



**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

Sacrifices Motivated by Love

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
11 Nov 2018

1 Kgs 17:10-16
Hebr 9:24-28
Mk 12:38-44

Although many have inaccurately employed today's gospel to support anti-clerical arguments, Christ's main lesson for us today is that of Sacrifice. Indeed, some have used today's gospel to criticise the Catholic Priesthood tenuously linking it to Christ's critique of the Jewish Scribe. This mistaken view not only neglects the fact that Christ himself instituted the priesthood, but also fails to acknowledge the sacrificial nature of the priestly vocation; a vocation we are *all* called to by virtue of our baptism to serve Christ in the "common priesthood of the faithful" (CCC 784, 1591).

Today's readings offer us valuable insights into what true sacrifice is:

Working for oneself is easy but working for the benefit of others requires sacrifice. In criticising the scribes, Christ was not criticising the institution of the scribe for they played an important role as legal administrators. Instead he aimed to uncover the hypocrisy in which they lived their lives. Rather than serving the common good (CCC 1928), they abused their positions and exploited the poor by charging fees that eventually "swallowed up the property of widows". God has blessed us with talents and skills to work for the common good - do we selfishly and greedily use our talents only to enrich ourselves?

Christ juxtaposes the scribe's greed with the poor widow's total offering of two small coins. Ostensibly, it is easy for one to give a "great deal" when we already have a surplus. The donation of the poor widow was a true sacrifice for she chose to give "from the little she had" which was in fact "everything she possessed, all she had to live on" (Mk 12:44). This poor widow is held up by Jesus as the role model for sacrifice - she gave totally just as Jesus would give of himself completely to all of humanity "to do away with sin by sacrificing himself" (Hebr 9:26).

Sacrifices motivated by love bring on God's providence. The First Reading highlights our natural inclination to self-preservation and aversion to sacrifice. When the Prophet Elijah asked for a scrap of bread, the widow feared she would not have enough. Elijah had to reassure her of God's providence, "Do not be afraid" - the widow obeyed and truly experienced a miraculous provision for her whole family (cf. 1 Kgs 17:15-16). Our fear of giving up what we have may not be in the form of food or money - it could even be in our ability. Fearing that we are not good enough to serve God or live out the Gospel, we choose to live self-centredly; reasoning that we should be beneficiaries and not benefactors.

We are encouraged not to be afraid to live and proclaim the gospel. Christ's sacrifice "to take the faults of many on himself" has already won for us salvation - a place in heaven with Christ himself, his Blessed Mother and all the Saints (Hebr 9:28). Our vocation to the common priesthood by our baptism into Christ calls us to entrust ourselves to the Father just as Christ, our high priest, entrusted himself to the Father and has been raised back to life and is now "in the actual

presence of God on our behalf" (ibid). As the Youth Catechism puts it, with Jesus' ascension, "one of us has arrived home with God and remains there forever" (Youcat 109). With this assurance of God's love and providence, we must all be unafraid to welcome Jesus' call to follow him: **make sacrifices, sacrifices motivated by love.**

St Therese of Lisieux said, "Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice...always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love". When we offer our small handful of meal or two coins out of love, God's providence will overflow, enriching humanity in ways we could never imagine!



"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love"

- St Therese of Lisieux

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Serangoon North Neighbourhood Group will be running the canteen this weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund.

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**. We look forward to serving you in our new location (the current canteen).

SALE OF PARISH T-SHIRTS

New parish T-shirts will be on sale after all weekend masses **next weekend, 17/18 Nov**, so do check out our new parish T-shirt design and get yours quick. All proceeds will go to the SFX Renovation Fund.



SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

As the next weekend, **17 and 18 Nov**, is the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign.

Contributions to GIFT will help others encounter the love of Christ through numerous archdiocesan organisations and building projects of the archdiocese. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

— 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 <i>our God moments</i> TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	30 NOV (FRI) REFLECT <i>on God's faithfulness</i> TRIDUUM MASS 8PM	1 DEC (SAT) RECHARGE <i>with a Mission</i> TRIDUUM MASS 5.30PM
---	--	--

2 DEC (SUN) FEAST DAY

RENEW <i>in discipleship</i>	5PM* FEAST DAY MASS, with His Grace Archbishop William Goh 7, 9, 11AM SUNDAY MASS + CELEBRATORY MEALS* <small>*Blessing of PPC/NCC/SCC Leaders at 5pm Mass *after Morning Masses only</small>
--	--

FEAST DAY DINNER  *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.

CATECHISM 2019 REGISTRATION

Registration for Nursery Level

(children aged 4 in 2019)

11 and 18 Nov (Sun): 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.

SILENT AUCTION OF DECOUPAGE PRINTS

As part of the reno fundraising efforts, a silent auction will be held on **Sun 18 Nov**, outside the parish office. Framed decoupage pieces of specially curated Christian prints from around the world will be on auction. For more details, please refer to the Silent Auction poster that is up on the notice boards.



CHURCH SAFETY NOTICE

Due to falling debris from the weakening roof's ceiling boards during the rainy season. The following changes have been implemented with immediate effect for the safety of parishioners, please kindly take note:



CLOSURE OF SIDE PARKING AT REAR GATE:

- Lane 1:** Out of bounds to all human traffic. This is due to loose ceiling boards from the roof and may fall especially aggravated during the rainy season.
- Lane 2:** For pedestrian only.
- Lane 3:** 3 car park lots have been cordoned off to facilitate vehicles moving out during peak period mass times. **STRICTLY NO PARKING.**



CLOSURE OF SIDE WALK (TOWARDS OLG):

With immediate effect, the walkway is closed due to the falling roof's ceiling board. **This will be until the renovation is complete.**

An **alternative route** has been setup to allow the teachers/ parishioners who park at OLG school or SFX carpark to have access to the church/school via the corridor along **Our Lady of Grace** room (the corridor towards the toilets).

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: 18 & 25 NOVEMBER 2018

The SFX Renovation Fundraising Committee is organising a Christmas Bazaar outside the Parish Office over two Sundays, **18 & 25 Nov**. Differently themed, unique decorative items like air plants, candles, jewelry and more, will be sold on **18 Nov**. Delicious food items such as brownies, cookies, cakes and more will be sold on **25 Nov**. So mark the dates on your calendars and do drop by as there's definitely something for everyone!

*(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.)*

SCHOOL OF WITNESS 2019

Do you believe that Jesus can bring new hope and new life to areas of your life that are wilting and feeling dry? Whatever season of life you are experiencing, hope is something that Jesus offers you! He calls you to remain in Him, for cut off from Him you can do nothing (John 15:5).

If so, the School of Witness 2019 conducted by the Office for Young People is for you! This a live-in discipleship school for all young people aged between 18 to 30 years and runs from **6 Jan to 2 Mar** (with a short Chinese New Year break). For more details, contact OYP 6285 2571 or visit www.oyp.org.sg.





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

Blessing of Niches on All Souls' Day



SFX Community Day



Morning mass ✓ **Prayers** ✓ **Breakfast** ✓ **Praise & worship** ✓
Trivia quiz....? Huh? Wait a minute....in a church event?

The SFX Community Day held on **6 Nov**, checked all the right boxes plus a few new ones. Organised by the Lectors Ministry, this Community Day first started 2 years ago as the SFX FunFormation Day with the aim for the priests and parishioners to get to know each other and spend some time bonding over activities other than what they usually would do in their ministries/communities.



Familiar 'lector' faces took on new roles as MC, game show host and even a very spirited, action song leader as they helped 118 participants from 26 ministries/communities break the ice and enjoy the morning. The guess-the-bible-character was easy for some but difficult for others, the church trivia quiz had whole groups of people walking all over SFX and the inter-ministry sharing made us all remember the joy that serving gives us. Some comments from those who were there..

"I am glad I came as it was a truly fun-filled time that nourished me physically (food, trivia hunt and dancing), emotionally (heart-felt sharings by individuals and Fr Ben), mentally (knowing bible characters) and spiritually (praise and worship). Thank you God for this loving community."
- Delphine Ang (Charismatic Ministry)

"It was a great informal networking opportunity with other SFX ministry members, a fun-filled day but still working towards our church goals" - François Dumont (NCC community)

"This was my 1st time attending and I had a great time mingling with the various ministry members and learning about their various roles. I was also very touched by Fr Ben's short sharing as well as the experiences of all our other brothers and sisters."
- Josephine Cho (Elders Ministry/Community)

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