



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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

**Mission
Renews Faith!**

Mission Sunday
21 October 2018

Is 2:1-5
Eph 3:2-12
Mk 16:15-20

Today the Church calls to our attention Catholic missionary activity that is being carried out around the world. Mission Sunday, as this day has come to be called was first instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926 at the request of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith – a society founded over a hundred years earlier in Lyon, France, by Venerable Pauline Jaricot to assist Catholic missions in prayer as well as alms.

Hearing about the extreme poverty of the members of the Paris Foreign Missions Society (MEPs), Venerable Pauline Jaricot decided to form an association whose members would donate one cent a week for the missions. Membership in her society quickly increased and she was able to send offerings to Asia. A few years later, she was joined by priests and other laypeople and together, the group of 12 formally established the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822.

The Church in Singapore benefited greatly from these early efforts of the Society. The first MEP priest to reside in Singapore arrived in 1833. Fr Etienne Albrand had a humble chapel comprising four walls and a few planks for an altar. Among the MEP priests that came after him was Fr JM Beurel – fondly remembered for bringing in the Infant Jesus Sisters and the Brothers

of Christian Schools who established the CHIJ schools and St Joseph's Institution respectively.

Our parish of St Francis Xavier also owes its beginnings to the missionary zeal of an MEP priest, Fr Philippe Meissonnier. He is remembered with great admiration by members of the first Building Fund for preaching in the churches in the city centre - raising a quarter of the \$225,000 needed to build this church in the late 1950s.

On Mission Sunday today, we can truly be grateful to God for the generosity and self-giving of countless priests, religious and laypeople who have contributed to building up the church here in Singapore.

It is however not simply the brick-and-mortar churches, schools and institutions we must be grateful for. Beyond satisfying man's innate religious yearning or nurturing human, social and cultural growth, Catholic churches, schools and institutions are places where everyone can have a personal encounter with Christ, "...living in his Church: parishes, associations, movements, religious communities, and the varied expressions of missionary service" (Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 2018).

For those of us unsure of what this personal encounter with Christ is, St. Pope John Paul II urges us to get involved in some missionary work! This is because "missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive" (*Redemptoris Missio*, 2).

Affirming this great benefit to personal faith renewal from missionary activities, Pope Francis made this observation of young people – an observation that

is perhaps also relevant to those of us who are aware that our faith has stagnated, "How many young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the 'least' of our brothers and sisters, promoting human dignity and witnessing to the joy of love and of being Christians! These ecclesial experiences educate and train young people not only for professional success, but also for developing and fostering their God-given gifts in order better to serve others".

In fact, these "ecclesial experiences" could even lead to a joyful and radical change in one's life direction, "These praiseworthy forms of temporary missionary service are a fruitful beginning and, through vocational discernment, they can help (one) to decide to make a complete gift of (oneself) as missionaries".

May we be able to discern and act on what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do today to bring the Good News of Jesus' saving help to those who still do not know him (cf Mk 16:15). Venerable Pauline Jaricot not only supported the Missions by prayers and alms, she took a vow of perpetual chastity at the age of 17 as a radical expression of her total self-giving to and communion with God. Each one of us has a role to play to bring Christ's love and life to others. As our Holy Father urges us, "No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are... (to) share in a true communion of life".

"No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are...(to) share in a true communion of life"
- Pope Francis

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Charismatic Group will be running the canteen this weekend. Come and see what's on sale.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 22 Oct** at **8pm**, Parish Hall. There will be Praise and Worship followed by a sharing of the faith journey to Fatima by Andrew and Delphine. All are welcome.

MISSION SUNDAY

Collections from Mass this weekend (**20/21 Oct**) will be for the spread of the Gospel, in the Universal Fund of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GIFT SECOND COLLECTION

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.

PIETA MEMORIAL MASS

This will be held on **Thu 8 Nov** at **8pm** at Cathedral of the Good Shepherd at Queen Street. We come together as bereaved families to remember our children who have died, no matter how recently or long ago, including unborn and adult children. The mass will be celebrated by Msgr Philip Heng. If you would like to include the name of your child in this mass, please register by giving us your name and contact details before **21 Oct** or email to pieta.singapore@gmail.com.

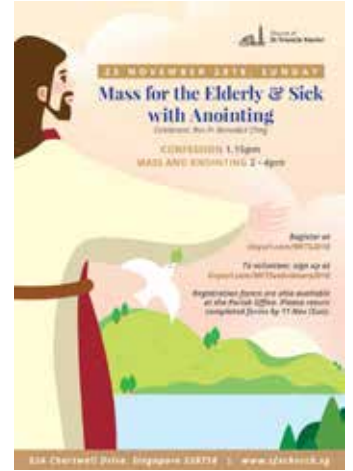
ALL SAINTS' AND ALL SOULS' DAY MASSES

All Saints' Day (Day of Obligation)
31 Oct (Wed) - 8pm (No 6.30pm Mass)
1 Nov (Thur) - 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

All Souls' Day, 2 Nov (Fri) - 6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
There will be the blessing of niches after every Mass

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING: 25 NOV

In conjunction with our parish feast day, we invite the elderly and sick to this special Mass with Sacrament of Anointing to experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). **Mass will be from 2-4pm, Confessions from 1.15pm.** Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. Registration forms are available from the parish office or at next weekend registration booth. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2018



Volunteers Needed!

Help is needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serving refreshments after mass. Registration forms are also available from the parish office or registration booths; please return completed form to the office by **11 Nov**. Please register at tinyurl.com/MFTSvolunteers2018

59TH ANNIVERSARY FEAST DAY DINNER

Join us as we celebrate our Feast Day as one community on **2 Dec** at **7pm** at the Serangoon Gardens Country Club. Besides the sumptuous menu, and entertainment by Matthew and the Mandarins, there will be exciting games and a lucky draw! **Tickets cost \$45 per person.** Do look out for the ticket sales booth after mass to book your seats. Purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment! It will be on a first come first served basis.

We would like to humbly appeal for your generosity for donations and/or sponsorship of prizes. Please do contact Patrick at 9616 6663 if you can help.

ADVENT FAMILY WREATH WORKSHOP

Come and make your own Advent Wreath with your family and friends on **Sat 24 Nov (10 to 12 pm or 2 to 4 pm)** in the canteen. For more information and registration, visit the booth in front of the canteen after mass. The workshop costs \$60 and all proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund.



ONE: LECTORS, CHOIRS AND SCC DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Office for the New Evangelisation invites all Lectors, Choirs and SCCs for a day of recollection. Let us come together as one to encounter the Lord, and reflect on the theme: The Word is a lamp for my path. The recollection will be led by Rev Fr Terence Pereira, Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation. This will be held on **Tue 6 Nov**, which is a public holiday, from **9.30am to 4pm** at the Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre, 2 Highland Road, S549102. Kindly register through your Parish or your Ministry co-ordinator before **25 Oct**.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Children's Liturgy will be organising a white elephant sale on **Sun 28 Oct (8am - 12.30pm)** at the front Church entrance and porch outside parish office. All proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund.



ORGANISED BY SFX CHILDREN'S LITURGY

White Elephant SALE

SUNDAY 28 OCT 2018, 8am - 12.30pm
 Venue: SFX Church Entrance and Porch outside Office
 Money collected to be donated to the Church Renovation Fund

Mission Sunday



Mass celebrated ad orientum (facing altar (facing east/altar))

As we celebrate Mission Sunday this weekend, we are reminded of how our church started and how the MEP priests laboured to build this parish in the Serangoon Gardens area. It's also a good time as we gear up for our forthcoming renovations to see what we are building on. For our 'silver generation' parishioners, we hope the following pictorial feature will bring back good memories. For our younger ones, this may be a good time to have a meaningful family conversation about the "good ole days" and reminisce along with your parents/god parents/aunts/uncles about life as they remember it. And eventually, to always be thankful to our Lord for all that He has provided and continues to provide.

*1959 - 2004:
A Pictorial
Overview*



Old vs. New

Construction work on the church was completed almost correct to the day planned by Fr Meissonnier. The total expenditure came up to \$225,000 of which over \$57,000 was raised by Fr Meissonnier himself by preaching in various churches in the city. The marble main altar was donated by Dr Ee Peng Liang and the Church benches were donated by parishioners in memory of the deceased members of their families whose names appear on bronze plates fixed to the pews.



A new look..coming soon!



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Round Up of The Week

Meanwhile, this was what happened in church for the past week.

The SSVP National Council Dialogue



On 13 Oct, the SSVP held their National Council Dialogue in SFX with over 160 members representing all 29 Conferences, to pray and look into harmonising future financial aid to SSVP FINs (Friends-In-Need). The aim of this dialogue was to look into a united approach for a more equitable distribution of financial aid to more than 3000 FINs cared for by all Conferences.

Personalised Candle Workshop



A delightful afternoon on 13 Oct, was spent with wax paper, colourful napkins and hair dryers as 16 parishioners turned plain store-bought candles into exquisite works of art. Dawn Teo came with her kids and said, "We had loads of fun and daddy and grandparents were so impressed with our creations! Thanks for organising - happy to support more."

The Altar Servers Investiture



The Altar Servers Investiture on 14 Oct welcomed 9 new boys, aged between 8-10 years old, into the society. After completing 6 months of training on how to serve, sacred vessels and vestments used, we pray and thank God for growing our society.

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