5.30pm

LATEST MASS SCHEDULE

- Tues & Thurs - 6.30pm (150pax)
- Wed & Sat - 6.30am (100 pax)
- Fri - 8pm (180pax)
- Sat - 5.30pm (450pax)
- Sun - 7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm (450pax)

THINGS TO NOTE:

- For vaccinated only. Bring your identification card and TraceTogether App/Token with you.
- Mass registration 25 minutes before Mass.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Wed 6 Apr, 8pm - 10.30pm
Venue: Main Church
Booking via mycatholic.sg



MAUNDY THURSDAY ADORATION*

Come spend some time in the presence of our Lord from **9pm - 10.30pm** at the **Main Church**.



HOLY HOUR*

Wed 13 Apr, 8pm - 9pm
Venue: Main Church

*THINGS TO NOTE:

- No booking is required.
- For vaccinated only. Bring your identification card and TraceTogether App/Token with you.
- Check in entry via **Choir Entrance**

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**.

SOJOURNERS' COMPANIONS: VIRTUAL WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER @ SFX

Learn how to pray with Scripture and develop a closer relationship with the Lord this Lent! As spaces are limited, please register by **Sun 27 March**. Registration is free, but love offerings to Sojourners' Companions are welcome (details to be provided later). Register at www.sojourners.sg or email wogp@sojourners.sg.

Taster Session (Zoom)

Sat 2 Apr, 2pm - 4.30pm

Presentation of Prayer Methods & Meet your Prayer Guide at Breakout Session.

Week of Guided Prayer

Mon 4 Apr - Fri 8 Apr

Meet your Prayer Guide daily for half hour between 9am - 10pm
Choice of Virtual meeting to be agreed with Prayer Guide.

Closing Session (Zoom)

Sat 9 Apr, 2pm - 4.30pm

Zoom Link will be provided to you 24 hours in advance.

BAT PRESENTS JESUS AND THE JEWISH ROOTS OF HOLY WEEK

We will journey with Jesus to his passion, to his cross and through the tomb to the Resurrection by looking at what he did on each day of Holy Week. What was Jesus doing on the last 7 days of his life? Join Helen Chong and obtain a better understanding of what Jesus did by looking at his actions through ancient Jewish eyes, how he fulfilled the Old Testament and inaugurated the New Covenant.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Sat 2 Apr, 8.45am
Meeting ID: 817 6776 3314
Password: SFXBATHW



ABIDE: REJOICE JERUSALEM

Calling all youth and young adults from age 17- 40! The 1Cor12 youth and young adult communities will be having our first Abide of the year. Join us for a time of worship, preaching and adoration, and get to know fellow youth and young adults in the parish. We are blessed to have Br Andrew speak for the night! Sign up early as slots are limited! Register at <http://bit.ly/1cor12abide>

Date & Time: Fri 25 Mar, 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Parish Hall (Level 3, Parish Centre)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS BY CHILDREN'S LITURGY

It's Lent and the time when we have Stations of The Cross. We invite families with children to join us as we make our pilgrimage in the Way of The Cross to pray at each station and to spend time with Jesus, thanking him and praising him. Scan the QR Code to join us!



ART MINISTRY RECRUITMENT

Looking for committed and creative/non-creative individuals (20 - 30 years old). Competent in conceptualising, designing, or producing the sanctuary backdrop (main church) for Easter and Christmas. Able to work as a team and commit few hours on weekday evenings & weekend afternoons — 1 month prior to both events. Training will be provided.

Please email mmm@sfxchurch.sg or leave your name & contact with the parish office and we will be in touch with you.

RCIA - Rite of Election 2022

On 6 March, 20 catechumens and four candidates, together with their respective godparents and sponsors, participated in the ceremony of the Rite of Election (ROE).

What is Rite of Election?

The ROE is a diocesan-wide celebration of catechumens during the first weekend of Lent. Led by the Archbishop, it welcomes the catechumens into the large Catholic Church made up of many parishes, as well as a final bid to get them "enrolled" for Baptism.

Due to the COVID pandemic, each parish celebrated the ROE in their respective churches. Upon the testimony of their godparents, the Catechumens then enrolled their names in the Book of Elect as a pledge of fidelity. Thereafter, the priest declared the catechumens to be members of the elect. Intercessions were also prayed for the elects and candidates to conclude the rite.

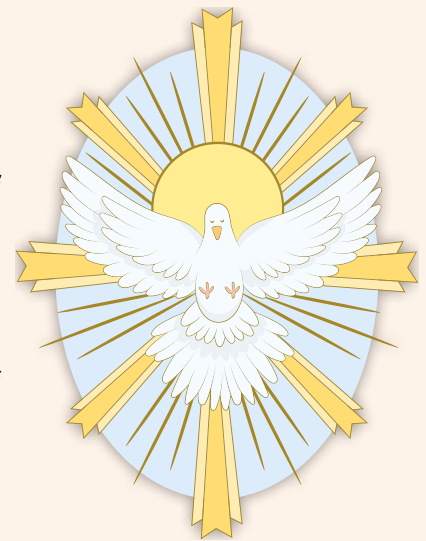
After the ROE comes three Scrutinies: Rites for self-searching and repentance to deliver the elects from the power of sin and Satan, protect them against temptation, and give them strength in Christ, presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer. This period concludes with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist).

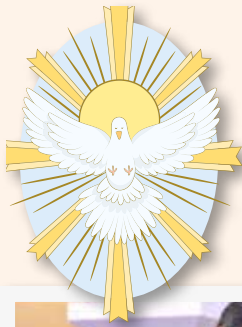
Testimonials

"The night before, I was nervous and unsure of what lay ahead of me. I felt calm, refreshed and energised the next morning as I walked towards the ROE. In place of all my doubts were the clarity and understanding of why I was there and what I was meant to do. From walking to the altar to signing the book and praying to Jesus, the whole experience was transcendent."
- Raymond Mok

"It's been a privilege to be on this faith journey and the ROE marks a very important milestone in my passage towards baptism and our ultimate destination which is God's heavenly kingdom. The rites that we go through in RCIA are part of a tradition and commitment which I am thankful to participate in." **- Peter Yang Pitt Chern**

"I have always felt the presence of God and I believe that he has led me to go on this RCIA journey in order to get to know him better. As a Catechumen, the ROE means commitment and a huge step forward. I felt a deep sense of peace and was enveloped in great warmth as we were welcomed into this church community. It was God's affirmation that I felt this sense of belonging, as if I was 'home'." **- Lydia Cheung**





20 catechumens and four candidates took their final bid towards baptism in the ceremony of the Rite of Election (ROE).



Mass Timings

*WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue:
6.30am, 6.30pm

Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

*WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm

Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am,
1pm, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

*MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9am

* All are vaccinated Masses

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

AT JPPII HALL

Wed & Sun:
7pm - 10.30pm

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

