



**Disciples  
Making Disciples**



**Parish Office:**  
6280 6076(phone), [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484  
[FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBenChng@sfxchurch.sg)

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



**St Francis Xavier Kindergarten:**  
6280 8929, [sfx\\_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg)

**Priest in Residence:**  
Rev Fr Brian D'Souza  
6282 3151  
[FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:FrBrian@sfxchurch.sg)

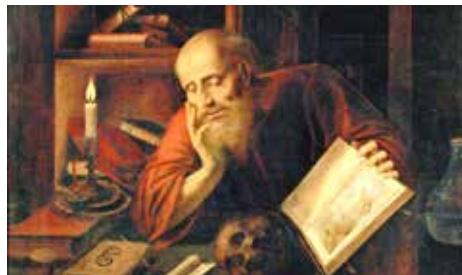
**Sunday of the  
Word of God**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
26 Jan 2020

Is. 8:23-9:3  
1 Cor 1:10-13,17  
Mt 4:12-23

In his Apostolic Letter *"Aperuit Illis"* of 30 September 2019, Pope Francis declared that the third Sunday in Ordinary time "is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God" (*Aperuit Illis* 3), thus instituting the "Sunday of the Word of God". Through this act, Pope Francis wants the Church to "experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world" (*A12*). Coming during these early days of the Lunar New Year celebrations, perhaps we can all take up this call to proclaim the word of God, which contains true wealth and prosperity, as an "Ang Pow" to our loved ones!

When the people of Israel, scattered during the Babylonian exile, returned to their homeland, they were gathered "as one" (Neh 8:1) to listen to the word of God from the book of the law of Moses. And the "ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law" (Neh 8:3), realising that in scripture, they can discover the meaning of their experiences in life. This is evident by the fact that the people were moved to tears when they heard the words of the law (Neh 8:9). In a similar way, in our busy modern lives, making time for prayer and to be attentive to the word of God



*"Ignorance of  
the Scriptures is  
ignorance of Christ."*  
- St Jerome

in the Bible, will undoubtedly help us make sense of our circumstances in life and find encouragement for the "practice of good" (*Evangeli Gaudium 142*) in the way we live our Christian lives. When we take time to pray and meditate upon sacred scripture, the Holy Spirit will move the hearts of those who are willing to listen, to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves (Mt 22:37-39). Then our lives will bear much good fruit and lay up treasures in heaven.

Before his ascension, our risen Lord himself opened the minds of his disciples to understand the Scriptures (Lk. 24:45). Jesus explained how the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled in him, and that he should suffer death on the cross to take away the sins of the world and rise again on the third day so that we too may be resurrected on the last day. Thus the Bible in its entirety, as sacred Scripture, speaks of Christ and "manifest the one history of salvation whose fulfilment is found in Christ" (*A16*). The Old Testament foretold Christ, and the New Testament speaks of fulfilment in Christ. This gives us a rock solid foundation to believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus are not myths but history, and therefore our hope of eternal bliss in the kingdom of heaven is based on truth from the word of God.

Our Risen Lord journeyed incognito with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, interpreting to them "in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Lk. 24:27). That journey ended in a meal where Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it and offers it to the two disciples. At that very moment, the two disciples recognised Jesus for the first time that day. Pope Francis observes that this incident "clearly demonstrates the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist"; and that "regular reading of sacred Scripture and the celebration of the Eucharist make it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another. As Christians, we are a single people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us" (*A18*).

St. Jerome once said "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ". So let us heed the call of our Holy Father to spend time with the Word of God, in order to have a closer relationship with our Lord, Saviour and Friend. Then we will grow deeper in love of our Lord who will in turn mould and perfect our humanity to the glory of God the Father.

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed during the CNY holidays, from **25 - 27 Jan (Sat - Mon)**.

### SSVP 2ND COLLECTION

With your kind donations on 5 Jan, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) was able to raise **\$12,463.25** for Friends In Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of our activities.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The next intercessory prayer session will resume on **Fri 31 Jan, 7.15pm - 8.15pm at St Matthew's Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. All are welcome.

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic service is on **Mon 3 Feb, 8pm at SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk given by Michelle Voo on 'Looking Through the Lens of Faith in the New Year'. All are welcome!

### BLESSING OF CANDLES

There will be the blessing of candles on **Sun 2 Feb** for the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. Do label your candles and tealights and place them on the table in front of the sanctuary before Mass starts.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, WE NEED YOU!

Do you have an eye for design? Are you creative and proficient in Adobe InDesign? If the answer is YES, we want you! SFX's Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is looking for graphic designers that will work on parish collaterals.

If you love to exercise your artistic talents by helping the parish, look no further! Contact [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) for more information!

*Our priests and staff would like to wish all our parishioners a grace-filled & joyous lunar new year!*



**Fri 24 Jan**  
**Masses at Parish Centre, Level 2:**  
**6.30am and 4pm**  
*\*There will be no 6.30pm mass*

**Sat 25 Jan**  
**Masses at OLG:**  
(2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)  
**8.30am and 10.30am**  
*There will be blessing of oranges*

### Usual Weekend Masses at OLG:

(2C Burghley Dr, Singapore 558979)

**Sat 25 Jan: 5.30pm**  
*\*There will be no novena*

**Sun 26 Jan:**  
**7am, 9am, 11.30am**

### SAFETY NOTICE

The Church would like to thank all parishioners for their patience and understanding on the move to the OLG school hall for all weekend masses. The whole process was relatively smooth largely due to the vigilance, care and concern shown by many. Do please continue to pay extra care when walking to and from the school due to the unfamiliar environment. **For safety reasons, please note that in the event of rain, all wet umbrellas must be left on the ground floor, outside the school hall in the umbrella stands provided.**

### COME AND SERVE: L10 RETREAT

Come join us on **13 - 15 Mar** for our stay-in Catechetical L10 retreat 2020! We are looking for young adults and youths to help facilitate, be in the logistics team or help to intercede for the participants.

In preparation for the camp, we will have sessions to pray, train and prepare our hearts and minds on **15 Feb, 27 Feb** and **5 Mar!** If you have that interest and excitement in your heart, don't hesitate! Join us today!

Contact Renae at 9060 4326 to find out more or sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/L10Retreat2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/L10Retreat2020)

### CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MYANMAR MISSION TRIP

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trip to Myanmar in **3rd 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.

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: ENHANCE AND DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP!

Good marriages can always be made better. To deepen and refine your relationship, sign up for one of the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends.

**Dates:** 21 - 23 Feb; 6 - 8 Mar; 20 - 22 Mar (Mandarin) & 1 - 3 May

**Register:** [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com) or contact 9670 5390 (David/Clara)

## ACF + CTIS: UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIALS OF CANNON LAW IN MARRIAGE BY FR ADRIAN YEO

Join in this programme offered by the Archdiocesan Commission for the Family and Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore to understand what the law of the Church teaches in relation to Marriage.

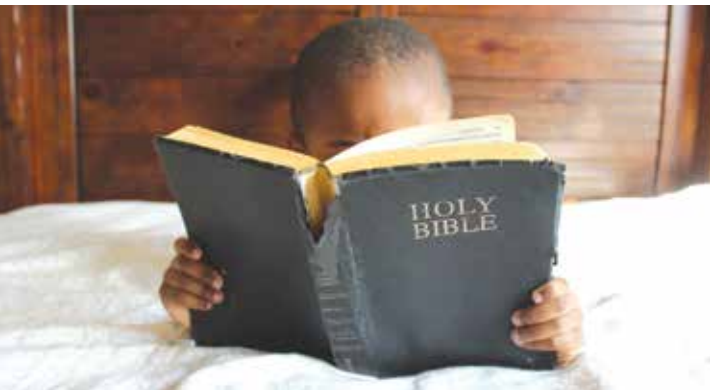
**Date:** Jan 31, Feb 14 & 28, Mar 13 & 27 and Apr 17  
**Venue:** St Peter's Auditorium, Catholic Archdiocesan Education Centre (2 Highland Road, S549102)  
**Cost:** \$30 per person/module (Family Ministry members), \$60 per person/module (Non-Family Ministry Members)  
**Register:** [bit.ly/fpM3\\_ff](http://bit.ly/fpM3_ff)

## FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY: HAPPY IN MY SKIN

Come and be equipped with a deeper understanding of the 'know hows' to share gender identity & sexuality with children/youth.

**Date:** Sat 15 Feb  
**Time:** 9am - 12.30pm  
**Register:** [bit.ly/himspvb](http://bit.ly/himspvb) or call 6488 0278  
**Contribution:** \$15 per pax

# 5 Reasons Catholics Should Read The Bible



St Jerome, who lived during the first century of the Church, was a man of brilliant mind. He lived as a hermit for years, in order to deal with his many sins. However, God needed his intellect and gift of language; thus St. Jerome is credited with translating Scripture into Latin under direction of Pope Damascus.

St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." That thought alone should send us all scurrying for our Bibles! So, why should Catholics make regular Scripture reading and study part of their daily lives?

### 1 IT IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD.

There are many ancient texts in the history of the world. Many of us, in school and college, read The Iliad, I Ching, and the Tao de Ching. They are all worthy of study, but what sets the Bible apart? It is the living Word of God. It has no equal, and it is as relevant today as it was when Jerome laboured over its translation. Further, the Word of God is Christ: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. (Jn 1:1) Thus, every encounter with Scripture is an encounter with Christ.

### 2 SUNDAY ISN'T ENOUGH.

Indeed, the Mass is full of Scripture. We hear the Word proclaimed from the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, and the Gospel. We hear the Word sung in our hymns. The prayers at Mass are full of Scriptural quotes and references. And yet ... it's not enough. It's easy to miss parts of the Word as it's proclaimed as Mass: we get distracted, the Word is not proclaimed well, we don't quite hear it. In order to prepare well for Mass, we should "read ahead" Find the readings of the mass and read them prior to Mass. How are they connected? What is God's message for His people today?

### 3 GOD'S WORD KEEPS US GROUNDED.

It is very easy, in the midst of our sloppy, busy, stress-filled days, to lose touch with who we are: God's children. Taking time to read Scripture every day keeps us grounded, reminds us of who we are. Reading Scripture helps us to recall, every day, that Christ is with us – even in the sloppiness, the busyness, the stress.

### 4 SCRIPTURE REMINDS US OF GOD'S COVENANT.

God made a promise to our forefathers in faith, the Jews. He told them, "I will be your God, and you will be my people." Even though the Jews did many things that should have destroyed that covenant, God's promise is eternal. A covenant is unbreakable, because it is God's truth. Then, with the coming of Christ, we received a new covenant: "This is My Body and this is My Blood. Whoever eats and drinks of it shall have eternal life." The Bible, from start to finish, is the story of God's unbreakable promise to us.

### 5 READING SCRIPTURE HELP US TO PRAY BETTER.

Every one of us needs to pray better. Prayer is our lifeline to God. Scripture can help us to pray better. We see ourselves reflected in the sorrow, pain and faithfulness of Job. We understand Jonah's reluctance to do the job God has set before him. We rejoice, laugh, cry and challenge God with the psalmist. We understand the shame of the woman about to be stoned. We tremble with fear, abandoning Christ, just as most of the Apostles did when He most needed them. To enter into God's word helps us to see, hear, feel and understand basic human responses ... and then do better. We rise above our fears, our sorrows, our shame, because we know God is with us. Always. He never abandons us. Scripture is the story of God's eternal love and faithfulness.





Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

## NUGGETS OF FAITH

### What is the relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture?

Tradition and Sacred Scripture are bound closely together and communicate one with the other. Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ. They flow out of the same divine well-spring and together make up one sacred deposit of faith from which the Church derives her certainty about revelation.

For further reading, check out *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 80-82, 97)*

#### Mass Timings

##### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset:**  
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)

**Sun:** 7am, 9am, 11.30am

*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

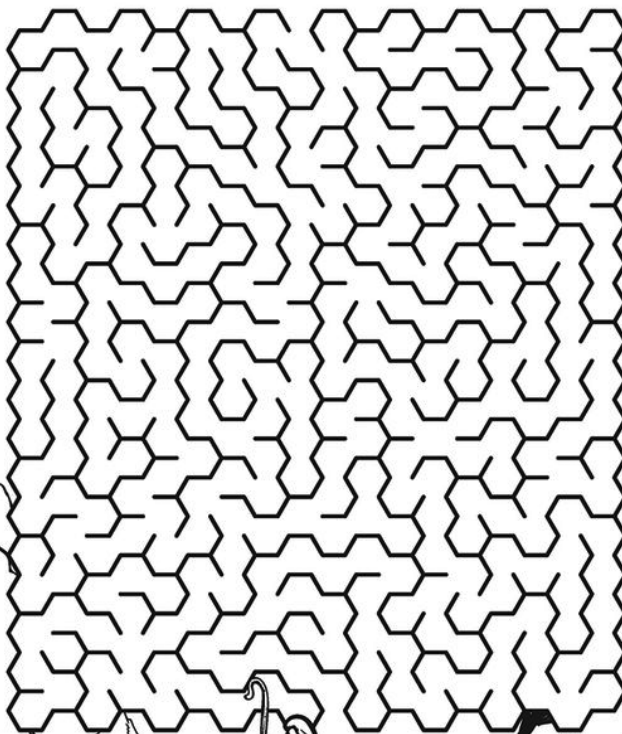
Temporarily closed



### THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Help the shepherd guide his lamb.

FINISH



© SharefaithKids. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction or Reselling forbidden. Not for use without an active SharefaithKids subscription.

#### 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 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 (Parish Centre, Level 2). 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)