



**Disciples  
Making Disciples**



**Parish Office:** 6280 6076(phone)  
6287 0027(fax), [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)

## Lord, Liar or Lunatic?

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
3 Feb 2019

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19  
1 Cor 12:31-13:13  
Lk 4:21-30

Today's Gospel is a continuation from last Sunday's reading. After proclaiming the Isaiah text concerning God's promise to send an anointed or Spirit-filled servant to establish a glorious new Israel, the synagogue congregation was filled with admiration over Jesus' "gracious words" (*hoi logoi tēs charitos* – literally "words of salvation"). This admiration, however, quickly turned into scorn as they rejected Jesus' claim to be the anointed messiah of Isaiah's prophecy. Despite the miracles worked in Capernaum that proved Jesus' divine origin, those in the synagogue saw Jesus as just "Joseph's son" (Lk 4:22). In response to their disbelief, Jesus recalled the times Israel had refused God and therefore could not receive the miracles of life and restoration. These miracles were granted instead to the Gentile widow of Zarephath and the Syrian, Naaman, who demonstrated faith, obedience and hope (Lk 4:23-27).

Now, right before them in the Nazareth synagogue was the Word himself – God's Son and their messiah – and Israel again, would be bypassed because he was not the exalted military figure they had expected but a lowly carpenter's son.

Addressing this passage, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI posed this question, "...why ever did Jesus want to stir up this antagonism? At the outset the people admired him and he might perhaps have been able to obtain a certain consensus...But this is exactly the point: Jesus did not come to seek the agreement of men and women but rather – as he was to say to Pilate in the end – 'to bear witness to the truth'. The true prophet does not obey others as he does God, and puts himself at the service of the truth, ready to pay in person. It is true that Jesus was a prophet of love, but love has a truth of its own. Indeed, love and truth are two names of the same reality, two names of God" (Angelus, 3 Feb 2013).

Today, many people acknowledge Jesus' historicity but find themselves unsure about Christianity's claim and adoration of him as Lord and God.

In his book "Mere Christianity", atheist-turned-Christian apologist, CS Lewis, wrote with zealous fervour that it is "foolish" to praise Jesus for being "a great moral teacher" and not accept his claim to be God, "A man who was merely a man and said that sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell [i.e. liar]. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his

being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us."

Lewis' own remarkable conversion came from his examination of the scriptural and historical evidence about Jesus, "Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God". Lewis' argument for Jesus' divinity is often referred to as "Lewis' Trilemma" or the "Lord, Liar or Lunatic" argument.

Today in Church, we are before Jesus in much the same way as those in the Nazareth synagogue. Jesus was rejected then. May we be enraptured and grateful today as we encounter Jesus' tenderness - he knew us even before we were born and has entrusted to us the mission to bring God's love and mercy to others. This is a mission we are capable of fulfilling because the gift of the Spirit of love has been poured into us at our Baptism (cf Jer 1:5; 1 Cor 13:13).

Not liar. Not lunatic. Jesus is truly our Redeemer, Saviour, Lord and God!

*"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse... it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God".*

CS Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

## 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

Gift Bearers will be running the canteen this weekend. Do drop by and see what they have on the menu. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

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

**Mon 4 Feb** - Open till **12pm**  
**Tue 5 Feb, Wed 6 Feb** - Closed

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR POOR AND NEEDY

SSVP is having the 2nd collection for the poor and needy (Friends-In-Need, FINs) **this weekend**. Kindly generously donate so that SSVP can continue to aid the FINs directly and indirectly via various programmes with your donations. We thank you for your generosity.

### HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 7 Feb, 8.30pm** in the main church.

### NO CHARISMATIC MEETING

There will be no session on Mon 4 Feb. The next Charismatic session will resume after the completion of church renovation.

### COME ALIVE: A WEEKEND RETREAT - 2ND RUN

Pray with the songs from the movie, "The Greatest Showman". Discover who you are and discern God's dream for you. Where are you fully alive, and what keeps you from being fully alive? Presented at Montfort Centre from **8 - 10 March**. Contribution: \$345 (Single) \$270 (Twin). Register at [anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyatmontfort@gmail.com) or call 9631 1943 to find out more.

## Happy Birthday, Fr Brian!

Blessed birthday greetings for Fr Brian whose birthday falls on **8 Feb**. We pray that our Lord will bless him with good health and a strong faith to lead and to shepherd.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS TIMINGS

We wish all parishioners a happy and blessed Lunar New Year!  
*Fr Ben, Fr Don and Fr Brian*

### Mon 4 Feb (CNY Eve):

6.30am and 4pm (No evening mass)

### Tue 5 Feb (CNY Day 1):

8.30am and 10.30am (No evening mass)

### Wed 6 Feb (CNY Day 2):

8.30am only

### FAMILY WALKATHON

As part of the fund-raising efforts for the church's renovation, a family walkathon is being organised. To allow all in the family to participate, fund-raisers need not participate in the walk and vice versa. Donation cards are available at the front porch and the canteen areas. If you are above 12 years of age, you can sign out for a donation card. Those below 12 years of age can still participate in the fund-raising if a parent/guardian signs out the card for them. The donation cards can be returned every Sunday from 10th Feb 2019 to 21st Apr 2019 (last date) between 8am to 12 noon at the front porch of the main Church.

The sign-up for the actual walkathon will commence in mid-March 2019 and there will be multiple walking routes of about 5km to choose from, to cater to all. This walkathon will be held on a public holiday, **Mon 20 May 2019**. Come join us! Have some family bonding time and fun with your friends and your parish community!

### ACF-CTIS FORMATION PROGRAMME: "COME BE MY LIGHT"

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Family (ACF) is collaborating with the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore (CTIS) to offer a Formation Programme in Marriage and Family. This is open to all in the Marriage and Family apostolate and any others who are interested. Starting from **1 Mar**, it will be held at CTIS, 618 Upper Bukit Timah Road from **7.45pm - 10 pm**. There will be a contribution of \$30 per person per module (for Family Ministry members) and \$60 per person per module (for others). Do register at <https://catholicfamily.org.sg/come-be-my-light-acf-ctis-formation/>

# Covenant Ritual For Our L10s



52 teens standing to confirm their willingness to be confirmed

On 26 Jan, 52 L10 (Secondary 4) teens participated in their second covenant ritual in preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May. The covenant ritual is a 2-part series of paraliturgies that recall the Baptismal graces conferred through the symbols of water and light.

This second covenant ritual reaffirms that we are called to be the light of the world (Matt 5:14), a light that shines in the darkness (John 1:5). During the paraliturgy, parents and godparents symbolically handed on a candle to their teen, lit from the Christ candle, in an outward gesture of handing the light of faith on to the next generation. On behalf of our SFX community, these parents and godparents, affirmed our hope for these teens, and our desire to continue praying for them and journeying with them as disciples making disciples.

***The Catechetical Ministry of SFX urges all parishioners to pray for our L10 teens as they grow closer to their confirmation. We pray that they will continue to cling to the faith of our fathers, abide in Christ and become proud disciples of the community. Amen!***

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

**UNIVERSAL - VICTIMS**  
 For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.

**IN THE MONTH OF JAN 2019**

**CONDOLENCES**  
 We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Anthony Wee Thian Lee
2. Wee Teck Hock Peter

**INFANT BAPTISMS**  
 We welcome the following:

1. Caleb Koh Yuan Hao
2. Levi Rafael Singh Sandhu
3. Gabriel Darshan Xavier
4. Isabel Chong En Hui
5. Lauren Mikayla De Silva
6. Chiara Isabelle Ong Zi Shan



Going through the paraliturgy procedures



(Photos left and bottom) Some of the teens receiving the light



# The RCIA Retreat – Our Treasure



The spiritually renewed retreatants with the RCIA, 1Cor12 and BASIC team members.

***“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” - Matthew 13:44-46***

“Where your treasure is, there, your heart will also be” – was the theme of the RCIA Retreat for 39 catechumens and candidates held at the Retreat House of Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary from 25 to 27 Jan 2019.

During the retreat, the participants were introduced to prayer, from set prayers to having a conversation with God. They also learned to listen to what God was telling them and were encouraged to reflect on their journey, their search for the treasure, the obstacles along the way and how God is also reaching out to them. The sessions were interlaced with praise and worship, small group sharings as well as night walk activities. It was evident, especially during the night walk, that the Holy Spirit touched many retreatants. For some, it was baggages/obstacles they were unaware of and holding on to. For others, it made them more convicted that this is the journey they had been searching for.

For Sandra Lim, the retreat “...far exceeded my expectations – bountiful food, meaningful sharing and many opportunities for prayer and worship, helping me deepen my faith through the leadership of the facilitators and fellowship with other retreatants. Being here has also given me the chance to quieten my heart and mind, allowing God to speak to me. I’m truly blessed to have the opportunity to attend this retreat.” Another catechumen, William Tan, shared that “the retreat was an enriching experience.” In his search to understand more about the Catholic faith, he was heartened to learn that Jesus was in turn searching for him. The retreat was fulfilling as it gave him a deeper perception of what faith is about. “I appreciate the time and effort put in by the RCIA service team as well as the contribution by the group of highly energetic young people from BASIC and 1Cor12...It was a memorable retreat for me.”

This retreat was jointly organized by BASIC, 1Cor12 and the RCIA ministry. The whole SFX community plus an intercessory team were also involved, praying for the participants. Indeed, it was a meaningful, rewarding and Spirit-filled experience for all. Thanks be to God.



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)