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**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

## The Anamnesis of Christ's Love

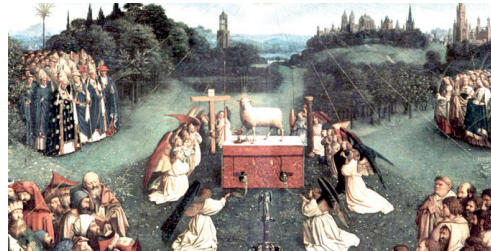
Good Shepherd Sunday  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
8 May 2022

Ac 13:14, 43-52  
Rev 7:9, 14b-17  
Jn 10:27-30

Apocalyptic literature like Revelation puts us into a "time-lapse" where the past, present and future are immediately before us for contemplation, participation and decisive response. The bible scholar, Etienne Charpentier, calls apocalyptic writings "a theology in images" (*How to Read the Old Testament*, p90). The images are deliberately esoteric – only those initiated into the faith recognise them, grasp their meaning and even receive power from them.

For all of us who are baptised, have frequented the sacraments and are persevering in prayer and study, the symbolism in today's passage from Revelation would be clear: the white robes signify victory or purity; the blood of the Lamb is the blood of Christ poured out from the cross as the atonement for humanity's sin; the tent of "the One" spread over the multitudes is Christ's eternal presence; the Lamb is Christ – "slain, yet lives to reign" (Easter Sequence), and the sheep are his people – those who belong to Christ for they listen to his voice [daily in the scriptures] and follow him (Jn 10:27 – today's gospel).

When John wrote Revelation, Christians were facing intense persecution under Roman Emperor Domitian (reigned 81-96AD). Domitian had killed his own brother, Titus, in order to take the throne. Now enthroned, he wanted to be



*"Father, not my will,  
but yours be done."*

– Lk 22:42

called "God the Lord." Needless to say, many Christians refused to say "Caesar kurios" ("Caesar is lord") in the public squares. They were therefore executed or exiled. John himself was exiled to Patmos and his gospel, the letters and Revelation were all written from there.

John's Revelation was an *anamnesis* for the persecuted Christians. He was not simply offering them words of encouragement. In recalling their sharing in the heavenly liturgy through the breaking of bread (eucharist), the persecuted Christians knew Christ was truly with them in their persecution. He was not distant from them on his throne in heaven now that he had ascended. He was right beside each and every single one of them as the shepherd carrying his beloved sheep to living water (Rev 7:17).

The Greek word *anamnesis* is translated as memorial or recollection. It does not refer to a mere mental recall of past events at an intellectual level. Rather, it refers to a drawing from the shared memory of God's entire saving plan already actuated by Christ. We are able to share in God's memory because in baptism, we have been grafted into the life of the Trinity. This life is nourished in every eucharist where Christ brings to us his passion, death, resurrection and ascension on the altar so that we may remain with him, like our Blessed Mother, from the Upper Room, to the crucifixion and then witness his resurrection and ascension. That is why we are

able to acclaim, "Christ has died, Christ is risen..." It is because Christ re-presented his sacrifice for us in an unbloody manner at the altar and enabled us to participate in his sacrifice by accepting our own trials, that we have remained with him and ministered to him. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says that the more we live in the "fear of the Lord," actively seeking out God's will, "the more concretely and clearly effective this *anamnesis* becomes." (*Conscience and Truth*, Feb 1991) God has enabled us to "visit the future" by giving us a foretaste of heaven in the eucharist. We now have a "memory of the future" and our whole life must be in some way "a liturgy, an *anamnesis*, an eternal memory of the Easter of Christ." (Festival of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 26 Nov 2020)

There is such a radical power in having truly accompanied Christ in his passion that Jesuit theologian Bruce T. Morill titled his study of the eucharist "*Anamnesis as Dangerous Memory*." It is "dangerous" because it "not only inspires but demands action in the world...in its unique keeping of time, the liturgy reveals the kingdom of God and empowers believers thus to witness to it."

As we look upon Jesus in our hands at Holy Communion today, let us ask our Good Shepherd who has loved us to his death how we can better respond and witness to his love, "Give us the courage, dear Jesus, to follow you and say, 'Father, not my will, but yours be done.'" (Lk 22:42)

## Announcements

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

**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MASS HYMNS**  
[www.sfxchurch.sg/mass](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/mass)



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **Mon 16 May (Vesak Day)**.

## SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. Please give generously.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

You may submit your prayer requests to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential. Come storm heaven with us every Monday to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All who are attending have to be fully vaccinated.

**Date & Time:** Mon 9 May, 8pm  
**Venue:** Chapel@B1 (Columbarium)



## ROSARY PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

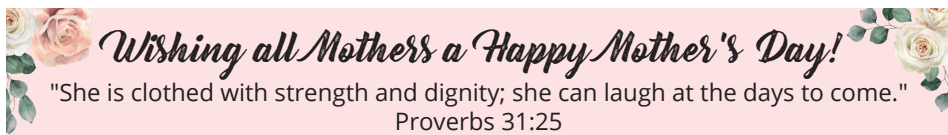
*"Say the rosary everyday to obtain peace for the world." - Our Lady of Fatima*

Come meet us on **Fri 13 May, 6.15pm** at **JPII Hall** for the rosary procession within the church grounds.

## CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 9 May, 8pm** at **SFX Parish Hall (Parish Centre, Level 3)**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Our Singapore Catholic Story'. All who are attending physically have to be fully vaccinated.

**ZOOM MEETING DETAILS**  
**Date & Time:** Mon 9 May, 8pm  
**Meeting ID:** 884 2477 8685  
**Password:** HOLYSPIRIT



## UPDATE ON MAY MASSES

Online Mass bookings are no longer required. Seating capacity for Weekend Masses has been increased to 600 for VDS\* Masses and 500 for Non-VDS\* Masses.

### VDS MASSES (600 PAX):

- Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am

### NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

- Weekday Masses (**EXCEPT SOLEMNITY MASSES**)
- Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm

As per MCCY guidelines, we regret that we may have to refuse entry when the maximum capacity has been reached.

\* Vaccination-Differentiated

### SOLEMNITY: ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE

- **Wed 25 May (Eve): 8pm (VDS Only)**
- **Thu 26 May: 6.30am (NON-VDS), 8pm (VDS Only)**

There will be no 6.30pm evening Mass

### THINGS TO NOTE

- Trace-Together App/token and ID **NOT** required for Weekday Non-VDS Masses except Solemnity Masses
- Trace-Together App/token and ID are required for Vaccination status verification and headcount for VDS Masses
- Mass Entry: Weekday Masses & Sat AM Mass via all doors; All other Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance only

**The Rosary will be prayed 30 mins before all weekday Masses.**

## 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'. Please write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

## COME AND SERVE: L8 & L9 RETREAT 2022

Come join us on **3 to 5 June** and/or **23 to 26 June** in our non stay-in Catechetical L8 & L9 retreat 2022! We're looking for young adults and youths who can help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds! If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! More details can be found in the sign up link at <https://bit.ly/L8L9Retreat22>

## THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: SEXUAL DESIRE - GOOD OR BAD?

Why were we created male and female? Why sexual desire? Is it good or bad? What is sex for? What about celibacy? What exactly is Love? And lust? Come and check these out (and more!) at this introductory session organised by Apostolate for Catholic Truth. Let us delve a little into the Theology of the Body by Pope St John Paul II and allow it to correct our lenses, giving us a renewed and redemptive vision of the human body.

**Date:** Sat 18 June  
**Time:** 2pm - 4pm  
**Venue:** Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Love Offering  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/SFXT0B2022](http://tinyurl.com/SFXT0B2022)



## ONLINE ROSARY

*Come join us as a parish community to pray together at the following timings*

**WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY**  
[tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary](http://tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary)  
**Date & Time:** Mon to Fri, 3pm

**EVENING ROSARY DEVOTION**  
[tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp](http://tinyurl.com/SFXRosaryGrp)

**Date & Time:** Mon, Wed & Sat - 8.30pm  
**Meeting ID:** 681 479 6504  
**Password:** Rosary7

**ROSARY BY SALT**  
[tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary](http://tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary)  
**Date & Time:** Tuesdays, 8.30pm  
**Meeting ID:** 867 1052 4234  
**Password:** 465481

**SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS**  
[bit.ly/SundayRosary](http://bit.ly/SundayRosary)  
**Date & Time:** Sundays, 8.30pm  
**Meeting ID:** 840 7232 7379  
**Password:** 305946





## Parish Retreat: Journey Home To The Heart Of God

Has Covid left you wandering in the wilderness - adrift, alone, dry and disconnected? Fifty-three participants answered the Lord's invitation to spend a weekend with Him at the recent Parish Retreat which was run in collaboration with Catholic Spirituality Centre. We praise and thank the Lord for calling us to come and be refreshed, restored and renewed.

"Though the retreat was targeted at those who have not been going to church since the pandemic, I signed up as I was feeling overwhelmed and tired. Very quickly at the start of the retreat, it became apparent why I was called. Though active in ministries and service in church, I had forgotten the purpose of what or rather who I am doing it for. I was so drained from the doing that I had little or no energy left to bond or build my relationship with God. I needed a restart button to rebuild my spiritual life. Practical tips were shared by the retreat master on how to get that going. Through the praise and worship, session inputs and paraliturgies, I was reminded repeatedly and felt thoroughly loved by God. I left the retreat feeling positive, rejuvenated and more equipped in getting to know my Lord again. And how else better to start than through a commitment to daily prayer and scripture. I am looking forward to an exciting journey ahead!" - **Yvonne Woo**

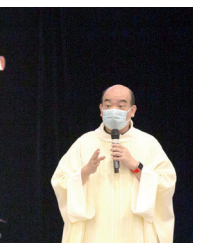
"My journey back to the heart of God began in front of the tabernacle. Unmistakably, it was Jesus' personal invitation to me to attend this retreat. Despite being active in ministry and trying my best to involve my family in religious matters, an alarm bell sounded off. It was after the healing and praying over session, that I realised how disoriented my heart was and how far I have been from the Holy Spirit. It was through praise and worship and the retreat master's talks that I realise God loves me immensely and He wants to make right the path for me again. Through the retreat, I also realised how in the busyness of life, I had forgotten to turn to God as I became reliant only on my own strength - so much so that I have allowed the work that I do to gradually lose its true meaning. It is only through God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit that the work we do becomes life-giving, in helping to change lives. With an appreciative and grateful heart, I now understand that He wants to orientate my heart back to his by going deeper in prayer." - **Dan Lai**

"I dare say that this retreat is far better than any holiday I have been on! It is food for the mind, body and spirit, which I know I needed badly. It not only helped to shift my focus inward, it also healed and softened my hardened heart. There is a sense of inner calm which I hope will help me deal with the demands of daily work stress." - **Francis Edmund Tay**

"This retreat is timely and the content spoke to this lost sheep. My takeaways are 1) salvation has already been given out but it is up to us to take the next step and be proactive in order to be a part of God's kingdom. 2) My spiritual tank is basically running on empty and needs to be filled diligently. One way to do so is by joining the community or serving a ministry. 3) Miracles do happen as I have seen and felt the Holy Spirit working on me during the healing session. 4) The importance of bonding with Jesus through prayer and meditation. In short, I am glad and thankful that I came." - **Indri Chung**

"My biggest takeaway was to overcome my addictions. I cannot just pray and leave it in the hands of the Lord; I have to make a CONSCIOUS DECISION to kill the addiction and make the change! I am going to succeed! I know." - **Joyce Ong**

"I used to think that we can't have time for both God and family but I have been reminded that it is only in making God present in the family then can we experience the goodness in both." - **Donald Lim**







"As the theme of this retreat suggested, it aims in helping me get back to the heart of Jesus. It's not so much about intellectual knowledge but our relationship with God. Our prayer is all about creating a bond with Jesus and I find the simplicity of this message so beautiful. I am thankful to have the chance to be prayed over, to have the Holy Spirit heal and love me. I'm thankful to all who played a part in making this retreat possible."

- **Grace Tan**

"The retreat was a great way to reconnect with God as it offered a time without the daily distractions of life. It was for me a time in which I could reflect on the ordinary moments in life and see God in them. And, in fact that a lot of my prayers are answered, just not on my terms, but God's. It has also reminded me that like prophet Elijah, I had at times sought him in the wrong places, in the loud, big, spectacular moments, when all I need to encounter him is just simply to be still. All in all, the three days reminded me that He who formed and knitted me in my mother's womb had known me before I was born, and I need to trust God and walk by faith."

- **Selena Lok**

"This is a much-needed retreat for me especially after the spiritual drought brought on by the pandemic. Retreat leader Vincent Lee made God's words and Jesus' teachings so much easier to understand as words pierced through my heart of stone and dull mind despite me dozing off in stubbornness. The kingdom of God is inside of us, and this is a timely reminder for me to take concrete steps to clean up my life and seek God's love. If I cannot even make a conscious effort to eradicate bad habits like putting down a cigarette or stop emotional eating, how can I even say I want to follow Jesus? "I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) This scripture passage spoke to me as I felt burnout, jaded and overwhelmed with the guilt of neglecting my family because of work. I finally decided to make a job switch in 2019. I ended up wandering and depending on medication to stay afloat. Just last month, I finally found a job that provided a work-life balance. As I seek for peace, I decided to make a conscious effort to turn my life around and by the grace of God, I came to this retreat. I was finally able to reconcile the past with my life. I know it's still a journey and I may never always understand God's promptings, but I'm filled with hope and courage, knowing His plans for me will always be the right ones, in his time. Come back to God. It will not be easy, but I have you and you have me. Together, let us all journey home to the heart of God."

- **Joaquine Goh**



"The SFX retreat was an awesome experience! I spent three full days with The Lord, where I was able to experience his LOVE (through fellowship with fellow retreatants and buddies), his PEACE (through the healing sessions) and his GENEROSITY and FAITHFULNESS (through the generosity of time given by the service team). I was aptly reminded of this scripture verse to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33)."

- **Sandra Lee**

"I want to send my gratitude and appreciation to the praise and worship singers and band for choosing appropriate songs and for singing their hearts out. It's been a long time since I raised my hands and sang my heart out! The sound system and lighting all created a CER-like ambience which made it easy for me to pray with deeper conviction. I am now more committed to prayer and inviting Jesus back into my life."

- **Judy Perry**

"This retreat has been very enlightening for me. To know God is to be more Christ-like; to love as he has loved us (agape love), to obey (in meekness) and be obedient to the Father's will. Sin separates me from God. I will not be able to experience the fullness of Him in me if I do not consciously remove sins from me. I pray that I will have the grace and fruits of the Holy Spirit to carry me through and help me overcome temptation and sin in order to live a life closer to Jesus."

- **Max Lee**

"It was both refreshing and empowering to spend this time with the Lord. I have come to understand the love God has for us as well as to seek his presence in the Holy Spirit whenever I am deep in prayer. To keep Jesus close, we must pray, pray, and pray!"

- **Nancy Wong**



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

## MASS TIMINGS

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tue & Thu:**  
6.30pm

**Wed & Sat:**  
6.30am

**Fri:**  
8pm

### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat:**  
5.30pm\*

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

**\*MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**  
9am

**\*For Vaccinated Only**

## 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

**Mon - Sun:**  
7am - 11pm  
Closed on Public Holidays

### LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

### COLUMBARIUM

**Mon to Sat:**  
10am - 6pm  
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

## ANOIDTING 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

Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



## 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)