



**Disciples  
Making Disciples**



**Parish Office:**  
6280 6076(phone), [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484, [FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg)



**St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**  
6280 8929, [sfx\\_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg)

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Fr Donatien Davaine  
6280 8331, [FrDon@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrDon@sfxchurch.sg)

**Priest in Residence:**  
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza  
6282 3151, [FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg)

**Jesus is “the Christ”**

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
16 September 2018

Is 50:5-9  
Jm 2:14-18  
Mk 8:27-35

With the benefit of our catechism classes, none of us will today answer “John the Baptist” or “Elijah” when asked who Jesus is. In fact, we would probably get the answer perfectly correct as Peter did in today’s gospel – Jesus is “the Christ” (Mk 8:29).

But what is “Christ”? When Peter said to Jesus, “You are the Christ”, he had in mind the political liberator that Israel had been longing for to free her from centuries of foreign subjugation.

Peter used the Greek “*Christos*” which translates from the Hebrew “*Messiah*” which means “Anointed One” – one filled with God’s Spirit (CCC 453). Israel’s kings, like Saul and David, priests and some prophets, like Elijah, were all regarded as God’s “Anointed”. Jesus, however, was not simply one more person in the list of people anointed by God.

As the Catechism puts it, “‘Christ’... became the name proper to Jesus only because he accomplished perfectly the divine mission that ‘Christ’ signifies”. This “divine mission” had two essential aspects which Jesus’ disciples came to fully understand only after his resurrection.

In taking on a human form by his Incarnation to unite all men to himself and thus enable man to partake in God’s divine nature, the disciples realized that Jesus was the “Son of

Man” prophesied in Daniel 7:13 – the one ‘who came down from heaven’ to establish an everlasting kingdom. By the manner of Jesus’ ministry and the rejection and suffering he endured, the disciples recognised him as the Suffering Servant prophesied by Isaiah who would eventually claim victory over his persecutors through his submission to God’s will (today’s first reading; cf CCC 436, 440).

Peter, however, did not yet understand all this when he professed Jesus as “the Christ”. Like many Jews at that time, he was expecting a Christ “in too human a sense, as essentially political” (CCC 439). He therefore remonstrated or protested against Jesus’ seeming willingness to “suffer grievously...to be put to death...”. Jesus responded to Peter with a rebuke, “Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s” (Mk 8:33).

“God’s way” is to uphold truth and do good as emphasized in today’s first and second readings. This could invite persecution, rejection, jealousy and conspiracy as Jesus himself encountered. But God will surely help (cf Is 50:7-9) and God will triumph as Jesus’ resurrection and ascension has shown us. Jesus thus forewarned his disciples about the cross but also assured them of victory, “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it” (Mk 8:34).

In our context, following “God’s way” may not lead to crucifixion but the

cross of rejection and scorn – for wanting to uphold what the secular world regards as ‘outdated’ – is ever present. The examples in our daily lives are many – chastity before and in marriage rather than pre-marital relations and contraception, indissolubility of marriage rather than divorce, pro-life rather than abortion, holding to the sexual complementarity of man and woman rather than same-sex unions...

Having faith in and knowing Jesus as “the Christ”, is our source of strength to persevere in truth and in the charity of doing good. We are united to Jesus not only in his Incarnation. In Holy Communion, the risen and glorious Christ continues to conform us into his likeness enabling and strengthening us to be made partners in his redemptive suffering and sacrifice (CCC 618). May the *Anima Christi* (Soul of Christ), the prayer of St Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist, guide our meditation on Jesus’ love and life pouring into us as we receive him today, “...Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, embolden me... Passion of Christ strengthen me, O Good Jesus, hear me; Within thy wounds hide me; Suffer me not to be separated from thee...”

*“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me... anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it”*

*Mk.8:34*

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### CANTEEN

Under the 1Cor12 group, **ACT** (Abiding in Christ Together) will be running the canteen this weekend. Do stop by for a meal and have a chat.

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Monday 17th Sep at 8pm, Parish Hall**. The Praise and Worship session will be followed by LISS 2nd Growth Series, a talk on 'Exercising the Gift of the Holy Spirit (Prophecy) session 2 of 2' by Martin Fernandez. All are welcome.

### CATECHETICAL INFO SESSION

Have you ever felt the call to be a catechist? Is there an inner stirring inside you that you have been pushing aside? Have you ever felt that you wanted to help young children and teens get to know more about their faith?

Come and see what being a catechist is all about. Come and find out why we are not called teachers but we are "stewards of the mystery".

The info session will be on **Sun 16 Sep** from 10.30am to 12pm at St Mary/Martha room on the 2nd level in the Parish Centre.

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This being the third Sunday of the month, there will be a collection for the GIFT programme.

The GIFT or "Giving in Faith and Thankfulness" programme is a campaign for regular giving to the archdiocese of Singapore. To support the archdiocese's 10-year pastoral plan for a more vibrant, missionary and evangelistic Church. Thank you for your generosity.

### SFX RETREAT: ROAD TO EMMAUS 6

How would you describe your relationship with God today? Do you go through your day with a spring in your step knowing you are God's beloved child, or do you struggle to get by? Are you facing a spiritual drought right now? Then they said to each other, "*Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?*" Luke 24:32

Come join us for the SFX Retreat and rediscover the purpose behind your faith. You might be surprised at who you'll meet on the Road To Emmaus.

#### Retreat Dates

04 Oct 2018 Thu, 8pm-10pm

05 Oct 2018 Fri, 8pm-10pm

06 Oct 2018 Sat, 9am-10pm

07 Oct 2018 Sun, 9am-6.30pm (includes mass)

13 Oct 2017 Sat, 9am-1pm

Registration booths will be set up after mass (15/16 Sept, 22/23 Sept, 29/30 Sept)

Do drop by the booths and fill up a registration form. Or register online: [tinyurl.com/rte6register](http://tinyurl.com/rte6register)

Childminding facilities are available throughout the retreat. Meals and tea-breaks are also provided.

*Don't you want your heart to burn as Jesus speaks to you?*

### THE COUPLE MENTOR JOURNEY (CMJ)

We invite Interfaith or Catholic couples to Journey One on One with a Couple Mentor over 6 sessions in your mentor's home. Enrich and build the foundation for your marriage at \$98.

"Married couples are the new model of accompaniment in line with our Holy Father's vision for the Church and its marriage ministry".

Sign up now at [catholicfamily.org.sg/cmj](http://catholicfamily.org.sg/cmj)

### FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY (FLS) COUNSELLING

Are you facing some family or marital issues? Do you have some personal challenges and need a listening ear to clarify? Or are parenting challenges getting to you and you need a little empowerment? We are committed to help, affirm, journey with and support all who come to us with difficulties regardless of background, race or religious belief. Apart from focusing on family and marital issues, FLS also offers support on pregnancy crisis related issues.

A team of professional counsellors are available to provide support to those facing personal, marital and family issues. Call **6382 0688** (Mon-Fri: 10am - 5pm) for an appointment.

### PSLE PRAYERS

The PSLE prayers continue on **Sun, 16** and **23 Sep** from 11am to 12.30pm. **Location:** St Francis Xavier room, 2nd level, Parish Centre.

All parents, godparents and families of the L6 children are welcome and urged to come and spend time in prayer. As a church, we pray for our younger brothers and sisters in Christ as they strive and study for their exams. We pray for good health, peace of mind and God's guidance during this period. We also pray for the parents, that they will come together and place Christ in the centre of their lives, as we become part of the SFX family, disciples making disciples.

## MOVIE NIGHT BY ST JEROME LIBRARY

St Jerome Library will be screening another movie, 'The 13th Day' on **22 Sep (Sat) at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall (2nd level)**. Invite your friends and family along to witness a story of hope and the greatest miracle of the 20th Century. Experience the incredible, emotionally-charged and often harrowing world of three young children who choose to remain loyal to their beliefs, even in the face of death.



Doors will open at 7pm. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. **FREE ADMISSION** but a love offering will be collected at the end of the movie with all proceeds going towards the SFX Renovation Fund.

Synopsis: <http://www.the13thday.com/fatima-film/fatima-film-synopsis/>

## SFX RENOVATION FUNDRAISING



For those who have yet to return the fundraising envelopes, please do so as soon as possible.

## Snapshot from Catholic Education Sunday



Students from OLGC joining the mass



Helping in the offering



Our youth catechist, Charlyn, giving her testimony



Students helping to distribute info on catholic education



Educators receiving a special blessing



Students as gift-bearers during offertory



# Teacher's Day Celebration at St. Francis Xavier Kindergarten

The celebration on 30th August began with Parish Priest Fr Benedict Chng blessing the teachers, children and family members present. The teacher-in-charge then led the children in singing a touching tribute of songs to the teachers.

But a surprise was in store: A group of parents had prepared special treats for the teachers. The teachers were divided into groups and given 'massages', 'manicures' and 'tattoos' by the children! It appeared that the children had known and honed their skills prior to this day. Right after this indulgence, all teachers were asked to be seated and another treat was laid out in front of them – cups of hot coffee, sweet cupcakes, cakes and gift bags. What a glorious treat! To top it all off, one of the mums, had put together a collage of little notes done by the children and this was presented to the teachers.

The afternoon brought even more surprises! Another group of parents from the second session conducted fun games and activities for the teachers and children. One of the mums also brought in a Photo Booth which thrilled the teachers as well as the parents and children. To culminate the festivities, a delicious catered buffet lunch awaited the teachers.

We are indeed stunned and extremely grateful for the wonderful surprises, cards, gifts, meals and presence bestowed upon us. Most of all, to the parents who planned and participated in this year's celebration, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



“ An eventful day. Thanking the Lord for giving this ministry to teach and nurture the children and an opportunity to bring Christ into their lives. We started a day with blessings and prayers from Fr. Ben. Heartfelt thanks and grateful to the parents in the am and pm session for organising the fun day. The Teachers were so pampered. A day for us to relax. Children gave us a good massage, manicure and also tattoo. We were served coffee and cupcakes. We were told to enjoy the day. Thanking the parents and children for the hugs, the thoughtful gifts, the hand-drawn cards and many more. My beloved ex children who came by to give me hugs and presents. All these brought tears to my eyes and rekindle my passion to TEACH. Hugs and kisses ”

- Jeanette Kong

## 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 [sfxbaptism@gmail.com](mailto:sfxbaptism@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)