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

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

Disciples
Making Disciples

 **Parish Priest:**
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484, FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg

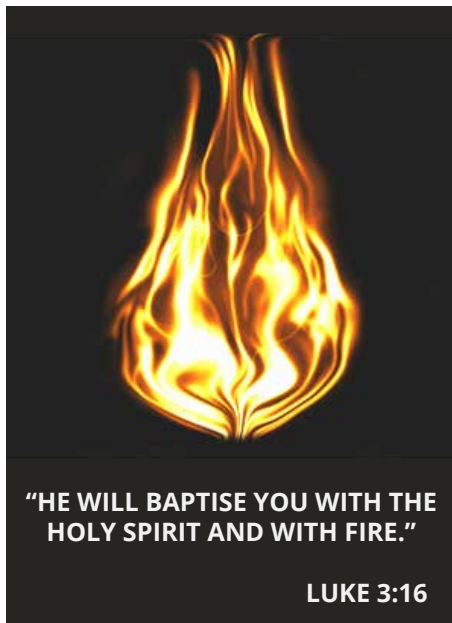
Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Donatien Davaine
6280 8331, FrDon@sfxchurch.sg

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

Transformed by Fire

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
13 Jan 2019

Is 42:1-4, 6-7
Ac 10:34-38
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



When John the Baptist began preaching his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, it would have been 30 years since the star appeared hovering over Bethlehem which guided the visit of the magi to a particular baby; 30 years since shepherds saw a wondrous sight at night and angels glorifying the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem; and 30 years since Herod ordered the genocidal act of killing the holy innocents of Bethlehem, in the vain attempt to assassinate the baby Messiah. The memory of these events would have been kept alive by the people who lived through them 30 years ago, and perhaps it was this, coupled with the message of



John the Baptist, that filled the people with an expectancy (cf Lk 3:15). In their hearts, they were wondering if John the Baptist was indeed the One. As we come to the end of Christmastide, perhaps we should ponder if we have the same level of expectancy; an expectancy of meeting the Messiah; an expectancy so strong that it drives us to confess and repent of our sins in preparation for meeting the Messiah; and then let this expectancy move us to rediscover the joy and freedom that can come only when we submit our wills to follow that of Jesus the Christ!

John declared plainly that his baptism of water was insufficient; we need to be baptised by the Messiah with the Holy Spirit and fire (cf Lk 3:16). Throughout salvation history, water signifies cleansing, rebirth and fruitfulness of life, whilst fire is sometimes used to symbolise the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The fire of the Holy Spirit transforms everything that it touches, as exemplified at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit, in the form of "tongues of fire", came to rest on the disciples and filled them with himself. At our own baptism it is Jesus himself who baptises us, and in it Jesus acts to confer the grace of spiritual cleansing of our soul; infuses us with divine life and makes us children of God; Jesus regenerates us in the Holy Spirit into a new creature (cf CCC 1262-1265). All that is left for us to do now is to follow the example of the Virgin Mary and the Saints, to say "yes" to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and allow him to transform

us into divine life (cf CCC1127). Let each time that we dip our fingers into holy water to trace the sign of the cross on ourselves, be a reminder of our rebirth as God's children at baptism, and the power unleashed to cleanse our souls of sin.

Why Jesus himself needed to be baptised by John, can be puzzling. Even John himself initially refused to baptise Jesus, not really understanding why he who has no sin should need a baptism of repentance. When God took on flesh through Mary, our humanity was taken up by the divine person of Jesus. In Jesus, God came to us as fully man and fully God, with the sole aim of offering himself up as a sacrifice to redeem our fallen humanity. In the act of being baptised by John, Jesus identified himself with our sins though he himself had no sin. Jesus wanted to be "numbered with the transgressors" (Is 53:12) to take on all our sins, and become a representative of our sinful nature, so that on the Cross he can bear the full burden of our guilt and become the perfect sin offering in order that we might be reconciled with God the Almighty (cf CCC536).

With his baptism, Jesus identifies himself as one of us. In our baptism, we come to share in his divinity and become children of God. As we ponder upon so rich a grace poured out through Jesus Christ, may we grow in conviction of St. Paul's words to Titus, that we have been justified by his grace and now become heirs in the hope of eternal life (cf Tit 3:7).

Announcements

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

CANTEEN

The Serangoon North Neighbourhood Group will be running the canteen this weekend. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come and give them your support.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 14 Jan 8pm** at the **Parish Hall**. Praise and worship followed by a talk 'Serving with the hands of Martha and the heart of Mary'. All are welcome.

SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers and the Sacristan Ministry will be selling Chinese New Year cookies this weekend, **12/13 Jan**. All proceeds will go directly to the SFX Renovation Fund. Do come and give them your support.

CATECHISM NOTICE

Catechism sessions will resume on **Sun 20 Jan**. All sessions will be held in CHIJ (Our Lady of Good Counsel) and the timings for the various levels are as follows:

NURSERY TO L4 (PRI 4)
1.30pm - 3pm

L5 (PRI 5) TO L6
3.15pm - 4.45pm

L7 (SEC 1) TO L9 (SEC 3)
3.15pm - 5pm

L10 (Sec 4) SFX Parish Hall
3.15pm - 5pm

Special Needs catechesis will be held in St Anne's church in 2019 and not in our parish due to the change in venue and timing.

For any queries, please email us at catechism@sfxchurch.sg.

SSVP BAZAAR @ CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Join us for this meaningful fund raising event on **Sun 20 Jan** from **7.30am - 2pm** where you can find your favourite new or pre-loved items such as food, snack, clothing, accessories, books, toys, household goods, etc...on sale. All proceeds will go to fund SSVP financial aid for our brothers & sisters in need (FIN).

INTERCESSORS NEEDED FOR RCIA RETREAT

The catechumens and candidates of RCIA will be having their retreat from **Fri 25 to Sun 27 Jan**. The retreat's intercessory team is inviting the parish community to come aboard to pray for our brothers and sisters as they continue on their journey of faith towards the Sacraments of Initiation. An online intercessory group will be set up over WhatsApp to better disseminate information and to encourage fellow parishioners to pray for the RCIA community.

If you feel called to join the Intercessory WhatsApp group or would like to seek more information, kindly Whatsapp Amanda Hoo at 8188 2200.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, **19/20 Jan**, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a second collection to receive your monthly pledges and contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese. Find out more at gift.catholicfoundation.sg

ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION OPEN HOUSE

Tue 15 Jan, 9am - 3pm

38 Malcolm Road, Singapore 308274

This open house is open to all GCE 'O' Level graduates who are seeking admission to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at SJI in 2019. Visit www.sji.edu.sg for more details.

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

Tue 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

Mon 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 or call 6280 0354 from Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm. Register at bit.ly/2GfwK6L

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATORY MASS: INSPIRING MESSAGES



To welcome the year 2019 and bid farewell to 2018, Rev. Father Jude David officiated the celebratory mass while Rev. Father Terence Kesavan delivered the homily on New Year's Eve. The very inspiring messages of Father Terence not only reminded parishioners that we should be thankful to God's everyday blessings no matter how small it is, but also to be more considerate of others and to heed God's call to discipleship.

Here are some of the reflections from our parishioners:



"It was a good and timely reminder from Fr. Terence to be thankful even for the normal events that happen every day. God bless each day regardless of how regular or significant a day's event may be and He calls on us to become disciples making disciples in our daily lives."

A God-loving parishioner



"Father Terence's homily highlighted that many of us usually make New Year's resolutions that are centred on ourselves. For example, losing weight, eating better, exercising more and changing our behaviour. It is about 'me, me, me'. I am inspired by his challenge for us this year to make more meaningful New Year's resolutions that are focused on others and less on ourselves."

Alice Tan



"As 2018 drew near to a close, we celebrated the last moments of the year together in prayer. It was apt that Fr Terence reminded us to be grateful for even the smallest of things and to live out the call of being disciples making disciples. With these words, we entered the New Year with the joy of Christ in our hearts."

Caitlin Yeo



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Carmelite Novices' First Vows

God be praised! On the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1 Jan 2019, six novices from the Order of Carmelites Discalced made their first profession of religious vows before Fr Anselm Phang, House Prior and Fr Bernard Wee, Novice Master. It took place at Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Hsinchu City in Taiwan which is the Order's Novitiate.



L-R: The six novices - Brothers Francis of Christ Crucified, Bartolo Maria of the Holy Angels, Raphael of the Cross, Anthony Pichet of the Divine Love, Benedict Mary of the Incarnation and Reginald Marie of the Blessed Trinity.



Bro. Francis of Christ Crucified and Bro. Bartolo Maria of the Holy Angels, both from the parish of St Francis Xavier, Singapore

Brothers Raphael and Reginald are also from Singapore from the parish of St Mary of the Angels and Church of the Holy Spirit, respectively. Bro. Benedict is from Indonesia while Bro. Anthony is from Thailand.

Diocesan Ordination: Fr Gabriel Wong

“The Catholic Priesthood is not about losing your son. The Catholic Priesthood is about the whole family embracing that vocation together.”

Photo credits: Eu-Jin Lim, St Bernadette's Media Team

Let us pray to the Almighty Father that these newly professed be showered with His spiritual guidance, be given the strength to embrace and commit to their vows, and to be filled with happiness with what the Lord will offer them in their religious lives ahead.

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.

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