



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:
6011 1076, 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

Jesus' Farewell

6th Sunday of Easter
22 May 2022

Ac 15:1-2, 22-29
Rev 21:10-14, 22-23
Jn 14:23-29

This Sunday's gospel text is taken from what biblical scholars call Jesus' Farewell Discourse – Chapters 14 to 17 in the Gospel of John. In this series of texts, Jesus addresses his disciples just after the Last Supper but before his Passion begins at the Garden of Gethsemane.

However, in our liturgical calendar, we are still in Eastertide. Why, then, is our Sunday gospel text from the Farewell Discourse?

First, Easter fulfils the promise that Jesus made at the Farewell Discourse to bequeath his disciples with peace. In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he would leave them with "a peace the world cannot give". He then instructs them not to let their hearts be "troubled" or "afraid".

And the reason that we can be joyful and unafraid is unveiled at Easter: the Lord is Risen! When the disciples locked themselves in a room for fear of the Jews, Jesus appeared to them with the greeting, "Peace be with you." He then shows them his hands and his side, and says to them again, "Peace be with you."

This is a peace that is wholly unique and one that "the world cannot give", precisely because it does not come from this world. It is a peace borne out of the knowledge that the Lord is risen and that our salvation is in him. In then-Pope Benedict XVI's address at St Peter's Square in April 2012, he said, the "common



greeting [of peace] now acquires new significance because it brings about an inner change; it is the Easter greeting that enables the disciples to overcome all fear... By then it was obvious that it was not only a greeting. It was a gift, *the* gift that the Risen One wants to offer his friends [emphasis in original]."

Second, the Risen Lord sends the Holy Spirit down to his disciples, just as he had promised in the Farewell Discourse. When Jesus first appears to his disciples after his Crucifixion, he breathes on them and says to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

These two elements cannot be separated from one another: the Holy Spirit brings peace, and peace is an indicator of the Holy Spirit. Just as Elijah recognised the Lord in the gentle whisper (see 1 Kgs 19:12), so have the masters of discernment counselled that peace is a mark of the Holy Spirit. In *Weeds Among the Wheat*, Thomas Green S.J. wrote that the Lord "always speaks in peace."

Third, in the Farewell Discourse, Jesus is preparing his disciples, not just for his death and resurrection, but also for his physical departure, which we will celebrate in the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord later this week. In addition to the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus promises his disciples, "Those who love me will keep my word, and

my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

Based on this text, St Bernard of Clairvaux reflects on a "third coming" of the Lord: his first coming was "in the flesh and in weakness", the last coming "will be in glory and majesty", and the third intermediary coming is "in the spirit and in power". In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explains further that the "middle coming" takes place in various ways, as the Lord comes through his word, in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, and into our lives through words or events.

As we prepare for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, let us remember that the Holy Spirit is present and the Lord comes to us in our lives now, even as Jesus is no longer physically with us. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, bringing about the peace that the world cannot give. Let us cast away our fears and find that peace in the Risen Lord, and in knowing that our salvation is in him.

"The peace that Jesus brings is the gift of salvation that he had promised in his farewell discourses: 'peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'"

– Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
General Audience at St Peter's Square,
11 April 2012

Announcements

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

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS**
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR CARS ENTERING AND LEAVING THE BASEMENT CARPARK



We continue to receive adverse feedback from Burghley Drive neighbours regarding the noise caused by cars going over the 3 sets of drain gratings leading to/from the basement carpark. **We seek your assistance and cooperation to drive very slowly over the grating on entering and exiting the basement carpark.**

L10 CONFIRMATION MASS

Our L10s will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Sun 22 May** at the **5.30pm Mass**. Let us as one parish community, pray for all of them, that the Holy Spirit will empower them to be vibrant, evangelizing and missionary disciples of Christ.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date & Time: Mon 23 May, 8pm
Venue: Micah (Parish Centre, Level 2)

9-DAY NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join our Charismatic prayer group as we pray the 9-day novena to the Holy Spirit to prepare for Pentecost. **There will be no sessions on Sat 28 and Sun 29 May.**

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: 24 May - 3 Jun, 8pm
Meeting ID: 818 6998 1266
Password: NOVENA2022
Meeting Link: bit.ly/9DAYSNOVENA

COME AND SERVE: L8 & L9 RETREAT 2022

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



MAIN CHURCH GATE CLOSING HOURS

Please note that the main gate of the Church will be locked daily from 11pm - 5am.

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 VDS Masses for Vaccination status verification and headcount
- 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**.

SFX PENTECOST PRAISE & WORSHIP

Come celebrate Pentecost with songs, praise and worship on **Sun 5 Jun** at **10.35am**, followed by Mass at 11am, with a special invitation to our recent SFX retreat participants. Let's all come together in this pre-Mass reunion with the Holy Spirit.

CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY LUNCHTIME TALK

Join us on a journey of "**Being Resurrected Disciples**" with Rev Fr Cornelius Ching as he brings us through the discovery of living a renewed life.

Date: Fri 27 May
Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Venue: Zoom
Register: tinyurl.com/CPSTalksResurrectedDisciples
Registration is required.



ONLINE ROSARY

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

WEEKDAY DIVINE MERCY & ROSARY

tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary
Date & Time: Mon to Fri, 3pm
Meeting ID: 845 8298 0708
No Password required

EVENING ROSARY

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

ROSARY BY SALT

tinyurl.com/SFXTueRosary
Date & Time: Tuesdays, 8.30pm
Meeting ID: 867 1052 4234
Password: 465481

SUNDAY ROSARY BY LECTORS

bit.ly/SundayRosary
Date & Time: Sundays, 8.30pm
Meeting ID: 840 7232 7379
Password: 305946

SSVP YOUTH CAMP

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) youth have organised 'Serving Christ, Serving Others', a camp for youths aged 15 and above. If you have felt the call to do more, to find Christ while serving others, this camp is for you! Join us on the **4th and 5th of June** as we embark on this journey together. Visit <https://bit.ly/SSVPYOUTHJUN22> to find out more and register (\$10/pax). Registration ends 30 May.



CATHOLYST CONFERENCE 2022 BY THE OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION

In this world and age, what does it mean to be Catholic? How can we live in holiness when the busyness of work, commitment to family, and stress of life weigh us down? We are called to be saints in the world and bring the flame of Christ to all whom we meet. We are called to be the Catholyst - to spark, provoke, and accelerate a reaction in the depth of people's hearts to know our God, the God of Love. Join us at this virtual conference to learn how we can live the life that we are called to. Learn from our speakers what it means to evangelise in this world and join our breakout sessions to be inspired as our presenters share how they integrate evangelisation into their work, family, and life. For more information, visit <https://one.org.sg/events/>

Date: Sat 28 May
Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Ascension of the Lord

The **Ascension** is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth.

Jesus' time on earth began with his birth. It was interrupted for three days by His death on the Cross. During that time, He descended into the realm of the dead and preached the Gospel to the good people who died before Him. This allowed those good and holy souls — the righteous dead, as we call them — who accepted Christ as their Savior to proceed to heaven. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptising all people.

At the end of this 40 day period, Jesus ascended into heaven. We call this the Ascension.

It is said that by His death and Resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all humanity. This is true, and His Ascension demonstrates this to us. It is His proof that those of us who believe in Him in faith and follow Him will also be raised on the last day, and enter into heaven. From heaven, Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes for us to the Father.



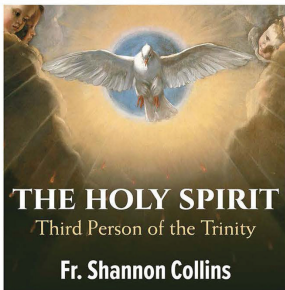
The Ascension should not be confused with Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ, after His Ascension.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK



THE HOLY SPIRIT: THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY BY FR. SHANNON

In this captivating presentation, Fr. Shannon Collins discusses the essential character of the Holy Spirit and his role in salvation history. Drawing upon Scripture and Tradition, Fr. Collins explains the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how he works in the lives of believers and how this "sweet guest of our soul" seeks to bring us closer to divine life.

LISTEN

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



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O	A	I	N	R	U	T	E	R	E
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LOVES	REMIND	WORD	PEACE
FATHER	BEQUEATH	HOME	GIFT
ADVOCATE	HEARTS	HOLY	TROUBLED
SPIRIT	RETURN	TEACH	BELIEVE



Source: www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/Wordsearch%20Easter%206C.jpg

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