



**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

**To love;
not to be in love**

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 Nov 2018

Dt 6:2-6
Hebr 7:23-28
Mk 12:28-34

To love God and to love our neighbour—these are the two Great Commandments that this Sunday's gospel text sets out. The various rules in scripture and tradition, including the Ten Commandments, must be "interpreted in light of this twofold yet single commandment of love," as per CCC 2055.

Three points are offered here for our reflection on Christian love.

First, to love is to give of ourselves. In 1 John 4:8, scripture says that "God is love." Our perfect model for love is thus the cross, where God emptied himself to his people.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus gives us an example of loving our neighbour. In Jesus' time, a 'neighbour' would have conventionally been understood to be a member of one's people. A Jew would have been another Jew's neighbour.

But the Good Samaritan goes beyond his own people, beyond his boundaries, beyond himself. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI points out in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism to the Transfiguration*, the burden of the question shifts: it is no longer about who my neighbour is, it is about who am I a neighbour to.

Every time we love in this way, God—who is Love—works in us. CS Lewis

"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."

- CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

wrote in *The Four Loves*, "Divine Gift - love in the man enables him to love what is not naturally lovable: lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior, and the sneering... Love himself can work in those who know nothing of him."

Second, to love is to be vulnerable. In helping out the half-dead Jew, the Good Samaritan had to bandage his wounds, bring him to an inn, and even pay for him. This is messy, time-consuming, and expensive. This is what love demands.

In a session on friendship for Catholic students, Fr Mike Schmitz explains the difference between being vulnerable and being transparent. Transparency, he says, is like being in a fish bowl. You let others see into your life from the outside. But vulnerability is letting others into the fishbowl itself. They are not just observing from the outside; they're swimming with you on the inside.

And once people are inside your lives, they can hurt you. Lovers experience heartbreak. Judas betrayed Jesus.

"Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken," writes CS Lewis. But he continues, "If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all

entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

Third, loving is an act of the will. The Great Commandments instruct us to *love* (a verb), not to be *in love* (a noun).

Modern culture falsely equates the noun and the verb. Movies and pop songs today tell us that 'love' is about how intensely we feel, how much pleasure we derive, how much happiness we receive. But as Karol Wojtyla (now St John Paul II) wrote in *Love and Responsibility*, "It is impossible to judge the value of a relationship between persons merely from the intensity of their emotions... A very rich and rapid growth of [romantic feelings] may conceal a love which has failed to develop."

Love, in other words, is not romance. But without the feelings, how do we know if we love at all?

Again, CS Lewis has an answer: "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

St Pio will be running the canteen this weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come and support their effort.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON 6 NOV (TUE) - DEEPAVALI

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

ST JEROME LIBRARY

We will be closed from **Mon 19 Nov** due to the church renovations. Kindly return all borrowed books & DVDs to the library or Parish Office by **Sun 18 Nov**. Thank you so much for your support in this ministry. We look forward to serving you in our new and convenient location (the current canteen).

CATECHISM NOTICE

Due to the forthcoming renovations, there will be an **important** information session for all parents of children attending catechism in SFX. This meeting will highlight the changes that will take place for catechetical year 2019. This meeting will be on **Sun 4 Nov** in the parish hall. There will be 2 sessions and parents may attend either session: **9.15am - 10.30am** or **11.15am - 12.30pm**.

SALE OF PARISH TEE SHIRTS

Keep a lookout for our new parish tee shirt sale after mass **next weekend**. All proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund.



TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY 2018
THANKSGIVING
REMEMBERING OUR BLESSINGS

25 NOV (SUN)
MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING
Confession 1.15PM, Mass and Anointing 2PM
Forms available at Parish Office. Registration closes 11 Nov

Celebrant: Fr Romeo Villavicencio (Philippines)

29 NOV (THU) RECALL our God moments TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	30 NOV (FRI) REFLECT on God's faithfulness TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	1 DEC (SAT) RECHARGE with a Mission TRIDUUM MASS 5.30PM
---	--	--

2 DEC (SUN) FEAST DAY
RENEW in discipleship
5PM* FEAST DAY MASS, with His Grace Archbishop William Goh
7, 9, 11AM SUNDAY MASS + CELEBRATORY MEALS*
*Blessing of PPC/NCC/SCC Leaders at 5pm Mass *after Morning Masses only

FEAST DAY DINNER **SOLD OUT!**
Serangoon Garden Country Club
7PM, Tickets at \$45 per person

We would like to humbly appeal for your generosity for **donations and/or sponsorship of prizes** for our Feast Day lucky draw! Please do contact Patrick at 9616 6663 if you will like to lend us your support.

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

Mass will be on 25 Nov from 2pm - 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 registration booth over the weekend. 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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: 18 & 25 NOVEMBER 2018

Thinking of starting your Christmas shopping early? Look no further! The SFX Reno Fundraising Committee is organising a Christmas Bazaar outside the Parish Office over two Sundays, **18 & 25 Nov**. Differently themed, unique decorative items like candles, jewelry, prints and more, will be sold on **18 Nov** - keep your eyes peeled out for limited edition items! Delicious food items such as brownies, cookies, cakes and more will be sold on **25 Nov** - these goodies are all homemade, baked with love and certainly drool-worthy! There's definitely something for everyone, so mark the dates on your calendars and come and have a look! (Do also note that at the **18 Nov** Christmas Bazaar, there will be special knife sharpening services and a pre-order of Chinese New Year lanterns. All proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.)

ADVENT FAMILY WREATH WORKSHOP

Come and make your own fresh Advent Wreath with your family and friends on **Sat 24 Nov** in the SFX canteen. For more information or registration, visit our booth in front of the canteen after Sunday Mass (**8am - 12.30pm**). The cost of the workshop is \$60 (including a 30cm ring, candles and fresh fir); bring your own ornaments to personalise your wreath! All proceeds will go to the Church Renovation Fund. Contact Mariko at 9650 3175 for enquiries.

CATECHISM 2019 REGISTRATION

Registration for Nursery Level (children aged 4 in 2019) will be on the following Sundays: **4, 11 and 18 Nov** from **9.30am - 11.00am**. Forms are available from the Catechist Room (ground floor of Parish Centre, next to the kindergarten) or may be downloaded via the church website www.sfxchurch.sg. Please submit the completed forms together with a copy of your child's baptism certificate at the Catechist Room during these dates/times. Soft copies can also be sent to catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

Please take note that due to renovations next year, the venue for catechism will be at **CHIJ (Our Lady of Good Counsel)** on **Sundays** and timings will be as follows: Nursery to L4 (Pri 4) - **1.30pm - 3pm**; L5 (Pri 5) to L10 (Sec 4) - **3.15pm - 5pm**. For any enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.



**HOLY FATHER'S
PRAYER INTENTIONS
THIS MONTH**

IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the family of the following who has returned to the Lord:

1. Virginie Lee

BAPTISM

We welcome:

1. Trevor Edward Yeo Gong Ze

Wardens' Night



The wardens took a well-deserved break from traffic marshalling and hospitality duties in church to have a night of fellowship, fun, games, entertainment and food with their families on 19 Oct at the Serangoon Gardens Country Club. The theme for the night was Movie World - Men in Black and many came dressed to the theme. A special prize was given to the best-dressed Movie World character for the night. Joining in the merriment and bonding time were our priests Fr Ben and Fr Don who delighted everyone with their singing. I was very happy to see everyone in the Wardens family having a wonderful time and I would like to thank the organising committee for their hard work and sacrifices and our generous sponsors in making the event a success. - Patrick Lee





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

K2 Graduation Concert 2018



The SFX Kindergarten K2 Graduation Concert, held on 27 Oct, was a culmination of hard work and effort from the graduating children, the teachers plus the Nursery and K1 children. After Father Ben bestowed a special blessing on the children and their family members, the K2 children were called on stage to receive their certificates. It was certainly a proud moment not only for the children but for all the mums, dads, grandparents and relatives present as well.

The children in the Chinese Immersion class showed off their prowess in reciting Tang Poetry and dance moves in a KungFu Fan Dance. A video montage was screened which showed the K2 children's growth four years ago to the present. The younger ones also performed and shone in their cute stage routines. The finale was a trio of heartfelt songs performed by all the children. This event would not be possible without the contributions and support of our wonderful teachers and staff, supportive parents and helpful volunteers.



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