



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 Jude David (on Study Leave)
6280 8331, Frjude@sfxchurch.sg

Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza
6282 3151, FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg

Life beyond Earthly Life

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10 Nov 2019

2 Mac 7:1-2; 9-14
2 Th 2:16-3:5
Lk 20:27-38

In today's Gospel, we are presented with an unusual debate between Jesus and the Sadducees over the subject of the resurrection of the dead. This controversial debate was "unusual" since Jesus' response to a question is typically followed by posing further questions to the enquirer to lead them to find the answer for themselves. Besides, this is supposedly the first and the only time (at least in the Gospel of Luke), that Jesus is shown asserting himself very strongly against the Sadducees – thus emphasising the importance of the subject at hand which is the resurrection of the dead.

The Sadducees stand out for their rejection of widely held Jewish beliefs like the resurrection, angels and spirits (cf Ac 23:8) - they can thus be said to have placed themselves outside of the family of Israel. Unlike the Pharisees, who also accepted the Psalms and Prophets as authoritative, the Sadducees accepted only the Torah or the Pentateuch (i.e. the first five books of the Bible) as having divine authority.

The Sadducees were priests who offered sacrifices in the Temple and as Jesus was preaching about the resurrection of the dead within their "turf" (i.e. the Temple), it would not be unexpected for the Sadducees to

challenge Jesus on this point. The controversial debate began with some Sadducees quoting what was found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10 which required a childless widow's brother-in-law to marry her and have children so as to carry on the memory of his deceased brother.



"The King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws. One cannot but choose to die at the hands of men and to cherish the hope that God gives of being raised again by him."

- CCC 992 -

The Sadducees' premise was that it was impossible for the dead to be resurrected since God's Law on the serious obligations of marriage conflicted with a belief in the afterlife. After all, which brother would the widow have to be faithful to? Marital faithfulness was a virtue grounded in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:14, Dt 5:18). Instead of Jesus' typical response with a question, Jesus' response was that marriage is an earthly

institution that served to preserve the memory of those who have died and since there is no longer death in the resurrection, marriage was not needed: "...[those] in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God" (Lk 20:35-36). In other words, only one status matters – we stand before God as his child (Lk 20:36). As a second response, Jesus reminded the Sadducees that Moses himself had acknowledged the resurrection of the dead before he received the Ten Commandments as he called God "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Lk 20:37-38). If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were regarded by Moses as still alive and in relationship with God, then there must be a resurrection of those who have passed through death.

Christ's own resurrection not only proved the Sadducees wrong and made a victorious statement over death. As highlighted in Rom 8:11; 1 Th 4:14 and many other passages in Scripture, "if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you." (CCC 989). Faith in the resurrection of the dead was also expressed in today's first reading where the Maccabean martyrs confessed, "The King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws. One cannot but choose to die at the hands of men and to cherish the hope that God gives of being raised again by him." (CCC 992, 2 Mac 7:9,14)

Announcements

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

CATECHISM NOTICE

There will be no catechism sessions on **Sun 10 Nov** due to the SFX CER (Conversion Experience Retreat). Please note that the last 2 sessions for the year will be on **17** and **24 Nov**. Catechism will only resume on **22 Mar 2020** as all catechists and volunteers will be undergoing a period of formation for the first term in 2020.

ANAWIM

The next session will be on **Tue, 12 Nov** at **8pm** in **St Luke Room**, at the Parish Centre (Level 2). We welcome anyone who wants to rediscover some aspects of our faith and to live it more meaningfully and joyfully. If interested, please contact Theresa at 96437132.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT

We are starting our recruitment drive for children from 3 -12 years of age, teenagers and adults who want to act, sing or help in the Christmas Pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Mass from **4pm** (TBC). The Pageant will be at **5pm** followed by the family mass at **5.30pm**. So if you are interested in being part of Jesus' birthday, please contact Monica (9691 0599), Craig (9451 8256) or Jui (9299 1138). You may also look for our CL booth in the front of the main church from **17 Nov - 1 Dec** (3 Sundays after the 9am and 11am mass) to sign up with us directly.



There is no Children's Liturgy on Sun 10 Nov as the ministry members will be at CSC to help pray with the intercessory team for the SFX CER retreat from 10.30am.

TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY 2019 THANKSGIVING BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING



24 NOV (SUN)

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

Confession 1.15PM, Mass and Anointing 2PM
Forms available at Parish Office. Registration closes 10 Nov

Celebrant: Fr Benjamin Eishu (Myanmar)

28 NOV (THU)

REMEMBERING the Mission

TRIDUUM MASS
8PM

29 NOV (FRI)

SEEKING God's Help

TRIDUUM MASS
8PM

30 NOV (SAT)

SHARING the Mission

TRIDUUM MASS
5.30PM

1 DEC (SUN) FEAST DAY

REBUILD MY CHURCH, RESTORE MY PEOPLE

11AM* FEAST DAY MASS, with *His Grace Archbishop William Goh*
7AM, 9AM, 5PM* SUNDAY MASS

**Please kindly note the change in mass timing*

**Blessing of Leaders at 11am mass*

CATECHISM REGISTRATION FOR 2020

The last day for registration for Nursery Level (children aged 4 years old in 2020) will be on **10 Nov**, from **9.30am - 11am**. Parents are requested to download the registration form from the church website and submit a copy of their child's baptism certificate (with the completed forms) to the parish office. Forms are also available from the parish office. Spaces are limited so do not delay.

Due to the church renovations, catechism for year 2020 will still be held in CHIJ - Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) and the timings remain unchanged:

Nursery to L4 (P4): 1.30pm - 3pm

L5 (P5) to L6 (P6): 3.15pm - 4.45pm

L7 (S1) to L9 (S3): 3.15pm - 5pm

For any other enquiries, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

MASS FOR THE ELDERLY & SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast Day, we invite the elderly and sick to this special mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, to experience the "special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). **Mass will be on Sun 24 Nov from 2pm - 4pm.** There will also be **confession from 1.15pm**. Family and friends are welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. A registration booth will be set up during all masses this weekend. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2019.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from our church, as well as ushering and serving refreshments after mass. If you are interested, please register at tinyurl.com/MFTSvolunteers2019 by **Sun 10 Nov**.



Testimonies from The L7 Retreat

On All Souls' Day, 40 teens gathered for their first 2-day catechetical retreat at the Office for Young People (OYP) to focus their lives on Jesus Christ amidst the transition into secondary school life and teenhood. During the retreat, God assured his love for our teens and that they too can be agents of God's love in the world.



"I've learnt that labels people put on us do not matter and only God can judge us. This increases my self-esteem and prepares me for secondary school life, where the world is often judging us for what they see, not who we are. Thank you to all the facilitators who have taken time off their studies and busy schedules to be present and journey with us."

GERALD LEE



"The retreat gave us an opportunity to focus on God, and I am comforted that God loves me no matter the choices we've made. There is no need to prove anything to earn his love. Through his "letter" to me, I also understood that God always wants the best for us and even unfortunate things are part of God's plans that he will use for good. That gave me peace."

LEORA TAN



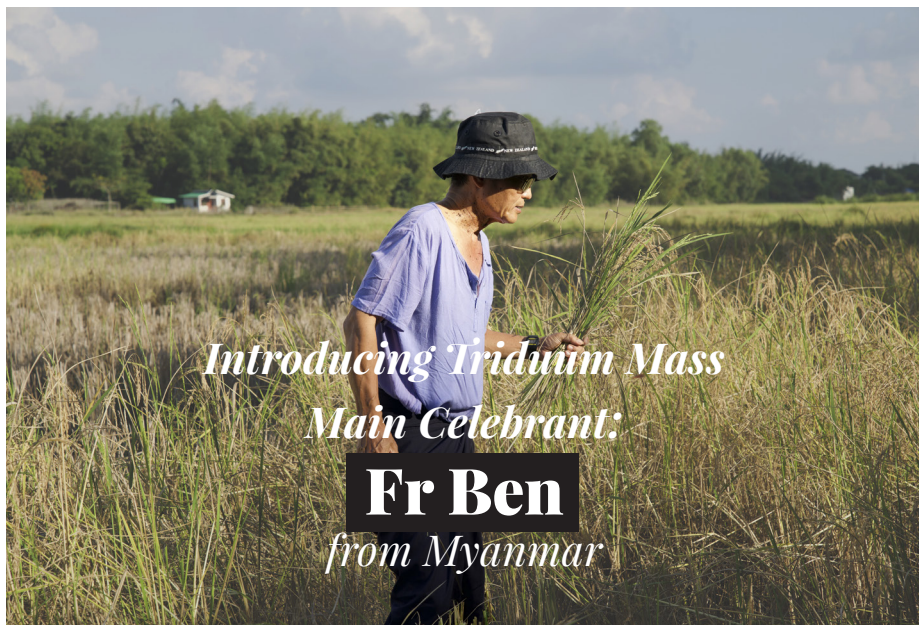
"As this was my first retreat, I kept an open mind which helped me grow in faith during the retreat. The testimonials and teachings gave me a greater understanding of who God is and how I'm a beloved child of God. Nothing I do will make him love me less. During the night prayer, I read a "personal" letter from God, which made me feel accepted and worthy, knowing that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us while we were sinners. I also enjoyed singing and dancing along with my friends to praise God!"

JOSHUA LEE





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



This Triduum, we have the privilege of having Fr Benjamin Eihsu, a Burmese priest and founder of Nazareth Bush School (NBS), as the main Celebrant.

Fr Ben works closely with SFX's SiGN ministry since 2015 on faith formation missions to NBS, where he is the spiritual father to more than 70 orphans and impoverished children for the last 25 years. Besides NBS, Fr Ben also cares for the children in two other orphanages located near the village of Myuangmya, 5-hour drive to the west of Yangon.

Many of the SiGN members will readily acknowledge that they had been spiritually enriched after spending time with Fr Ben and the NBS children, far greater than their time and effort spent for the mission. Listening to Fr Ben at his homilies and in conversation, and participating in the children's daily lives, helped the members see God's providence at work and encounter Jesus in a real and loving way.

So make a date to attend the SFX Triduum Masses to meet Fr Ben!



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 except PH

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Temporarily closed

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOIDTING 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 check with the Parish Office.



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 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 and Church. 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