

Disciples
Making Disciples

THE MANNA
Church of **St Francis Xavier**

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sfxchurch.sg

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Online Mass Offering:
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

Faithful Waiting

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8 Nov 2026

Wis 6:12-16
1 Thes 4:13-18
Mt 25:1-13

"The other bridesmaids arrived later. 'Lord, Lord,' they said 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.' So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour" (Mt 25:11-13).

When we first hear today's Gospel, it may sit uneasily with many of us. It was the bridegroom who was late. Why does he reject the "foolish bridesmaids", saying that he does not know them (cf. Mt 25:12)? And why are the bridesmaids who refused to share their oil lauded as "sensible"?

Perhaps the point of the Gospel is not merely about which of the bridesmaids we should emulate, but about nurturing our faith and relationship with Christ throughout our lives on earth. If the oil represents our readiness, sustained by faith, it is not something we can simply "buy" or "borrow" from someone else. The sensible bridesmaids brought extra oil to await the bridegroom. They trusted that he would arrive, even if not at the time they had anticipated. They were prepared for his arrival, however late he was.

On the other hand, the foolish bridesmaids had brought no extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they had nothing left to replenish their lamps. Perhaps what makes them foolish is not that they stopped waiting, but that they had failed to prepare for a longer wait. Their lamps were burning, yet they lacked what was needed to welcome him when he finally arrived.

All 10 bridesmaids fell asleep; the difference was not their tiredness, but their preparedness when the bridegroom came.

Jesus is commonly referred to as the bridegroom in Scripture, and the Church as his bride. In this parable, therefore, we are reminded that we cannot take our faith for granted. The faith we have today will continually be tested, and it must continue burning until such time as we are called back to him. We do not know when this will be, and if we let the world snuff out our faith, then we may not be prepared when he finally arrives. We cannot rely on another person's faith to claim that we know the Lord.

In this sense, the bridegroom's response is a sobering warning: outward waiting alone does not guarantee that we are ready to meet him. We must cultivate a living relationship with the Lord while there is still time.



"He will dwell with them... he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away".
(Rev 21:3-4)

Perhaps we recognise something of this "foolishness" in ourselves. In the face of suffering, heartbreak, anguish, or difficulties in our lives, we do not see the Lord "showing up" in the manner we want or expect. "Where are you?" "How could you let this happen?" "Perhaps you don't actually love me." We may allow the wind of these thoughts to threaten the flames of our faith. Yet questioning God in our pain does not mean we have lost faith. What matters is whether we continue turning towards him, rather than merely going through the motions of faith.

The Gospel invites us to something greater – to live now in trustful anticipation of the Lord's coming, whenever that may be. We may suffer today, but God promises that suffering and death will not have the final word (cf. Rev 21:4). This is why St Paul exhorts the Thessalonians in the Second Reading not to grieve like those who have no hope. Even death will not separate those who die in Christ from him, much less the travails we endure in this life.

Our hope, therefore, rests on the promise of God. This hope will guide us through the struggles of life and help us weather the elements, so that we may be ready at the time ordained by him. We will not be alone in this, for it is the Lord who grants wisdom to those who seek him, the wisdom to wait patiently and faithfully, without being overcome by fear and anxiety (cf. Wis 6:12-16).

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

FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?
Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport.

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILING LIST

Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Never received an SFX Christmas Card? Please update your address and any other details with the Parish Office or send an email to secretariat@sfxchurch.sg.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on **8 and 9 Nov** (Deepavali). There will be 9am Mass on Mon 9 Nov and no 6.30pm Mass.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Friends of SFX will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

2027 CATHOLIC NEWS DESKTOP CALENDAR SALE

The Catholic News Calendar 2027 is now available! Drop by the Parish Office to get a copy at **$10**, while stocks last!

PARISH T-SHIRT SALE

Purchase your new parish T-shirt this weekend for just **$21** from the Parish Office and wear it for our upcoming Triduum celebration, while stocks last. Payment is only via UEN (**T08CC4033J**). Goods are non-exchangeable and non-refundable.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for the candlelight rosary procession on **Fri 13 Nov**, **6.30pm**. Meet in JPII Hall. The procession will take place within the church grounds. Bring your own waxless candle and join us in prayer as we honour our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!



Potluck Fellowship After Every Triduum Mass
Bring along a dish on any day of the Triduum (portioned for 4 pax) to share and celebrate as one parish family.

DROP OFF BY
7.30pm · JPII Hall

NOTICE: TEMPORARY BOOM LIFT PLACEMENT AT OPEN CAR PARK

A boom lift will be stationed at the open car park outside the Little Shepherds' Schoolhouse from **2 – 17 Nov** for scheduled works.

Affected parking spaces, including handicap parking lots, will be temporarily unavailable. Parishioners who drive are advised to plan accordingly, navigate the area with caution, and follow the guidance of wardens on duty. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

We invite children aged 12 and under to be part of this year's Pageant. It's going to be an experience not to be missed. This year's pageant is a joint collaboration between the Children's Liturgy Ministry and the Genesis Family Choir (Sunday 5.30pm). To sign up, scan the QR code or visit https://tinyurl.com/SFXmasCLPageant26. For enquiries, please contact Aloysius (9452 0065).

THE JEWISH ROOTS OF ADVENT

Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas — it is the fulfilment of Israel's ancient hope. Join SFXBAT for a two-session Bible study based on the work of Dr Brant Pitre, exploring how Jewish Scripture and tradition illuminate the coming of the Messiah. All are welcome.

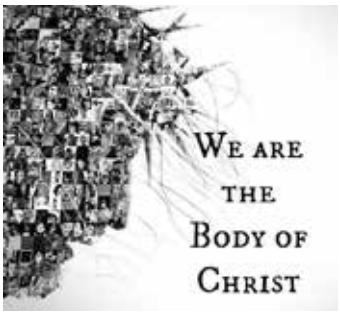
Dates: 15 & 22 Nov (Sundays)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: Jeremiah (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: https://tinyurl.com/2026JewishRootsofAdvent

TEA-OLOGY: THEOLOGY OVER TEA @ CATHOLIC JC!

Are you aged 16 to 19, looking to bond with like-minded youth, and discuss meaningful questions about the Catholic faith over some BUBBLE TEA and SNACKS? Tea-ology: Theology over Tea is the event for you! Present with us will be Friar John Paul Tan OFM and Sr Monika (Verbum Dei) as well as other clergy and/or religious. Don't wait, sign up by **Fri 13 Nov 2026!**

Date: Fri 20 Nov
Time: 3pm - 5.15pm
Venue: Training & Development Centre (TDC), Catholic Junior College, 129 Whitley Road, Singapore 297822
Age group: 16 to 19 years old
Attire: School-based tee shirt and school pants/skirts/pinafore
Register: https://go.gov.sg/cjctot2026

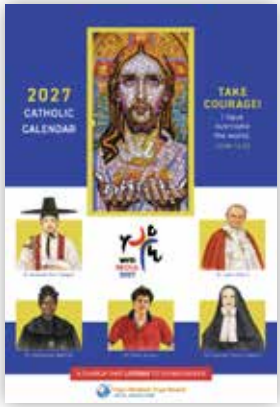
EXHIBITION ON POPE LEO'S CATECHESIS ON LUMEN GENTIUM



Over nine catecheses on *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Pope Leo highlighted intrinsic aspects of what the Church is and her saving mission for the world. He emphasised in his first catechesis that the church is primarily a "*mystery…[God's] plan to unite all people to him through his Son, Jesus Christ.*" All of us have been united to God the Father by being baptised into Christ, His Son, and are now a "People of God" with "*Priestly and Prophetic*" charisms exercised "*first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist.*" (2nd & 3rd catecheses)

Come by the exhibition on Pope Leo's *Lumen Gentium* catechesis outside JPII Hall and be more deeply transformed in better understanding God's call to us to be His Church. The exhibition will end on 22 Nov.

2027 PWPN WALL CALENDAR



The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei is offering its 2027 Wall Calendar for sale at **$8 per copy.**

Featuring the Pope's monthly prayer intentions, reflections inspired by the 2027 World Youth Day theme, **"Take Courage!"**, and a daily liturgical guide, the calendar is a helpful companion for prayer throughout the year.

To purchase a copy, visit the booth outside JPII Hall after Mass.

OFFICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: KERYGMA SCHOOL 2027

Do you desire to deepen your relationship with God? Take a leap of faith and sign up for Kerygma School. Discover the depth of God's love in the opening retreat, then learn how to live out the faith you receive in our Weeks of Christian Living programme. Finally, at our closing retreat you will uncover what it means to live our lives for Christ.

Opening Retreat:
Tue 5 Jan 2027 - Fri 15 Jan 2027

Weeks of Christian Living:
Stay-Out +
full-day Sat formations
23, 30 Jan & 13, 20 Feb

Closing Retreat:
Thu 25 Feb 2027 night - Mon 1 Mar 2027

Retreat Fee:
$381.50 (incl. 9% GST)

Register:
bit.ly/kerygma2027

Age:
18-25

All Saints' Day Celebration

Last weekend, our parish family came together to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, with parishioners, children and families dressing up as their favourite saints. It was such a joy to see the lives and stories of the saints brought to life through our community! But All Saints' Day is more than just dressing up. It reminds us that holiness is not something reserved for a few. As Jesus teaches us in last Sunday's Gospel through the Beatitudes, we are all called to live lives marked by kindness, mercy, humility and love. The saints remind us that an ordinary life, lived with extraordinary love for God and others, can become something beautiful. May the saints inspire us, young and old, to become saints in our own little ways.











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Mini MANNA

Psalm 63 Word-Find

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this part of today's Psalm. The leftover letters will spell out a little prayer to God when you write them in the blanks at the end.



P	A	R	C	H	E	D	P	O	W	E	R			
M	W	Y	S	B	A	N	Q	U	E	T	W			
O	I	T	H	I	R	S	T	S	U	L	I			
S	L	I	P	S	T	O	W	A	R	D	T			
A	L	T	H	P	H	U	F	L	E	S	H			
N	A	M	E	I	G	L	O	R	Y	I	O			
C	A	L	L	N	O	I	R	S	T	W	U			
T	G	A	Z	E	D	V	S	F	O	A	T			
U	B	L	E	S	S	E	M	O	U	T	H			
A	L	I	F	E	H	A	N	D	S	E	R			
R	I	C	H	E	S	G	O	O	D	R	T			
Y	H	E	E	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S			

O GOD, you are my God whom I SEEK;
for you my FLESH PINES and my soul THIRSTS
like the EARTH, PARCHED and WITHOUT WATER.

Thus have I GAZED TOWARD you in the SANCTUARY
to see your POWER and your GLORY,
for your KINDNESS is a greater GOOD than LIFE;
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus WILL I BLESS you while I LIVE;
lifting up my HANDS, I will CALL upon your NAME.
As with the RICHES of a BANQUET shall my SOUL be satisfied,
and with exultant LIPS my MOUTH shall praise you.

__ _____ _____ ____ _____!

Source: The Kids' Bulletin

Answer: My soul thirsts for Thee

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
Closed on Public Holidays after 9am Mass

BACK GATE
Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays after 9am Mass

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

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

LIBRARY
Sun: 8am - 1pm,
4pm - 5.30pm

COLUMBARIUM
Mon - Fri:
10am - 7.30pm

Sat - Sun:
8.30am - 7.30pm
Closed on Public Holidays

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

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 JPII 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**