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Disciples
Making Disciples

Signs and Wonders

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 Jul 2021

2Kgs 4:42-44
Eph 4:1-6
Jn 6:1-15



*"One Body... one Lord, one
faith, one Baptism"*
- c Eph 4:5

The feeding of the five thousand is an all too familiar biblical event for most of us, and being so, it is more than likely that we would not think very much of it - just like we might not think that it is much of a miracle that the natural world in all its interrelated intricacies and beauty, is created and sustained by the will of God.

Yet, the feeding of five thousand men is the only miracle, besides the Resurrection, important enough to appear in all four gospels. And in today's gospel reading, St. John calls it a "sign" (Jn 6:14), an extraordinary confluence of events arranged by divine providence pointing towards a greater spiritual reality. And it is only when we are attentive to the Word, who is Christ, that we can peer beyond

these physical "signs", to grasp its profound depth of meaning.

The first sign that St John records for us is that the small lad had five barley loaves. This harkens back to our first reading about Elisha and the twenty barley loaves which God multiplied to feed a hundred men. Elisha tells us that God said "They will eat and have some left over." Jesus thus demonstrates his divinity in multiplying the five barley loaves to feed all who come to him. And we see this "sign" even now, as God gives us the knowhow to increase food crop production to feed an ever growing population!

Jesus was testing Philip when he asked where they can get bread to feed the masses (Jn 6:6). To understand why, we need to recall that it was Philip who declared to Nathanael, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph". (Jn 1:45) So in presenting Philip with the difficulty of feeding five thousand, Jesus was probing the depth of Philip's belief, helping him understand more fully what he declared to Nathanael. In witnessing this miracle, Philip was to learn that the solution to the problem of feeding many, is to give of what little we have and trust that God will multiply our offerings so that others may also be blessed.

St. Augustine noted that the five loaves represent the five books of Moses; and that the loaves being of barley, not wheat, point to the Old Testament legalities because the nutrition of barley lie beneath a husk which needs effort to get to. Similarly, if we can get past the rituals and ceremonies of the Old Testament, we too can find spiritual nourishment within it to feed and satisfy us. St. Augustine goes on to suggest that the two fish, salted and preserved, signified the two

key persons in the Old Testament, the ruler and the priest, anointed to govern and sanctify the people. And in this miracle, Jesus came to combine the two persons, breaking the husk of the Old Testament to nourish and satisfy all peoples. (St. Augustine, Gospel of John Tractate 24)

St. John also recorded that on the instruction of Jesus, they picked up twelve baskets of scraps from the five barley loaves. St. Augustine suggested that the scraps represented certain matters of hidden meaning that the multitude were not able to take in. These "scraps" in twelve baskets were entrusted to the Apostles, the foundation of Christ's Church, who are fit to teach others. It is significant that the word "scraps" was translated from Greek "klasma" which is singular and not plural, indicating "one whole". This peculiarity was captured in the Eucharistic Prayer found in the Didache (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) - "As this broken bread was scattered over the hills and then, when gathered, became one, so may Thy Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into Thy Kingdom". Hence, our second reading today talks about "one body...one Lord, one faith, one Baptism."

Lastly, St John notes that this miracle took place around the time of the Passover. Coupled with St. John's record of the other food miracle/sign where water is changed to wine at the wedding in Cana (Jn 3:1-11), the multiplication of barley loaves ultimately points towards the Eucharist - the fulfilment of the Passover where Jesus gives us his Body and Blood which is the supernatural food that will feed us all with the Bread of Life!

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 intentions **ONE 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?

Please submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 30 Jul, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252
Password: SFX30JUL



SFX BIBLE APOSTOLATE TEAM: THE MYSTERY OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis declared 2021 the year of St Joseph. Come join SFX BAT in a 3-part series of Zoom talks by Helen Chong on the mystery of St Joseph. Using Dr Brant Pitre's new study, we will explore the biblical and historical perspectives of St Joseph as:



PART I - The Hidden King:
Fri 6 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm

PART II - The Most Chaste Spouse:
Sat 7 Aug, 9am - 10.30am

PART III - The Shadow of the Father:
Sat 7 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 631 162 3232
No password required



AUGUST MASS BOOKINGS

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

Tue 27 Jul, 12pm

Booking for a 1st weekend Mass and all weekday Masses in Aug*

**Weekday Mass booking for whole of Aug are open throughout the month and subject to availability with a cap of five weekday Masses per booking.*

Additional Mass at JPII Hall

National Day: Mon 9 Aug, 9am

Things to note:

- Mass booking/cancellation will be **3 hours** before Mass. Do remember to cancel your booking if you are unable to attend.
- Masses for up to **100 persons** on **stipulated Saturdays 5.30pm** (subject to individuals who have either completed the full vaccination regimen or undergone approved Pre-Event Testing [PET]).

BOOKING OF COLUMBARIUM VISITS

All visitors to SFX columbarium are required to book a timeslot online via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>.

1. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis. All visitors are to fill in their name, NRIC (last three digits and alphabet) and contact number.
2. Do make your online booking one day in advance.
3. There will be no booking on Public Holidays and Sundays. The visiting period is from **Mon to Sat: 10am - 12 noon, 2pm - 4pm**.
4. **A maximum of 2 people are allowed per slot for a duration of 20 minutes.** All visitors are required to wear a mask, check in with TraceTogether App/token for contact tracing and register at the Parish Office for temperature screening. If visitors are late for their booked time, no additional time can be accorded.

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

CATHOLIC200SG: COME & DISCERN WITH US (ZOOM)

A jubilee celebration is a key moment of discernment. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Archdiocese, join us in a meaningful spiritual exercise to reflect on our Catholic faith, and how our faith journey has been thus far. Centred on the Catholic200SG prayer, this spiritual exercise consists of 3 sessions conducted on Zoom. Simply have a journal, a bible and a cross to discern with us. Weekday and weekend sessions are available. To secure a spot, please register via the given links to receive a confirmation email with the Zoom details.

Weekday run:

Wed 21 Jul, 28 Jul, 4 Aug
(8pm - 10pm)

Register for Wednesday:
<https://tinyurl.com/discerntogetherWed>

Weekend run:

Sat 31 Jul, 7 Aug, 14 Aug
(9am - 11am)

Register for Saturday:
<https://tinyurl.com/discerntogetherSat>

SACCRE: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR 2021

Do you desire a new life in the Holy Spirit? Join us in the Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) - a series of 10 weekly sessions of hybrid online Zoom and in-person sessions held from **24 Sep to 26 Nov**. Includes live praise and worship, talk and small group discussions. Seats are limited. Sign up now at tinyurl.com/saccreliss21sg

'To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.'
- Ephesians 3:19

DIOCESAN VOCATION RETREAT (ZOOM)

How does answering God's call look like to you? Come and discover how the Diocesan Priesthood is at the same time a life taken by God and a life of a gift to others on **6 - 8 Aug**. For more details, visit <https://seminary.catholic.sg/vocationretreat/>

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

~ I am with you always ~



This Sunday, 25 July, we celebrate the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme, "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20), is chosen by Pope Francis and expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

(continued on pg 4)



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

Let us commemorate the Day by:

- ▶ Calling our grandparents/ elderly to show our gratitude and love.
- ▶ Deliver food, groceries, or other necessities to the elderly living alone.*
- ▶ As elders, encourage the young people in their faith by praying with them.



Prayer



PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

I thank You, Lord,
for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for
those that are still ahead of me.

I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You
call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith,
make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,
to never stop dreaming
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day,
even until the end of the age.

Amen.

Mass Timings

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:
6.30pm

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

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset
*(with pre-event
testing (PET)):*
5.30pm

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

Mon to Sat:
10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm
Booking via
[https://tinyurl.com/
SFXColumbarium](https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium)

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