



**Parish Office:** 6280 6076(phone)  
62867 0027(fax), [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



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



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

**Disciples  
Making Disciples**

## *Skirtaō! Anaphōneō!* **Leap & Exult for Joy!**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
23 Dec 2018

**Mi 5:1-4**  
**Heb 10:5-10**  
**Lk 1:39-45**

We arrive at this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent with just a day or two before the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. There will undoubtedly be the temptation to "cross-off" these last days of solemn Advent preparation and launch the festivities. Yet we must resist that temptation for the Liturgy this Sunday can lead us into understanding why the Second Person of the Trinity took on flesh and became man.

Today's Collect sums up the purpose of the Incarnation. It is also the closing prayer to our daily Angelus, "Pour forth we beseech thee O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection...". The intimate connection between the taking on of flesh (Incarnation) for the purpose of the "Passion and Cross" in order to accomplish our Resurrection is daily impressed on us by this prayer. God was born as man in order that he may die for all men and offer humanity the gift of Eternal Life.

"Pour forth we beseech thee O Lord your grace into our hearts..." These words express the confidence of the believer that God's grace – his gift of the Holy Spirit – can transform us and

help us give to him our right response of praise and thanksgiving.

We see this in today's Gospel which is Luke's account of the Visitation. Beyond revealing Mary's tender charity towards her aged and pregnant cousin Elizabeth, Luke's purpose is mainly to present the Visitation as the fullness of one of Israel's most significant encounters of God's nearness. The language and imagery used by Luke recalls for the reader King David's unbridled ecstatic joy as he led the procession of the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem after its capture and abandonment by the Philistines (2 Sm 6; 1 Sm 4). In the procession, King David had danced in leaps of joy (*skirtaō*) and a huge entourage consisting of priests, musicians and choirs shouted and sung with exultant joy (*anaphōneō*) because the Ark (God) was returning to be with Israel (cf 1 Chr 15:28).

In Luke's account however, it is not an earthly king who has gone out to seek God. Rather, it is the King of the Universe, the infant Jesus still in his Mother's womb, who has put aside his divinity and in this great gesture of humility and love, come to seek out his people. Luke used "*anaphōneō*" to describe Elizabeth's joyful exclamation that she had been visited by her cousin Mary. Elizabeth's words revealed the inspiration given her by the Holy Spirit that in her cousin Mary, God's plan of salvation had begun to unfold, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:41-42).

In describing the joyful leap of John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb, Luke used "*skirtaō*" to describe John's joy in being in the presence of the New Covenant. The joyful responses of both Elizabeth



*"Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*  
– Lk 1:41

and John the Baptist were preceded by being "filled with the Holy Spirit" – the same Holy Spirit given us at our Baptism (Lk 1:41-42).

By our Baptism, we have become God's chosen people, "a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Pt 2:9). Our capacity to fulfil this kingly and priestly role is through the ruler who would "stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord" (Mi 5:3). This nourishment is given us at every Mass in hearing God's Word and receiving our Lord's Body.

In these last days before the Solemnity of the Nativity, let us examine ourselves ever more deeply to see if we are still lacking in the right disposition before our Lord and Saviour. May God grant us the grace to repent and be converted once again so that we can truly exult and dance with joy as God's "royal priesthood", offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the gift of his Son to be our Redeemer and Saviour!

## Announcements

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

### NO CANTEEN

There will be no canteen this weekend.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the parish office will be closed at the following times:

**Mon 24 Dec, 31 Dec - Open till 12pm**  
**Tue 25 Dec, 1 Jan - Closed**

### SFX RENOVATION UPDATE

We are currently awaiting the final approval from the respective government agencies, before we can appoint the main building contractor. Therefore, there will be some delays to the project. The Parish Building Committee will be able to share a more definitive schedule once the main building contractor is appointed. We thank all parishioners for their understanding and patience.

### CARITAS: PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2019

The Personal Moral Compass Course is for all Catholics and all who are interested in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is a one-year long systematic course in Moral Theology consisting of 6 individual modules, conducted by Rev Fr David Garcia, OP. This course is organised under Caritas Singapore and will run **every Fri, from 7.30pm - 9.30pm**, starting on **Fri 11 Jan**. It will be held at Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street. For more information and registration, please refer to [www.caritas-singapore.org](http://www.caritas-singapore.org) or email [formation@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation@caritas-singapore.org).

### Christmas Mass Times

**Mon 24 Dec**  
 5.15pm Carolling, 5.30pm Mass  
 8.30pm Pageant, 9pm Mass  
 11.30pm Carolling, 12mn Mass + Supper

**Tue 25 Dec**  
 9am, 11am, 5.30pm

### New Year's Mass Times

**Mon 31 Dec**  
 10.30pm (with paraliturgy)  
 \*Morning and evening mass is as usual.  
 \*\*There will be light refreshments and fellowship in the canteen after the 10.30pm mass.

**Tue 1 Jan**  
 8.30am only

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

The pageant on Christmas eve will be held at 8.30pm by Children's Liturgy. We welcome all children who would like to be part of the pageant. Come dress as an angel, a shepherd or an animal of your choice. Please be seated in church by 8.30pm.

### A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas is a time of joy, rejoicing and celebration for God has given us Jesus, the most precious gift of all. So come celebrate Christmas as a family of Christ at our *deLIGHTful little CHRISTmas party*. Held on **Fri 28 Dec, 7.30pm - 9.30pm**, it will be an evening of food, bingo, carolling, performances and fellowship!

*Do note that on the day of the party, there will be some restrictions for traffic movements within the compound. **The carpark will be closed from 6.30pm - 9.30pm**, so if you are planning to leave after evening mass, we will recommend for you to find alternative parking.*



*A gentle reminder to also park considerately please. Remember that we are Christians at all times and our every word and action represents not just ourselves but who the church and Jesus is too. Your cooperation is much appreciated!*

### DO NOT PARK...

 Within 3m from a fire-hydrant	 Within 6m from a junction
 Within 9m from a bus stop/bus bay	 In front of any gate
 UNBROKEN SINGLE WHITE LINE & DOUBLE WHITE LINES DOUBLE YELLOW LINES No parking at all times	 UNBROKEN SINGLE YELLOW LINES No parking from 7am to 7pm (except on Sundays and Public holidays)
 SINGLE WHITE ZIG ZAG LINE No stopping at all times on this road (except points)	 PEDESTRIAN OR ZEBRA CROSSING No parking at all times in this zone (except points)

\*Violations against parking will be enforced by LTA enforcement officers through the hotline or website

## BOOK OF PSALMS: BIBLE STUDY BY ARCHDIOCESAN BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE

Come and learn more about the Book of Psalms, the only book apart from the four Gospels which is used in every mass. The bible study sessions are run by Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate and taught by Fr Ferdinand Purnomo OCD.

There are two options for class timings:  
**16 sessions: 22 Jan – 28 May 2019**

**Tuesday mornings, 9.30am-11.30am**  
 CAEC Building (2 Highland Road, Singapore 549102)

No classes on: 5 Feb, 19 Mar, 23 Apr

**15 sessions: 21 Jan-27 May 2019**

**Monday evenings, 7.30pm-9.30pm**  
 CANA Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo Street, Singapore 187954)

No classes on: 4 Feb, 18 Mar, 22 Apr, 20 May

### Course Fees

\$150 (if paid by 21 Jan),

\$160 (if paid from 22 Jan)

For more info, please email [aba\\_secretariat@catholic.org.sg](mailto:aba_secretariat@catholic.org.sg) or call 6280 0354 from Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm. Register at [bit.ly/2GfwK6L](http://bit.ly/2GfwK6L)

## A Prayer for Love

Dear God,

We thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, and we ask you to open our hearts and minds and teach us how to love. Help us to always place you in the centre in all that we do and love you above all things, for you are so good and perfect in all of your ways. Continue to be a beacon of light and mercy in our lives, so that we may be transformed by your love and show it in the way we live our lives.

Amen!



## Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love



Love is such a simple word, but there are so many different kinds of love such as love between friends, siblings, family, lovers and more. So really, what is love? St Thomas Aquinas has given us a simple definition: ***“To love is to will the good of another.”*** – this goes beyond just having strong, intense feelings of like and attraction, but with an additional element of caring for their well-being. It is exactly how God loves us all, and how we should love others too, by being concerned about the needs of others, and genuinely desiring what is good for them.



***“Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through him, the world might be saved.”***  
 – *John 3:16-17*

God's love for us is unconditional and eternal, so much so that at Christmas, he gave us the greatest gift of all – a gift of pure love – love in the form of his son Jesus. God sent his only Son to us, knowing full well his plans for Jesus, that he was to die for us, so that our sins would be wiped clean and we would be able to come to the Father once more.

***“We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.”*** – *1 John 4:16*

Jesus came to teach us how to live and how to love, him being the perfect example of love. In the person of Jesus, God's love has been poured out into our hearts. If we have been blessed to have had a personal encounter with God, we will truly know how life-changing his love can be. The more we are touched by him, the more our lives and perspectives can be transformed and we will be able to live out of the abundance of God's love, rather than living under the pressures of secular and societal expectations.

And just as how love prompted action from God, love prompts action from us too. Other than the presents that we have bought and plan to give to others, one of the best gifts we can offer others is the gift of ourselves. This final week of Advent, let us take time to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

### Here are some things we could do:

- During meal time with your family, community, or friends, go around the table and share a time that you most felt loved by Christ.
- Write notes of affirmation to your family, loved ones and friends.
- Watch a movie that depicts the life of Christ, such as “Jesus of Nazareth” or “The Nativity Story”.
- Take some extra time during the week to pray for the names on SFX's Advent Trees that they may encounter Christ's love for them and with open hearts, see his presence in their lives.
- Invite a friend or two to one of SFX's Christmas Eve or Christmas masses.

# A Ho-Ho-Holy CHRISTmas to you!



## ***My dear brothers and sisters-in-Christ,***

As the year comes to an end, it is a good time to look back, reflect and give thanks for everything that has happened in the past 12 months. Through the year, some of us may have been touched by the love of Christ through retreats and formation sessions that we participated in; others may have encountered the Lord in the liturgical celebrations or special gatherings within our ministries or community. As we continue to open ourselves in faith, the Lord will nourish and grow us spiritually.

On the other hand, there may also be some who have been struggling and going through tough times, facing difficulties and setbacks one after another. We urge you not to be discouraged and dismayed, but instead try your best to look for the blessings in your moments of disappointment. Lift your burdens up to the Lord, for he has said, *“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28)*. Continue to have faith and trust in the Lord!

2018 has been a wonderful year in our parish with so much preparation work well under way for new projects that will be launched in 2019. The top of the list would be our Parish Renovation project. We have already begun the journey in refreshing God’s house, and we are grateful for everyone who has contributed their efforts and resources to the project. We believe that when the works are completed, it will help in our faith renewal and also aid in achieving the parish’s vision of becoming a vibrant, missionary and evangelistic church.

With the spirit of Christmas around us, we celebrate in our hearts the promises of a new year. We pray for the unity and harmony in our parish, that as one body of Christ, we will also be of one heart and mind in loving God and serving his people. We pray also for the peace in our families and for us to be loving, kind and generous to one another. And last, we pray for each and every one of you, that you may continue to grow in deeper faith and be open to Christ as you journey in your mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

As the new year approaches, we three priests – Fr Ben, Fr Don, and Fr Brian – would like to thank everyone for your generous support and love. Together with all our staff in SFX, we wish one and all, ***a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

***Scan the QR code to watch a special Christmas greeting featuring our priests - Fr Ben, Fr Don and Fr Brian!***



Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://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:** Reopen in Dec 2019

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