



Parish Office:
6280 6076(phone), secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg



St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Donatien Davaine
6280 8331, FrDon@sfxchurch.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza
6282 3151, FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg

**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Saved by Faith

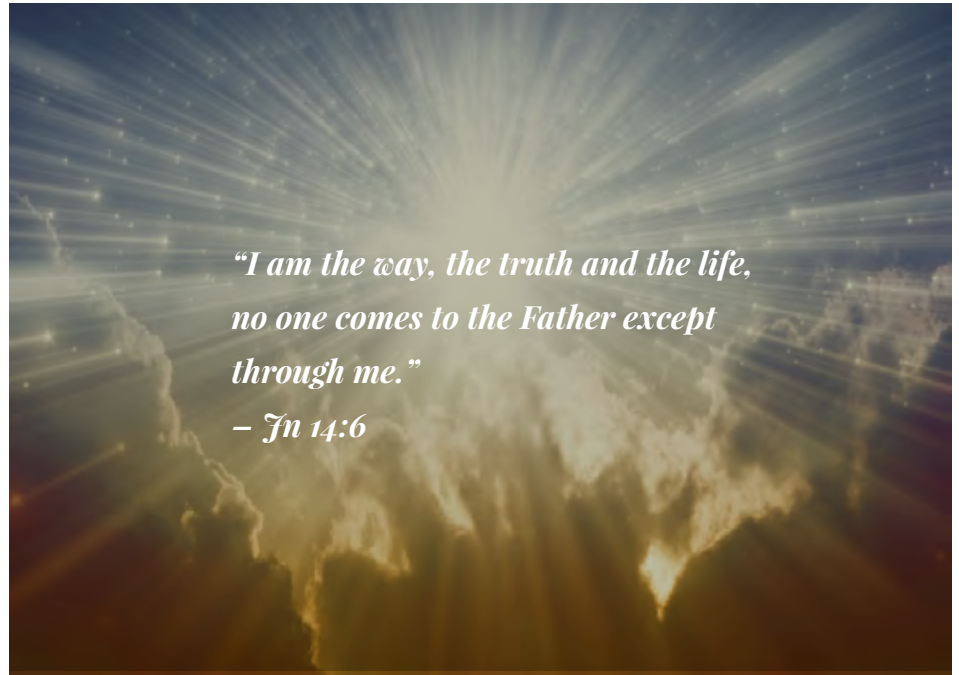
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5 August 2018

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15
Eph 4:17, 20-24
Jn 6:24-35

Last week we read about Jesus multiplying the five barley loaves and two fish to feed the multitudes, whereupon the people wanted to seize Jesus and make him king. But Jesus escapes because "his hour has not come" (Jn 6:15; Jn 7:6). Today's gospel reading first recounts how the people searched for Jesus and then, upon finding him, challenged Jesus to explain the mystery of how he got to the other side of the sea of Galilee.

Perhaps the people were hoping for more excitement from another miracle about how Jesus got to the other side of the sea. In response, Jesus reprimanded them for thinking that religion is only about filling the stomachs of the masses; earthly things that do not endure to eternity. In effect, Jesus is saying that they are experiencing the miracles but missing the signs! And the signs point to a greater truth - that they must look to Jesus as the way to the Father and to eternal life. So often in our own lives, we miss signs from God, either because we are hard of heart or weak in virtue.

If the people had seen the 'signs', they would have seen how the feeding of the multitudes was prefigured by the feeding of the Israelites in the desert with manna from heaven, and how Jesus was fulfilling the Old Covenant and renewing it in himself to bring



*"I am the way, the truth and the life,
no one comes to the Father except
through me."
- Jn 14:6*

about life eternal. Jesus exhorted the people to work, not just for earthly food that keeps them alive for a while, but food that can bring about eternal life. And Jesus explains that the food he is offering, unlike manna, "endures to eternal life" (Jn 6:27).

Jesus was setting two kinds of food before the people - one would satisfy their bread-hunger, the other will satisfy their soul-hunger. As with the people in the gospel, we too are exhorted to elevate our earthly minds to seek the Heavenly Bread. And the key to receiving this gift of Christ is faith. We must believe in the one whom God the Father has sent (Jn 6:29); the one that God has authorised and sealed with his mark - the mark of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus at his baptism!

The gospel reading ends with the crowd asking Jesus to give them this heavenly bread. This is analogous to the Samaritan woman at the well

asking for "water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:15). Both hunger and thirst are now satisfied in the promise to the one who believes in Jesus, with Jesus' decisive affirmation, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry, he who believes in me will never thirst" (Jn 6:35).

As we receive the Holy Eucharist at Mass today, remember the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, "That in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and his true Blood is something that 'cannot be apprehended by the senses, but only by faith, which relies on divine authority'" (CCC1381). Salvation comes by faith in Jesus the Christ.

Try to notice today as you receive the Eucharist at Mass, that the wafer is marked with a "seal" in the form of a cross!



Announcements

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

CANTEEN

1Cor12 group LOG (Leaven of God) will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by to support them.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 9 AUG (THU) - NATIONAL DAY

There will only be one mass at 8.30am and no evening mass.

FEAST OF ASSUMPTION 15 AUG - DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass on Tue, 14 Aug at 8pm (no 6.30pm Mass)

Masses on Wed, 15 Aug at 6.30am, 6.30pm and 8.30pm

SECOND COLLECTION FOR POOR AND NEEDY

SSVP is having the 2nd collection for the poor and needy (Friends-In-Need, FINs) this weekend. Kindly generously donate so that SSVP can continue to aid the FINs directly and indirectly via various programs with your donations. We thank you for your generosity.

CHARISMATIC LISS

The next session is **Mon, 6 Aug at 8pm**, 2nd Level, Parish Hall. The session begins with praise and worship followed by a talk on 'Come back to me' by Fr Thomas Lim. End with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation for LISS participants.

ANAWIM

Anawim will meet on Tue, 7 Aug at 8pm in the canteen. We welcome anyone who wants to rediscover some aspects of our faith and to live it more meaningfully and joyfully. If interested, please contact Theresa at 8261 7911.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (RTE) RETREAT: SERVICE TEAM MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Calling all parishioners who attended RTE previously! We are recruiting Service Team members to serve at the upcoming RTE6 Retreat from 4-7, 13 Oct 2018. Register at tinyurl.com/rteservice

Please note that there is a compulsory 'Discernment' session for all Service Team members: Tue, 21 Aug, 8.30-10.30pm, Mary Martha Room (SFX Parish Centre Level 2).

For all enquiries, please call Sharon, 9091 3066 or sharonwoo17@gmail.com.

APOSTOLATE FOR CATHOLIC TRUTH (ACT) AUGUST TALKS

1. Seeking the Truth of Catholicism, Kelvin Chia, LLB, **18 Aug 2018**
2. The Nuptial Mystery of Christianity, Rev Fr Ignatius Yeo, **25 Aug 2018**

Time: 7 - 9pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street, 02-01, S187954

FREE. All are Welcome

Details and Registration at www.catholic.sg/act

For enquiries only: SMS Andrew at 9649 3893

WHY BE GOOD? THE MORAL LIFE AS THE BLESSED LIFE

Is being "good" simply a way to earn heaven, or to avoid trouble? Will we be happier if we "create our own values?" Understand this issues through the lens of John Paul II's landmark encyclical "the splendor of truth."

Date: 21 Aug 2018

Time: 7.30 - 9pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre, CANA

About the speaker: Nick Chui is president of the Catholic Theology Network. He has a Masters in Theological studies and a degree in history. He is currently teaching in a Catholic secondary school and has over a decade of experience in catechetics and adult faith formation.

As seating may be limited, you are encouraged to secure your place early by emailing : theology.sg@gmail.com. You can call Nick at 9784 3682 for enquiries.

FAITH IN THE CITY 2018 BY OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION

What is 'faith' from the Christian perspective? What do we mean when we say we have 'faith'?

You're invited to a day of meaningful conversations, and witness the Word of God take shape before you through a form of visual art.

Bring your non-Catholic friends and family members to this event to experience art from a faith perspective.

When: 25 Aug 2018

Time: 2 - 4pm

Where: The Catholic Centre, CANA

For more info and to register: www.one.org.sg/events



Congratulations on the Anniversary of your Ordinations!

On 8th Aug, Fr Ben & Fr Garcia will be celebrating their 5th and 25th Sacerdotal Anniversaries respectively. We thank the Lord for their faithful ministry. We pray that He will continue to pour graces on them and give them the strength, courage and compassion to do His good work here on earth.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Offering our two copper coins



What is Tithing?

Tithing is the practice, established by God in the Old Testament, of contributing one-tenth of one's income to support the works of the Church and charity to others. Early Christians would offer one-tenth of their livelihood - produce, livestock, or other forms of currency. Today by contributing financially to our parish and charitable organizations, you are following God's will and providing the resources needed for the Church to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. Everything we have comes in one way or another from our Heavenly Father, offering a tithe is like giving one-tenth back to Him.

However, one of the five precepts of the Catholic Church states that believers should assist with its material needs according to the ability of each individual. The value of our offering is not determined by how **MUCH** we give, but **HOW** we give. In God's eyes, the value of the offering is not determined by its amount.

In the story of the poor widow, the wealthy gave large amounts, but the widow's two small coins was of much higher value because she gave all that she had. It was a costly sacrifice.

Why should we Give?

God wants us to give because it shows that we recognize he is truly the Lord of our lives. Everything we own and everything we have comes from God. So, when we give, we simply offer him a small portion of the abundance he has already given to us. In other words, giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. Giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks to God from the heart, not a legal obligation.

Our faith teaches us that we are called to give back by sharing our blessings with others. By our baptism as Catholics we are called to be stewards of God's gifts to us, to use them in ways that build up our families, our parish, our community, and our world. In that stewardship, we are encouraged to be deliberate and intentional in weighing our various obligations against our limited resources as we decide where we spend those resources of time and money and effort. When we give to our parish and to the greater Church, we are witnessing to our children and to the world about our values and about what's important to us.



What the Bible says about Giving...

"When He looked up He saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and He noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest: for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."

(Luke 21:1-4)



Since we are all called to be stewards, so how can we give back a percentage of what God has given to us? How can we learn to be a good steward?

Time **Volunteer hours in service to others and to the Church**

Spend time with God

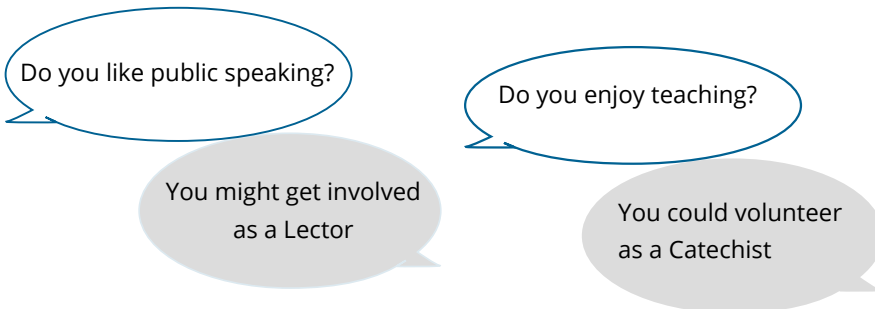
For just one hour a week on Sundays, God is there for you. Are you there on Sunday for Him? Where can you find more stewardship time to give back to God? Do you have a few minutes before Mass to be available to greet people or to hand out bulletins?

Contribute to the Community

Is decorating your passion? The church always needs help decorating the sanctuary. Think about how you might give extra time taking Communion to the sick and homebound. Do you like to spend time in the kitchen cooking and serving? Consider helping at the church canteen. Your enthusiasm for involvement and your love for God and neighbour can help our parish grow in community and love!

Talent **Use the gifts and abilities that God has blessed you with**

God has given each person unique gifts and talents that are intended to be shared.



Treasure **Share your financial resources**

To strengthen the Church and its mission to transform lives through the power of faith.

Giving to the Church should never be seen as a burden, but a way to return God's love to the community. If you recognize that everything you have is a gift from God, you see that giving generously to continue God's work in the parish is an essential part of your spirituality.

The financial life blood of the parish comes from the weekly collection - the Offertory, or Collection, at Mass is an integral part of the Sunday liturgy, not just because it is the primary means by which the parish receives financial support from the parishioners, but because it is also an expression of our gratitude to God for the blessings He has given us.

"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness"
(2 Corinthians 9:10)



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)
Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm
Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:
6.30am & 6.30pm
Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Daily: 5.30am - 11pm

LIBRARY

Sun: 8.30am - 12.30pm

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm

CANTEEN

Sun: 7am - 12pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffers from serious illness or is weakened by old age. Anointing may be before getting admitted 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



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg.

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 St.Pio prayer group via 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. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

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