



THE MANNA

Church of St Francis Xavier

63A Chartwell Drive,
Singapore 558758



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Faith, Hope and Love

2nd Sunday of Lent
28 Feb 2021

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints (Latin: *Congregatio de Causis Sanctorum*) in the Roman Curia is responsible for overseeing the complex process that leads to the canonization of Saints, passing through the steps of a declaration of "heroic virtues" and beatification. The term, "heroic virtue", was coined by one of the thirty-six Doctors of the Church, Saint Augustine of Hippo, describing the virtue of early Christian martyrs. As quoted by J. Wilhelm in the 1917 Catholic Encyclopaedia, "Together with the four cardinal virtues (i.e., prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) the Christian saint must be endowed with the three theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) especially with Divine charity, the virtue that informs all other virtues."

Abraham is esteemed for his theological virtue of faith and is therefore called the father of our faith or "father of all who believe." (CCC 146) He is also the common patriarch of the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. For us, Christians, Abraham is the spiritual progenitor of all believers, be it Jewish or Gentile. In today's first reading, we see how Abraham lived out his faith heroically. When Abraham turned one hundred years old, Isaac was born to him and Sarah. Not long after, God tested him saying, "take your son, your only child Isaac, whom you love... offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you."

(Gn 22:2) Even before this trial, Abraham had willingly obeyed God to leave what was comfortable for him, i.e. his land, his relatives and his father's house, to a land that God would show him (Gn 12:1-4). He left in faith, not knowing where God was leading him. Certainly, it was Abraham's faith, hope and love, that drove him to willingly leave what was comfortable and now to even surrender his only son, Isaac.

Reflecting on Abraham's experiences vis-à-vis our daily lives, are we courageous enough to have the faith, hope and charity to surrender what is close and dear to us? Many of us trust that as Christ's disciples, he will give us what we ask for. As we deepen our relationship with God, there will be times when God may instead challenge us to give up certain created things in our lives, even the very things that are close to us so as to reveal to us how genuine our faith is. 1 Peter 1:6-8 describes such trials, "In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of [your] faith, the salvation of your souls."

Sainthood is certainly not for the fainthearted. As Saint Ignatius said, "If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint. And if you wish to become a great saint, entreat Him yourself to give you much opportunity for suffering; for there is no wood better to kindle the fire of



"If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint."

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

holy love than the wood of the cross, which Christ used for His own great sacrifice of boundless charity."

The Catechism explains the suffering God gave Abraham in this way, "As a final stage in the purification of his faith, Abraham... is asked to sacrifice the son God had given him.... And so the father of believers is conformed to the likeness of the Father who will not spare his own Son but will deliver him up for us all." (CCC 2572) Today's gospel on the Transfiguration is the threshold of that willing sacrifice that has infused all who are baptised with the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love. Are we growing in these virtues and welcoming our trials to become God's great saints?

Announcements

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

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance and wait for the Finance Department to contact you. They will provide you with a "Reference No", **MO xxx** (eg **MO 001**). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (**T08CC4033J**).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will intercede and offer your prayer petitions at its weekly prayer sessions. Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Join us online **every Fri, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are joining us for the first time, please email intercessory@sfxchurch.sg for more information. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
861 5125 7252
Password:
SFX5MAR



LENTEN JOURNEY 2021 WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Calling all parents with young children! Come join us this Lent as we break the Word of God with you every Sunday. Don't want to miss it? Stay updated with us by subscribing to our SFX Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier.



CARITAS: DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT 2021 BY REV MSGR AMBROSE VAZ

Are you more a Volunteer than a Disciple in your service of the Lord? Come learn about Christian Commitment and the marks of Servanthood in the Bible. The retreat will be held online over **three Saturdays (6, 13 and 20 March)** from **9am to 12pm**. For queries and registration, please email formation@caritas-singapore.org.

CATHOLIC 200 SG
SINCE 1821

Church of St Francis Xavier
Celebrates the 200th Anniversary
of the Catholic Church in Singapore

March Mass Bookings

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



MARS Booking Schedule

TUE 2 MAR, 12PM

Booking for a 2nd weekend Mass*.

TUE 9 MAR, 12PM

Booking for a 3rd weekend Mass*.

TUE 16 MAR, 12PM

Booking for a 4th weekend Mass*.

*Weekday Mass bookings for the whole of March are open throughout the month and subject to availability.

Stations of the Cross



All weekday masses during Lent will begin with the Stations of the Cross. You may access the readings for the Stations of the Cross at the bottom of your entry ticket or download via tinyurl.com/SFXStations.

Please note that you are required to attend both Stations and Mass TOGETHER. No late arrivals will be entertained once Stations have started.

Things to note:

- To enter our Church premises, check in must be done via the TraceTogether token or the mobile app.
- Entry is via the Main Church foyer or Plaza (outside JPPI Hall).
- Please come at least 30 minutes before Mass begins. Registration ends 10 minutes after Stations/Mass begins.
- Bring along your photo identification card for MARS booking verification.
- Do remember to cancel your booking 1 days in advance if you are unable to attend. A no-show for Masses that have been booked is being tracked in the system.

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:

- 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**.
- Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 1 Mar, 8pm** via Zoom. There will be praise and worship followed by bible sharing facilitated by Andrew Toh. All are welcome. (Entry to Zoom session starts at 7.30pm SGT)

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID:
836 3543 9497
Password:
HOLYSPIRIT



WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

Landings Singapore presents an online testimony event by Landing participants and an understanding of how Landings works. Invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the faith to also register for the 8-week programme*. For more information, visit www.landings.org.sg.

Returned! Online Testimony Event

Date: Sat 6 March
Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm
Venue: Zoom
Register:
bit.ly/Landings-Returned-Mar2021 (by 31 March)

Welcoming Returning Catholics*

Date: 8 April - 27 May (8 weeks)
Time: Every Thurs, 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Zoom or Church of St Ignatius
Register:
bit.ly/Landings-Apr2021 or email singapore@landings.org.sg (by 31 March)

A special Lenten journey with Children's Liturgy



Calling all boys and girls (and parents too)! Are you missing the times when we could all be in church together and the fun times every Sunday with the Children's Liturgy (CL) team? Well, the team is back but online with their very special 2021 Lenten sessions.

In last week's first session, Michael, Aloysius, Cathie and Monica (or rather their puppet selves) talked about how the Holy Spirit in us can fight temptations and why the number 40 is so important. We asked CL a few questions about the whole process and what it took to get the message across.

So how did this whole idea with the puppets come about?

We have always been thinking about how to engage and captivate the children during our sessions. Some of us who were from the educational field suggested that puppets were a good way to not only engage but fascinate our young ones. So we borrowed a school's puppets and it was a great success. Soon we found our own online and now they are part and parcel of the team.

Were the puppets based on anyone in particular?

Not really but we made sure that we could get a puppet that would represent Jesus or any of the other apostles in our sharings.

How long did it take to video the whole segment? Did you need specialised equipment?

Each of the gospel sharings required 2 attempts and between 10 to 20 minutes to videotape, from the introduction to the final song. We used an iPhone only, nothing special. We have actually done 3 Sundays of Lent already and are looking forward to sharing it with everyone. The reading of the gospel is done at home and then, "magically" through technology, its all put together with the other segments.

Were there any 'out-takes' or gaffes that you can share with us?

Oh most definitely! There were so many bloopers along the way. We often work with a script as a guideline but as we go along, we sometimes have to ad-lib and make changes to difficult words and decide on the spot how the message is to be delivered as we videotape. Hence, each take is never the same and sometimes, it gets funnier as we rehearse. Often the versions are so different that we usually cannot replicate when we retake the scenes. Usually a few of us are able to initiate cues to move the delivery in the direction that we want. And thankfully, our members are quick to pick up these cues which then leads to making the children, parents and even us laugh out loud.



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

How would you describe this whole experience?

Happy that we were able to set aside our fears and apprehensions and did it for the glory of the Lord and so encouraged after receiving good feedback from so many friends and parents who said that their children watched it several times. And also that even the adults enjoyed the sharing!

What else can we expect to see in future episodes?

We will continue to keep the sharings simple and ensure that the messages are clear and memorable. We may even have actual acting by members but our puppet friends will definitely be reappearing. We want the children to remember almsgiving, fasting and prayer throughout Lent so that ditty that we sing at the end will be our main song. We hope to have children reading the gospel and maybe an e-activity booklet for Holy Week.



Thank you CL for helping us all, not only the children, through this Lenten journey. Please do follow and check out the weekly videos on our SFX Youtube Channel at www.youtube.com/ChurchofStFrancisXavier.

BOOKING OF MASSES: MUM'S POWER - PART 1

By Rebecca Lake

Comic Panel 1: A woman with glasses says, "AH! I MUST REMIND EVERYONE TO BOOK A SLOT FOR MASS TODAY! BOOKING STARTS AT NOON."

Comic Panel 2: The same woman looks confused, saying, "HMM. WHY NO RESPONSE FROM THE FAMILY GROUP CHAT? TOO EARLY?" and "I'LL TEXT JOSHUA. HE SHOULD BE AT WORK."

WhatsApp Chat:

Joshua: Remember to book a Mass today at 12pm! Set your alarm! 8:45 AM

Mum: Chill, Mum! 8:47 AM

Mum: No worries 8:47 AM

Mum: If can't get a place, can always go online for Mass. 8:48 AM

Mum: Online Mass better. Much faster 8:48 AM

Mum: I can go global. Anywhere. Anytime. 8:48 AM

Mum: Hahaha 8:48 AM

Mum: Just book this Sunday's Mass at 5.30pm - Mum's orders!!! 8:51 AM

Mum: Yes, ma'am 8:55 AM

Mum: In case you've forgotten, Mass is not a private worship in your cosy living room. We pray together as a community during Mass. 8:55 AM

Text: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." - ACTS 2:42. New International Version (NIV)

Text: We come to church to celebrate Mass as a community of believers, united in one faith and one Lord, giving praise and thanks to God. Come and participate in the Lord's Supper.

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tue & Thur:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm
(During Lent only, includes Stations)

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm
(There is currently no Novena at 4.45pm)

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

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

HOLY HOUR
Suspended until further notice

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 ROOM
Closed until further notice

LIBRARY
Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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 and Church. 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