



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

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Disciples *Making Disciples*



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“Can you trust in my Love and Mercy?”

Divine Mercy Sunday
2nd Sunday of Easter
16 Apr 2023

Ac 2:42 – 47
1 Pt 1: 3 – 9
Jn 20:19 – 31

In today's Gospel, St Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared to his disciples. He would not believe that Jesus has resurrected “unless [he] sees the holes that the nails made in [Jesus] hands and can put [his] finger into the holes they made, and unless [he] can put [his] hands into [Jesus'] side” (Jn 20:25). Eight days later, Jesus reappeared in the presence of the disciples and asked St Thomas to put his hand into his side. Immediately, he believed and proclaimed, “my Lord and my God” (Jn 20:28). Unlike St Thomas who had the opportunity for a face-to-face encounter with Jesus, our own encounters with the Lord may not be the same. Hence, do we sometimes doubt Christ's self-emptying love and mercy for us?

When Jesus asked St Thomas to touch his side with his hand, we are reminded how one of the Roman soldiers pierced his side with a lance, which caused blood and water to gush out from his side while he was on the cross. Dr Antony de Bono, a retired cardio-thoracic surgeon, explained that Jesus had a haemothorax – a condition where blood collects in the space between the chest wall and the lungs, likely the result of savage flagellation. Later, blood separates into two layers - the heavier red cells sink to the bottom leaving behind a much lighter, straw-coloured fluid, known as plasma. When a hole is made by the lance, thoracocentesis, a

process of draining the chest, causes blood and water to pour out. St John Chrysostom, one of the early Church Fathers who died in 407 A.D. explained that the water symbolises the waters of baptism and the life-giving gift of the Eucharist. We are washed clean and spiritually nourished by the generous self-emptying Christ's love for us.

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Divine Mercy. In February 1931, St Faustina Kowalska of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, was entrusted in a vision, to spread the devotion of Christ's Divine Mercy. She described her apparitions in her diary between 1934 – 38, which was later published in a book, entitled, “Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul.” Pope St John Paul II promulgated the Feast of Divine Mercy, to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. In a vision, Jesus told St Faustina Kowalska to “[p]aint an image according to the pattern [she sees], with the signature: Jesus, I trust in you, [and promises] that the world that will venerate this image will not perish” (*Diary*, 47). She did so, and the world was given the iconic Divine Mercy image of Jesus with two rays of light streaming out from his side.

Jesus explained that “The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depth of my tender mercy when my agonised heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him” (*Diary*, 299).

In today's 1st Reading, we get a description of how the early Christians lived out their faith. They “devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles, to communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). We too should

centre our lives on the word of God, in fellowship with one another, receiving the sacraments and praying. The Parable of the Sower shows us that if we don't immerse ourselves in the word of God, “the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in [our] heart” (Matt 13:18). If not for the encouragement of the community of disciples, St Thomas could have felt despondent and may not have returned to witness that Christ indeed had resurrected. The early Christians show us how to grow in holiness as a community. For us too, we need community support to grow in faith and trust in the Lord.



Jesus, I Trust in You!

*“The two rays denote
Blood and Water ... These
two rays issued forth from
the depth of My tender
mercy when My agonised
heart was opened by a lance
on the Cross,”*

– Diary, 299

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



SFX EMERGENCY EVACUATION FIRE DRILL

Please note that there will be an Emergency Evacuation Fire Drill at the **Sun 23 Apr, 5.30pm Mass**. Kindly scan the QR Code to find out more about the procedure.



PUBLIC HOLIDAY MASS

Please note that the morning Mass on **Sat 22 Apr** (Hari Raya Puasa) will be at **9am**.

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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

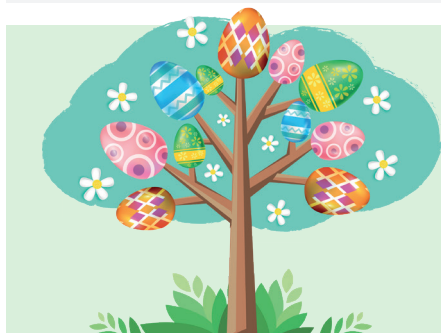
Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date: Mon 17 Apr
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 17 Apr**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Bible Sharing. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)



"WE REMEMBER KATONG" CONCERT

A fundraising event for La Salle House - a new oasis in the East. Two hours of singing & storytelling presented by Lasallians & Friends: Fr Valerian Chong, Fra Derrick Yap, Fra Vernon Chua, Br Collin Wee, Fr Jovita Ho, and Fr Adrian Yeo! Don't miss it! Scan the QR code to book your seats now!

Date: Fri 28 Apr
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Church of Holy Family



SFX CATECHETICAL MINISTRY: THE MARRIAGE KIT

Inviting all married couples to experience the Marriage Kit (5 sessions) to improve communication with your spouse, learn or relearn conflict resolution skills and strengthen your marriage bond. This is for Catholic or interfaith couples alike and is relevant at all stages of marriage. For details and registration, visit <http://shorturl.at/uEO04> or scan this QR code by **Sun 23 Apr**.

Dates: 26 Apr - 24 May
(Every Wed)
Time: 7.15pm - 10pm
Venue: JPil Hall



BAT - WHY WE BELIEVE: ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Join the SFX Bible Apostolate Team (SFXBAT) in this 8-session study, starting on 16 Apr (on alternate Sundays). Come discover just how reasonable, biblical and beautiful the Catholic faith really is.

Dates: 16 Apr, 30 Apr, 14 May, 28 May, 25 Jun, 9 Jul, 23 Jul, 6 Aug
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: <https://bit.ly/WWB2023Register>



16 April: Does God Exist? How can we know it?

30 April: Is Jesus God? Did Jesus claim to be God? And why should we believe him?

14 May: Peter and the Papacy. Did Jesus establish the Catholic Church? What is the historical evidence?

28 May: How Did We Get the Bible? Where did the Bible come from? Who decided which books got in and which didn't?

25 June: Is the Eucharist Jesus' Real Presence? What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist?

9 July: Why Confess to a Priest? Did Jesus arrange for us to confess our sins to a priest of the new covenant?

23 July: Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her?

6 Aug: Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead. Where is Purgatory in the Bible? Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

COURAGE SG: COMING HOME

This talk helps parents to create safe spaces to dialogue with and accompany their children, particularly those who experience same-sex attraction or identify themselves as LGBTQ. The speaker is Jaime Lim, a Catholic parent and catechist.

Date: Tue 25 Apr
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: will be disclosed to confirmed participants
Register: www.tinyurl.com/Apr25-ComingHome



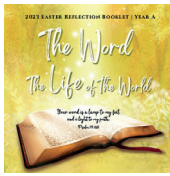
EASTER THANKSGIVING TREE

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples" - Psalm 93:3

Let us proclaim and glorify God for all the wonderful things He has done for us. We can write our thanksgiving for the New Life we have received - for graces received; to overcome challenges; answered prayers and miracles! Please write on the paper provided and hang your 'Thanksgiving' on the Easter Tree: **Thank you Jesus for** _____

ONE: EASTER REFLECTION 2023

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced an e-booklet of reflections for the season of Easter. The theme is "The Word - The Life of the World". The e-booklet is available for download at <https://one.org.sg/resource/2023-easter-reflection-booklet>. Limited hard copies also available.

**ACMI: EASTER "EGGSPRESSIONS"**

Calling all migrants! Join the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) for a day of fun, food, art, music and fellowship, while "eggspressing" your gratitude to our Risen Christ with Faith, Hope and Love.

Date: Sun 30 Apr**Time:** 1pm - 4pm**Venue:** Canteen @ Church of St Bernadette
(12 Zion Rd Singapore 247731)**Register:** <http://bit.ly/3JT89Ca>

Highlights of Holy Week & Easter

MAUNDY THURSDAY*Presentation of the Holy Oils**The transfer of the most Blessed Sacrament**The Washing of Feet**A period of adoration in silence***GOOD FRIDAY***Our Lenten Commitments offered up at the altar on Good Friday.**Altar Server venerating the Cross**Paying the highest honour to our Lord's Cross as we behold the wood of the cross*



EASTER VIGIL



Fanning the flames of our faith



Prov 15:13, A glad heart makes a cheerful face



Our faces reflect the light and the hope that is in our hearts



The Light of Christ breaks the darkness



The Joy of Baptism is evident!



The young Neophytes



Holy Communion



Our Shepherds with their new flock



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

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - 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

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to
make an appointment.

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

OPENING HOURS

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

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

LIBRARY

Sun:
8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon - Fri:
10am - 6pm

Sat - Sun:
8.30am - 6pm
Closed on 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/second 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 and outside JP11 Hall. 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