



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



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

Assistant Priests:
Rev Fr Jude David
(on Study Leave)
Frjude@sfxchurch.sg



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

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

Choose Righteousness

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 Feb 2020

Sir 15:15-20
1 Cor 2:6-10
Mt 5:17-37

Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel, "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter into the kingdom of heaven." (RSV Mt 5:20) For those of us who are keen to get into the kingdom of heaven when our life on earth is over, it is of vital importance to understand exactly what Jesus means by this statement.

Firstly, what does "righteousness" mean? Jesus tells us that righteousness belongs to God and urges us to seek it, "...seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness." (Mt 6:33) For God, righteousness is a characteristic of his being. He is all holy, and therefore it is his character to be upright and just in all he does; and faithful to everything he says, fulfilling every covenant he makes with his chosen people, Israel. He also demonstrates his righteousness through the saving work of Jesus Christ, who completes the Law of the Old Covenant and the Prophets (cf Mt 5:17). For us Man, righteousness denotes a restored relationship with God as an adopted son or daughter - a relationship which was severed when Adam sinned against God. This righteousness is a free gift (grace) from Christ (cf Rom 5:17), not because of anything that we have done or can ever do but because God loves us

(cf Jn 3:16). We are given this grace of righteousness at Baptism, and by faith, we are thereby incorporated into the kingdom of God as his adopted sons and daughters.

Next, what does Jesus mean by having a righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees? To the scribes and Pharisees, righteousness would be defined by strict adherence to the Mosaic Law and its moral prescriptions as summed up in the Ten Commandments. It was used to govern the people of Israel and therefore referred to a standard of righteousness that defined God's chosen people. Unfortunately, the Pharisees and the scribes did not move beyond an external and rigid adherence to the prescriptions of the Old Law. Therefore, Jesus invites the Pharisees and the scribes, and all of us, to delve beneath that superficial level of righteousness into one in which our thoughts, our words and our deeds are governed from our hearts with an interior law of charity (cf CCC 1965, Jer 31:31-34). When Jesus proclaimed the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-11), he gave us precepts that were meant to penetrate the heart and reach within to govern and guide our personal and interior life towards holiness, without which we cannot see God (cf Mt 5:8, Heb 12:14). Through faith in Jesus and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, the "Law of the Beatitudes" helps us to "imitate the perfection of the heavenly Father through forgiveness of enemies and prayer for our persecutors, in emulation of the divine generosity." (CCC 1968)

With a better understanding of what Jesus means by having a righteousness

that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, the first reading from Ecclesiasticus also becomes clearer. With our conscience formed by the precepts of the Beatitudes written in our hearts, guided by the gift of faith and charity from the Holy Spirit, we have choices to make. "Before a man are life and death, good and evil, and whichever he chooses will be given to him." (RSV Sir 15:17) We can choose to follow our conscience and obey God, which leads to righteousness; or we can choose to disobey God, which leads to eternal separation from him.

Jesus too, had life and death placed before him. Praise be to God that he chose life - life for the world which cost him his life! Faced with the prospect of a slow, agonising death on the cross, Jesus chose, in perfect and complete obedience to God the Father, to lay down his life for our sins, so that our righteousness with God can be restored. Most of us have hardly been tested to the point of shedding our blood (cf Heb 12:4)!

Therefore, let us always examine carefully the moral choices before us. Guided by the gift of faith and charity from the Holy Spirit, may we always choose what is in accord with God's will so that we are righteous with God.



"Before a man are life and death, good and evil, and whichever he chooses will be given to him."

Announcements

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

SECOND COLLECTION FOR GIFT

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) campaign to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. GIRO forms, cheques or cash can be sealed into GIFT envelopes and dropped into the collection bags. Spare GIFT envelopes are available at the Parish Office. Please give generously for the vision of the archdiocese. More info is available at catholicfoundation.sg.

RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front foyer of the Kindergarten from **1 - 16 Feb**. Please kindly remove all plastics bags and rubber bands.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Do join us for an intercessory prayer session on **Fri 21 Feb, 7.15pm - 8.15pm** at the New Community Hall (**John Paul II Hall**), **Parsonage Level 1**.

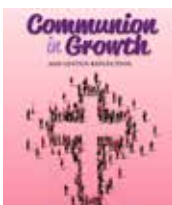
CGS: ARCHDIOCESAN PRAYER MISSION

Our Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, as the Mother Church of our Archdiocese, is holding a mass to pray for God's special protection, guidance and blessings on the many needs of our Archdiocese. There will be also be Benediction and a brief reflection.

Date: Thu 20 Feb
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (A, Queen St, S188533)

ONE: LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent. Themed "**Communion in Growth**", it will be available on Ash Wednesday, and is also available for download at [tinyurl.com/oneLent2020](http://tinyurl.com/one Lent2020).



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMINGS



The mass timings for Ash Wednesday, on **26 Feb**, are as follows: **6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MYANMAR MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organising their next mission trip to Myanmar **in the third week of March** (exact dates - TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation. If you are keen to join in this upcoming mission trip, or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

PIETA DAY OF REFLECTION FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

If you have suffered the death of your child, come and draw comfort from our Lord through prayer and reflection.

Date: Sat 29 Feb
Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Venue: SFX Seminary Building (618 Upper Bukit Timah Road)

Register with your name and contact details before **18 Feb** via PietaDayOR@gmail.com or SMS/Whatsapp Audrey at 9299 0113.

OYP: SHINE COMBINED TERTIARY RETREAT 2020

Jesus said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." (Luke 19:5)

Calling all Diploma and ITE students to SHINE 2020! Jesus invites you to come, for he must stay in the house of your heart today! If you are an incoming or current polytechnic, diploma or ITE student - sign up today for the SHINE 2020 retreat!

Date: Tue 24 Mar, 10am - Fri 27 Mar, 6pm
Venue: Office for Young People (2 Lorong Low Koon, S536449)
Cost: \$50
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/shine2020>

CENACLE SISTERS: AT HOME RETREAT

Journey from Ashes to Easter - a 10-week programme based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola, and get to know Jesus more intimately in the midst of life's daily routine. It is a school of prayer and a Lenten preparation for Easter. This includes weekly meetings of faith sharing, daily prayer with Scripture and one spiritual direction by the Cenacle Sisters and team.
Contribution: \$250.00

MORNINGS:

Date: 20 Feb - 23 Apr (Thu)
Time: 9.30am - 11.30am
Venue: LaSalle Centre - St Patrick's School (490 East Coast Road)
or

EVENINGS:

Date: 20 Feb - 23 Apr (Thu)
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Venue: CANA - the Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo St)

Parish Renovation - We Are Moving Back!

We have received the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) for our Parsonage. In light of this, weekday and weekend masses will be moved back to our Church premises and held at the new Community Hall (now known as John Paul II Hall) and at the Columbarium. **Please take the stairs down to the Columbarium as the lift is currently not operational as we are still awaiting certification.**

Phase 2 - Important Relocation Movements

MAIN CHURCH BASEMENT (MON 17 FEB)

Parish Office and offices of parish priests will be relocated to the basement of the Main Church.

PARSONAGE, LEVEL 2

SFX Kindergarten has been temporarily relocated to level 2 of the Parsonage.

PARISH CENTRE (CLOSED FROM 28 FEB)

It will be handed over to our contractors on Fri 28 Feb for renovation, and will be closed till further notice.

BASEMENT CARPARK

It is now accessible via the main staircase from the Plaza and via the staircase at the Parish Centre.

JOHN PAUL II HALL

Weekday and weekend masses will be conducted at the new Community Hall, and the mass will be live-streamed into St Mary (the multi-purpose room beside the Community Hall), the Columbarium and the Plaza.

MAIN CHURCH & FRONT PORCH

It is currently closed for interior refurbishing and the extension of the Front Porch with a non-slip ramp for drop-off.

CHANGE OF MASS VENUE

WEEKDAY MASSES

Venue: New Community Hall (John Paul II Hall), with live-streaming into St Mary

Time: 6.30am and 6.30pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Venue: New Community Hall (John Paul II Hall), with live-streaming into St Mary, the Columbarium and the Plaza

Time: Sat: 5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm) **Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11am, 5.30pm

To keep the COVID-19 at bay, we have automatic hand sanitisers installed outside the Community Hall. Do use them before you enter! Also, if you are not feeling too well, do remember to stay home, keep hydrated and rest well.

Let us pray for the COVID-19 outbreak...

that in God's mercy and grace, he will miraculously bring about a containment and eventual turnaround of this situation in all affected countries. May God continue to protect us and grant good health to all as we go about our daily lives especially the vulnerable, young, elderly and ill, and those at the frontline of essential services.





FAITH BYTES

How does the Church express her trinitarian faith?

The Church expresses her trinitarian faith by professing a belief in the oneness of God in whom there are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three divine Persons are only one God because each of them equally possesses the fullness of the one and indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other by reason of the relations which place them in correspondence to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is begotten by the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

For further reading, check out *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 249-256, 266)

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

7am - 7pm

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed



Forgiving and Forgiven

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."
Matthew 5:23-24

Based on Matthew 5:21-24



R X M T R D A N G E R B R Y O
F V I E B C D A D K V R E J Y
P X S U X P R A X J Q O C D I
K A G W P N J E L A X T O P K
J P C I Z N R A M T X H N X Y
F C F V F I O H H E A E C I J
U A A P F T X Y C E M R I M U
O F F E R I N G R G L B L R D
O M C O K U V D E B L L E I G
X A F P C F H O Z W W I D R E
G N M L A I H M X U A I I S M
T G T E H R J O E X G W T U E
T R G K S S N K N W E O D D N
Y Y S R X T V Q H W F O O L T
X X B A A M U R D E R Y E J K

ALTAR	ANGRY	PEOPLE	REMEMBER	MURDER
OFFERING	FIRST	FOOL	JUDGEMENT	GIFT
BROTHER	HELL	DANGER	RECONCILED	FIRE

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 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 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.

