



Parish Office:
6280 6076(phone), 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

The Historicity of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday of
The Lord's Resurrection
21 Apr 2019

Ac 10:34, 37-43
Col 3:1-4
Jn 20:1-9

Christianity is anchored in history. Within years of Jesus' lifetime, historical records mention him. Such records include those by Jewish historian Flavius Josephus in AD93 and Roman politicians Pliny and Tacitus (second century AD). None of these people even liked Jesus; but few debated whether Jesus lived and died.

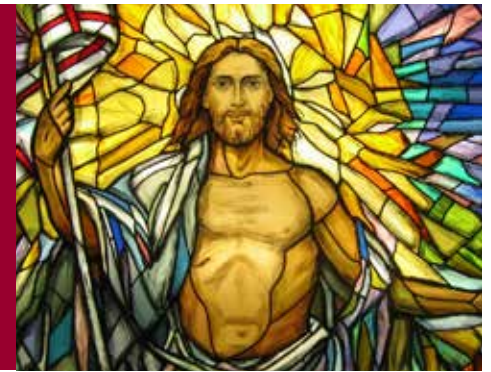
The more interesting question however, is whether Jesus died and lived

There are three key facts that support a case for the Resurrection. These facts can be established without relying on the accuracy of the New Testament; even non-Christian historians assent to these three facts.

First, Jesus' tomb was empty. Otherwise, no one would be foolish enough to believe a man had resurrected when his body lay dead in the tomb. And yet, Jesus' disciples began preaching the Resurrection in Jerusalem itself, the city that Jesus had died and been buried in. As theologian Paul Althaus argued, the Resurrection proclamation "could not have been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned."

Critically, the Jews themselves did not

"And for the few witnesses — precisely because they themselves could not fathom it—it was such an overwhelmingly real happening, confronting them so powerfully, that every doubt was dispelled, and they stepped forth before the world with an utterly new fearlessness in order to bear witness: Christ is truly risen." — Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



deny the empty tomb, and instead attempted to refute the Resurrection with the narrative that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body (see Mt 28:11-15). But this conspiracy theory is easily refuted, which brings us to the next point.

Second, the first Christians believed that they had encountered the Risen Lord. Multiple early sources (apart from the New Testament) record testimony of eyewitnesses encountering Jesus after his crucifixion. The honesty of these eyewitnesses cannot be doubted. As the late Nabeel Qureshi wrote in *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, "Liars make poor martyrs."

Furthermore, such testimonies cannot be dismissed as hallucinations because they came from independent witnesses that corroborated each other (see 1 Cor 15:3-8). The hallucination theory also cannot explain the empty tomb.

Third, the early Christian Church believed in and preached the Resurrection. Unlike myths that develop over generations, the Resurrection was preached within months of Jesus' death. As CS Lewis points out in *Miracles*, "an 'apostle' was first and foremost a man who claimed to be an eyewitness of the Resurrection... to preach Christianity meant primarily to preach

the Resurrection...The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts."

In this regard, the Resurrection was wholly original. Judaism in the first century had no concept of a single individual rising from the dead; the Jews believed in being raised together at the end of time (cf Jn 11:24).

In *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI describes the uniqueness of the risen Christ: "He was quite different, no mere resuscitated corpse, but one living anew and forever in the power of God... It was an utterly unique experience, which burst open the normal boundaries of experience and yet for the disciples was quite beyond doubt. This explains the unique character of the Resurrection accounts: they speak of something paradoxical, of something that surpasses all experience and yet is utterly real and present."

Such novelty, improbable as it may be, precludes theories that the Resurrection was a myth constructed from other existing ideas. And once the impossible is eliminated, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.

And here is the Truth: Christ is risen, Alleluia!

Announcements

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

SFX TELEGRAM - T.ME/SFXCHURCH

Receive the latest church bulletin, through our official TELEGRAM channel!



You will receive **official announcements** directly on Parish-wide events/initiatives, reminders and mass timings on your phone. Managed by the Parish Communications office, Telegram is a free app! Information will remain available on the SFX website, Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp groups and our bulletin 'The Manna'.

FEED THE HUNGRY PROJECT

If you forgot to bring the lenten almsgiving box, you may drop it at the Parish Office over the week. You can also donate cash – place it in an envelope marked 'Feed the Hungry' and leave it with the Parish Office or drop it into any of the donation boxes in the church. Volunteers will be contacted for specific duties in the coming week.

PACKING OF GIFT BAGS

Date: Sat 27 Apr
Time: 9am - 12noon
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2

COLLECTION OF GIFT BAGS

Date: Sat 27 Apr
Time: 12noon - 1pm
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2, St Luke Room

OR

Date: Sun 28 Apr
Time: 8am - 1pm
Venue: Parish Centre, Level 2, St Luke Room

RCIY WANTS YOU FOR ITS NEW JOURNEY!

RCIY is looking to expand our service team to better serve in the new RCIY journey beginning **16 Jun to May 2020**. If you wish to journey with seekers of truth, experience beauty in Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, as well as learn and grow in faith through community and service, do sign up at tinyurl.com/sfxrciy2019

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

There will be a second collection **next weekend 27/28 Apr** to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Every Catholic is encouraged to sign up for a pledge to help with continued support for the numerous archdiocesan organisations needed for the mission of the church. More info is available at gift.catholicfoundation.sg.

PARISH FORMATION PROGRAMME 2019: SPIRITUAL GROWTH & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Desiring to strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with God? Come and listen to Sr Linda Lizada, Cenacle Sister, as she shares the importance of spiritual growth and provides some guidance on how to improve your interior life as disciples of Christ. The fourth session of the first module Discipleship & Prayer will be held on **Mon 29 Apr, 8 - 10pm** at the **Main Church**. All are invited, so grab your family and friends and sign up now, at tinyurl.com/DMDRCRP2019!

DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER RETREAT

Come spend a morning together to learn more about Ignatian Contemplation. Experience this form of imaginative prayer and receive practical tips on how to practise this. All are welcome!

Date: Wed 1 May 2019
Time: 8.30am - 12.30pm (Light snacks will be provided)
Venue: SFX Main Church
Registration: tinyurl.com/DMDPrayerRetreat



SFX BAT BIBLE STUDY: ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Renowned biblical scholar, Fr Raymond Brown said "Among the Pauline writings only Romans can match Ephesians as a candidate for exercising the most influence on Christian thought and spirituality." Join us to discover how Ephesians develops the theology of the universal Church more than any of the other Pauline writings. ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen.

Date: 28 Apr, 5 May, 12 May, 19 May, 26 May 2019 (5 Sundays)
Time: 9am - 10.30am
Venue: SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)
Registration: Helen Chong at 9757 4853

CALL TO SERVE: L8 & L9 RETREAT

Are you a youth/young adult with a heart to serve the young people?

Come join us in journeying with our younger brothers and sisters from L8 and L9 in their upcoming retreats happening on **1- 3 Jun (L8)**, and **20 - 23 Jun (L9)** respectively! We are looking for individuals who could help facilitate, aid in logistics or help intercede for the participants. Worried about not having the experience? Don't fret! We'll have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds! It will be on **18 May and 25 May for L8**, **18 May and 12 June for L9**. Come share the gifts God has given you with the community!

Feeling an excitement in your heart? If you're interested in serving L8 camp, please contact Gabriella at 9826 5910 or sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXSBCL82019. If you're interested in serving L9 camp, contact Daniel at 9028 0135 or sign up at tinyurl.com/SFXSBCL92019. We look forward to serving with you!

CARITAS: PERSONAL MORAL COMPASS COURSE 2019

The Personal Moral Compass Course is for all Catholics and people of goodwill interested in formation in the foundations of Ethics and Moral Theology. It is a one-year systematic course in Moral Theology consisting of 6 individual modules conducted by Rev Fr David Garcia, OP and organised under Caritas Singapore.

3rd Module: Christian Morality

Date: 26 Apr, 3 May, 10 May, 17 May, 24 May, 31 May, 7 Jun 2019 (Fridays, 7 sessions)

Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Catholic Centre, 55 Waterloo Street Singapore 187954

Registration: www.caritas-singapore.org or email to formation@caritas-singapore.org

PRAYING OUR LIFE'S QUESTIONS: A VOCATION RECOLLECTION BY CENACLE SISTERS

What will I do with my life? Is this all there is to life? Does God have a plan for me? These are a few of the most common questions that young people ask. This weekend will teach them how to pray and discern the questions that unfold their life purpose. It will also offer them a glimpse of one life option, which is religious life in the Cenacle, by providing them with information and experiences about the life of a Cenacle Sister. (Open only to single women aged 19-33 years old).

Date & Time: 11 May 9am - 12 May 1pm

Venue: Choice Retreat House, 47 Jurong West St 42

Contribution: Love Offering

Register: www.cenaclemission.com



Have a blessed Easter!

Rebuild My Church, Restore My People

As our church undergoes changes to her physical structure, some of our parishioners have been going through spiritual renewal as well. For the last 3 Mondays, Module 1 on Discipleship and Prayer has seen many coming to church on Monday nights to listen and learn more about the discipline and methods of prayer. On 25 Mar, Mike Arents (*Parish Pastoral Executive at Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*) introduced why prayer was important and how to use Lectio Divina to have a deeper prayer relationship with the Lord.

The subsequent 2 weeks saw Lance Ng (*Spiritual Director at Kingsmead Centre*) introduce other methods of prayer with the Awareness Examen, Journaling and Ignatian Contemplation. He also spoke on what discernment is and what it is not. By practising mindfulness and learning how to relax and concentrate on each day, Lance demonstrated how we can try and use the Examen to bring out those dark feelings into the light, to bring these to our Lord and place

them at his feet, thus releasing these negative feelings and ensuring that these do not turn into resentment and make us "sleepwalk" through life.

For those who may want to learn more about Ignatian Contemplation, Lance will return on **Wed 1 May from 8.30am to 12.30pm** in **SFX Main Church** to help us experience this form of imaginative prayer and give us some practical tips and methods on how to practise it.



MODULE 1: DISCIPLESHIP & PRAYER

Church of St Francis Xavier

Rebuild My Church, Restore My People

SESSION 4

Spiritual Growth & Spiritual Direction

Desiring to strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with God? Come and listen to Sr Linda Lizada, Cenacle Sister, as she shares the importance of spiritual growth and provides some guidance on how to improve your interior life as disciples of Christ.

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Main Church	29 April 2019, Monday	8pm - 10pm

Light refreshments will be provided.



An Unexpected Journey...

Fr Don reflects on the recent SiGN mission trip to Myanmar.



Well, for sure... the title is not mine and a Tolkien fan or a Peter Jackson movie enthusiast would certainly announce loudly the fraud! But this title crossed my mind when I began to write this reflection about my recent trip to Myanmar from 29 March to 3 April with two other members of SFX SiGN group (Sowers in God's Name). I was invited to "come and see" the work by our parish group in a remote and impoverished area of Myanmar.

In the movie I referred to, the main character - a young hobbit called Bilbo Baggins - together with a group of dwarves, embarked on a journey which would lead him in a journey of self discovery through adventures, challenges and companionship. It was the same for me. Of course I am not talking about the dwarves companionship - my two companions were a bit taller! But by journeying with them in unknown lands, I enjoyed particularly the time spent together to speak about almost everything: missionary work, personal experiences, their lives, food (how to forget that!), and of course, faith too... The kind of trip we embarked on gave us opportunities to know each other in a different context which liberated our conversations. And since we were sharing almost everything : the spiders, the cockroaches, the bucket shower, the morning wake-up call by roosters (I had dreams of grilled chickens, or chicken-rice)... we could talk about the essentials in life!

We went to serve and help our friends. And the first one was Fr Benjamin who welcomed us at the airport. This local "Gandalf" drove us to the Nazareth Bush School which he started approximately 25 years ago. This developed into a larger local community in the diocese of Pathein, near Myaungmya (South-west from Yangon), where he is now helped by Fr Celestine and the orphans who grew up within the community. I was personally impressed by all the work already accomplished in this place - farming, tests in padi seed production, cashew nut processing and trading, education and formation of the younger generations etc. I could quickly sense Fr Ben's determination to create a sustainable community for his people. While our friend dedicated all his time and energy for the development of the community, I could also see his faith in action, especially his confidence in God's providence and his inner peace (even when ants enter his cassock during mass!).

Now, my unexpected journey is at an end but the adventure continues. I think the journey was unexpectedly good for all of us because the Lord always plans gifts and surprises to the willing hearts despite initial questions and maybe even subconscious fears.

Let's pray now for a sequel to come.



Looking for more Information?
visit 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

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