



Parish Office: 6280 6076(phone)
6287 0027(fax), secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, FrBenChng@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

**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Loving your Enemies

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
24 Feb 2019

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
1 Cor 15:45-49
Lk 6:27-38

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges us, "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Lk 6:27-28). He also challenges us to offer our other cheek to the one who strikes us.

But who are our enemies? Are our enemies those who cause us pain and suffering; betray us; present obstacles to our aspirations in life; differ in opinions from us in our workplaces and even in our church communities and ministries?

We may find that we could even be perceiving some of our loved ones as "enemies"! Why is this so?

Jean Vanier, a Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and humanitarian, who founded L'Arche, an international community in 37 countries for people with developmental disabilities, shared a deeply personal and shocking discovery in his book, "From Brokenness to Community".

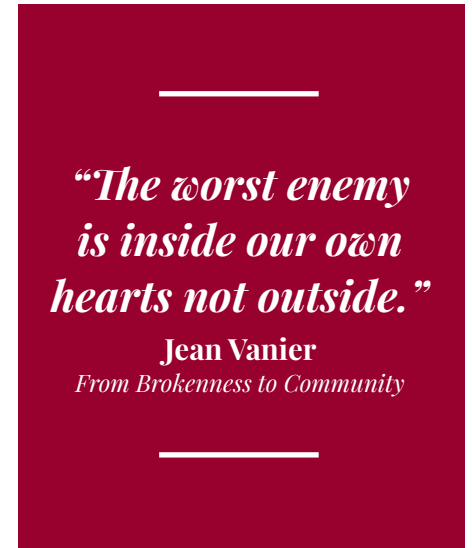
He wrote, "there were immense forces of darkness and hatred within my own heart. At particular moments of fatigue or stress, I saw forces of hate rising up inside me, and the capacity to hurt someone who was weak was provoking me! That, I think, was what caused me the most pain: to discover who I really am, and to realize that

maybe I did not want to know who I really was! I did not want to admit all the garbage inside me. And then I had to decide whether I would just continue to pretend that I was okay and throw myself into hyperactivity, projects where I could forget all the garbage and prove to others how good I was. "

He finally came to the understanding that "...the important thing is to become conscious of those forces in us and to work at being liberated from them and to discover that the worst enemy is inside our own hearts not outside."

When Jesus challenges us to pray for our "enemies", it is not so much that our "enemies" will change but rather, our perception of whom we have perceived as "enemies" will also change. By praying for our "enemies", an interior gaze of ourselves changes too, so that we will not only love the ones who hurt us but more importantly, be able to love and embrace the great good that God has created every man for.

What does it really mean to "offer our cheek to the one who strikes us"? Does it mean that, we, like doormats, allow our aggressors to continue to mistreat us? Bishop Robert Barron, an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, once shared that in response to our aggressor's aggression, instead of either flight or fight, we adopt a third way: "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and give him the other. No one in Jesus' time would have used the unclean left hand for any kind of social interaction. Therefore, to strike someone on the



right cheek was to hit him with the back of the hand, and this was a gesture of contempt, reserved for slaves and social inferiors ... He thereby signals to the aggressor that he refuses to live in that person's spiritual and psychological space. And he mirrors back the aggressor's aggression, shaming him into self-awareness and prompting conversion."

On the streets of Calcutta, Saint Teresa of Calcutta was holding a starving child by the hand while on the way to a bakery. She begged the baker for some bread for the child, but the baker spat full in her face. She took a firm look at the baker and said, "That was for me, now can you give something for the child?" In the final analysis, the "enemies" of our lives are not meant to make our lives difficult, though it may appear to be, but rather, they are meant to help us grow to become mature Catholic disciples. As expressed in one of Michael Smith's songs, "Sovereign Over Us", "Even what the enemy means for evil, you turn it for our good, you turn it for our good and for your glory."

Announcements

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

NO CANTEEN

Due to the upcoming renovation works, there will be no canteen service till **25 Aug 2019**.

ADORATION ROOM CLOSURE

Due to the upcoming renovation works, the adoration room will be temporarily closed from **20 Feb** onwards until further notice.

DISCARDING OF OLD PALMS



You may return your old palms in the boxes that will be placed at the front and side entrances of the church from **23 Feb - 3 Mar**.

GIVE THE SPECIAL GIFT OF A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (ME) WEEKEND

Marriage Encounter facilitates life-changing weekends for married couples. By transforming the way husband and wife communicate, it forges greater intimacy and a closer relationship. Slots are still open for the next ME Weekend from **1 - 3 Mar**. E-mail mewkend@gmail.com or visit www.esg.org

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIPS

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trips to Myanmar in **29 Mar - 3 Apr** (TBC) and **early June** (TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation, as well as to oversee a water supply project sponsored by CHARIS Singapore. If you are keen to join in either Mission trips or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMINGS



The mass timings for Ash Wednesday, on **6 Mar**, are as follows: **6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY SESSIONS

Please be informed that Children's Liturgy sessions will be at **St Luke** and **St Mark rooms (Parish Centre, L2)** from **24 Feb** until further notice.

VERBUM DEI: HALF-DAY RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES - "BECOMING WHAT WE RECEIVE"

Need some time away to pray with the Word of God? Join us for a quiet and spirit-provoking afternoon of prayer with the Verbum Dei Missionaries on **Sun 31 Mar 19, 3.15pm - 6.00pm**. To register, SMS or WhatsApp Mark at 9487 0999.

THE BIBLE AND MARY

A Bible Study presented by SFX BAT. Are Catholic teachings on Mary really biblical or are they "traditions of men"? By praying to Mary, are Catholics worshiping her? Did Mary actually remain a virgin her whole life or are the "brothers of Jesus" mentioned in the Gospels her other children? How does the Bible teach that Mary is the new Eve, the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth and the new Ark of the Covenant? ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen. To register, please contact Helen Chong at 9757 4853.

Dates: 3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, 31 Mar (Sundays)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: SFX Room (Parish Centre, L2)

PIETA SINGAPORE

A support group for bereaved parents who seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope through prayer and reflection on the WORD OF GOD. Our next monthly session (every 4th Tue of the month) is on Tue 26 Feb, 7.30pm at Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8. Find out more at facebook.com/PietaSingapore or email to pieta.singapore@gmail.com

ACF: UNPACKING THE DEEPEST DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS

Come learn and understand the Church's teaching on Human Sexuality as written by St John Paul II in his document Theology of the Body. Listen as Fr David Garcia, OP, Mr Andrew Kong and Dr Douglas Ong share more about this hot topic. For married couples and singles (above 20).

Date: 2 March 2019 (Saturday)
Time: 9am to 3pm
Venue: St Joseph's Institution, Lecture Theatre 2 (38 Malcolm Road, Singapore 308274)
Contribution: Love Offering
Register at: catholicfamily.org.sg/unpacking-the-deepest-desire-of-our-hearts

CARITAS FORMATION SERIES

This is a 2-part Formation Series titled "Live the Gospel in the World" facilitated by Fr David Garcia, OP. This retreat and the follow up sessions bring participants on a journey of discovery of how we are called to live our faith more intentionally in our daily lives. For more information and registration, please refer to www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org.

PART 1: WEEKEND RETREAT

Dates: 30 - 31 March 2019
Venue: Lifespings Canossian Spirituality Centre

PART 2: 3 EVENING SESSIONS

Dates: 9, 16 & 23 April 2019
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Agape Village, 7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh

Parish Renovation Update

As we start our renovation, let us reflect on Ephesians 2:19-22 and ask our Lord to guide all involved in this rebuilding, for safety for all and to give us hearts of patience, understanding and love to see this project through.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."



On **20 Feb 2019** the Parsonage, Adoration Room and Canteen has been handed over to the Contractor for the first phase of our renovation. Hoarding have been erected; for your own safety, please do not enter the worksite.



BASEMENT CARPARK

The main staircase to the basement carpark is now closed. However the lift and the 2 staircases at the parish centre may be used.

TOILETS

Toilets are on the ground floor and the second floor of the parish centre only.



ACCESS TO CHIJ OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Please note that there is a change of access to Convent of Our Lady of Good Council. The entrance is now from the glass door in the children's playground.



COLUMBARIUM

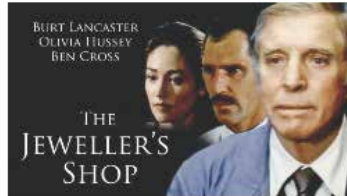
The columbarium will be accessible from now to **1 Jun 2019**. The entrance is **ONLY by the staircase**. There is no lift access.

*Please follow the directional signages and instructions by the wardens.
Thank you for all your understanding.*



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Luke 6:27-36 (NIV)

One of the important things Jesus told the people was that they should love others, just as God loved them. Not only should they love their friends, but they should also love their enemies.

Unscramble the words below and fill in the blanks to see what Jesus said about this in Luke 6:27



Unscramble the letters in the circles to find the word that fits both blanks below.

"Be _____ just as your

Father (God) is _____. (vs36)

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

20 Feb Onwards,
Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM
Daily: 7am - 9pm
Will be closed from **1 Jun - 31 July**

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission 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