



**Disciples  
Making Disciples**



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



**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484, [benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg](mailto:benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg)



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

**Assistant Priest**  
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching  
6282 3151, [cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg](mailto:cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg)

## Serving to Greatness

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
19 September 2021

Wis 2:12, 17-20

Jm 3:16 - 4:3

Mk 9:30-37

For the second time in Mark's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will be handed over to man to suffer death and after three days rise again. Once again the disciples, including Peter who only recently declared that Jesus is the Messiah (Mk 8:29), have great difficulty comprehending such a shocking teaching. Having just witnessed great power in the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mk 9:2-8) and the curing of the possessed mute boy (Mk 9:16-29), it seems inconceivable that Jesus can simply be handed over to man and be killed. And they were afraid to ask (Mk 9:32).

Of all the possible unasked questions, perhaps the biggest would be "Why?" - Why do you have to suffer and die? Couldn't you just say a word and save us that way? Why do we also have to "take up (our) cross" (Mk 8:34) and suffer? Why do we have to lose our life in order to save it? Why does evil always seem to win whilst the righteous suffer? These unasked questions in one form or another, echo through the ages seeking answers that only a soul docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit can hear.

God is love (1 Jn 4:8). And when Adam spurned Love by sinning against the Author of love, he caused a rupture in our relationship with God that no man can repair. But God continues to love us despite our betrayal, and out of this love he sent his beloved Son into his creation with an expressed mission to die in our place

for the sins against God that we have committed, so that the rupture can be healed. Such is the love of God - the complete giving of himself to us, for us and to show us that true love means sacrifice even to the point of suffering a tortuous death on the cross. Love is the reason that Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross.

Suffering in itself can sometimes be difficult to comprehend. Voluntarily suffering for the love of God and neighbour is even harder to comprehend and goes against worldly reasoning. The way the godless world thinks is deceptively simple - we only have one life; it ends when we die and there is no coming back; therefore, disregard the old, poor and weak to take pleasure where we can (see Wis 2:1-11). To the world, suffering is anathema; power and might are to be used to gain influence, wealth, prestige and dominance over others and most of all, to avoid suffering. Jesus turns this thinking on its head via his suffering on the Cross, showing that true grandeur is achieved by putting oneself last in importance and expressing this by becoming a servant to even the lowliest of persons - "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself least of all and servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

Using the disciples' argument about who will be the greatest amongst

them as a teaching moment, Jesus drove home the point by putting his arms around a child saying "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me..." (Mk 9:37) In both Aramaic and Greek, the word for child can also mean servant which has the lowest social status. So, to welcome a little child is to accept, love and care for someone who needs it and who cannot possibly repay the kindness. Jesus identifies himself with the needy and those who are insignificant in the eyes of the world (cf Mt 25:34-40). Therefore, Jesus himself is mysteriously present whenever we welcome someone who is lowly, poor or sick.

The Cross was the reason Jesus came. But Jesus never speaks about his suffering and death on the cross without speaking about his resurrection. The cross is now the hallmark of being a Christian - to humbly serve and love God and neighbour with self-sacrificial love; following the footsteps of Christ in the way of the Cross. And when we have endured to the end, what awaits us is the sure hope of resurrection and eternal joy with our Maker.

May God grace us with humility and meekness to love and serve all whom he sends to us.



**"Therefore, Jesus himself is mysteriously present  
whenever we welcome someone who is lowly, poor or sick."**

## Announcements

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

### GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Please give generously to support the organisations and projects of the Archdiocese by making a monthly pledge. You can give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K) or drop your contributions into the GIFT donation box. More info can be found at [catholicfoundation.sg](http://catholicfoundation.sg)

### TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intentions **1 WEEK in advance** and wait for the Finance Department to contact you. They will provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001). Key in the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (T08CC4033J).

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

**Tuesdays & Fridays:** 4pm - 6pm  
**Saturdays:** 10am - 12pm

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please submit your prayer request to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessoryprayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online on **Fri 24 Sep, 8pm** to pray and intercede for others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome!

**ZOOM MEETING DETAILS**  
Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252  
Password: SFX24SEP



## OCTOBER - 1ST MASS BOOKING

[HTTPS://MYCATHOLIC.SG](https://mycatholic.sg)

### Tue 28 Sep, 12pm

Please be gracious and cancel your bookings if you are unable to attend and look out for any released slots.

### ADDITIONAL Fully Vaccinated/PET Masses (180pax):

- **Sundays:** 9am, 1pm (wef 3 Oct '21)

#### Things to note:

- **All Masses will be held in the Main Church.** Entry for 50 persons Masses will only be via the Plaza.
- Mass bookings/cancellation will be **1 hour** before Mass.
- Vaccinated parishioners should refrain from booking unvaccinated mass slots.

### MASSSES FOR FULLY VACCINATED/PET INDIVIDUALS:

#### Admission Criteria:

✓ **Fully Vaccinated**  
14 days after 2nd dose of Pfizer/Moderna/WHO EUL vaccines.

✓ **TraceTogether**  
Check in via TraceTogether token/app.

✓ **Pre-Event Testing**  
Taken from MOH-approved test provider. No earlier than 23 hours before Mass. Only local vaccination certificates or Health Hub vaccination proof are accepted.

✓ **Children aged 12 years and below**  
can participate in Vaccinated/PET Masses. The total number of children allowed is no more than **20 percent** of worshippers present for the Mass.

✗ **Other Vaccines**  
- Self-test Kit

For more information on the MOH guidelines, visit [www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet](http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet)



### MASS COLLECTION

Your continuous generosity and donations will help contribute to our Parish's daily operations. You can make your offerings via the following options:

1. **PayNow** - Launch the PayNow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)" and enter "T08CC4033J". Proceed to check entity name - **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in amount. Lastly, key in the reference - Mass Collection.
2. **Cheque** - Payable to 'Church of St Francis Xavier' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 2021 (OCT)

Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do register your interest for a Marriage Encounter Weekend by contacting David & Clara @ 96705390 or email at [mewkend@gmail.com](mailto:mewkend@gmail.com). Register or learn more at <https://www.mesg.org/me-weekend-selector/>

### SFX CaFE IS NOW SFX LiFE

The SFX CaFE ministry has changed its name to SFX LiFE (Living the Faith Everyday), to leverage more resources and allow for an expansion of formation formats, and achieve its mission of facilitating the renewal and deepening of our Catholic faith. We continue to ask our good Lord to bless and guide us in our mission.

### OCTOBER CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION



The Church is organising a nightly procession within the church grounds in honour of Our Lady from **1st to 31st October**. All SFX registered parishioners are invited to participate in the procession. What you need to do is register with your group (a minimum of 6 and maximum of 30 persons per session) on a first-come, first-served basis. For further enquires, you may email to [oct2021rosary@gmail.com](mailto:oct2021rosary@gmail.com).

#### Procession Schedule

**Mon and Fri:** 6.30pm - 7.30pm

**Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun:** 8pm - 9pm

Find out more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXOctProcession2021>





# Our L9s go for a retreat!

Held over two days from 10 to 11 September, over 40 of our L9 brothers and sisters went for their first hybrid retreat. They started out virtually via Zoom on Friday evening and gathered physically together on Saturday while they took part in sessions around the camp theme "The Parable of the Prodigal Son", sharings, games, prayers and more.

"The retreat was eventful; especially the games and the sharing sessions among our smaller groups. The facilitator was able to engage us and I enjoyed the retreat better this time round." – **Ashton Luke Chong, participant**

"The retreat was an enriching and interesting experience. During the retreat, I managed to have a new and different experience especially now during Covid with all the new precautions taken, and strengthened my relationship with Christ overall." – **Penelopy Seah, participant**

"The facilitator was very good because he was down-to-earth and I could relate to him. The prayer session with him was very good too." – **Joseph Wong, participant**

"I liked the small group because it was better for sharing and the facilitator was able to engage us well, maybe because they're around our age. The retreat theme is quite good and relatable to our teenage life so I felt more engaged this retreat." – **Claire Wong, participant**

"Despite the challenges, the L9 retreat was well organised and I could see the teens enjoying the experience. I think the teens benefitted from the honest testimonies and enriching sessions which were very important in teaching them how to apply what they learnt in Catechism. It was a refreshing experience to see them opening up to each other. Even with the safe management measures, it did not stop the Lord from moving inside of them. Praise the Lord!" – **Gabriel Lim, youth catechist**



## WATCH: Padre Pio Between Heaven and Earth

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Blessed with incredible spiritual gifts, including healing, bi-location, reading of souls, and the stigmatic wounds, Padre Pio was a powerful witness for Christ, and a great spiritual guide to countless souls for over 50 years. Filmed on location in Italy, this film tells the whole story of the beloved monk from San Giovanni Rotondo, a place where millions of pilgrims now annually visit Padre Pio's grave.



## WATCH: Thérèse

A pampered child from a middle-class 19th century French family, Thérèse Martin journeys to Rome to beg Pope Leo XIII for permission to enter the Carmelite monastery at the unheard-of age of 15. Once admitted, she experiences the joys and rigors of monastic life, and makes the surprising yet simple discovery that holiness can be achieved by small acts of love and compassion – a spiritual path she calls her "Little Way."

Thérèse



## WATCH: Angels: Bishop Fulton Sheen

In this compilation of three episodes from his classic television program, "Life is Worth Living," Bishop Fulton Sheen delivers his thoughts on various elements of the Catholic Faith with his ever-present humor, animated presentation, and captivating mode of speaking. In the first segment, "Angels," Bishop Sheen explicates the nature of angels and the meaningful role they play in our world.



## WATCH: The Case for Jesus by Dr. Brant Pitre

Dr. Brant Pitre, Scripture scholar and bestselling author, uses biblical and historical evidence to bolster the "case for Jesus" by exposing the problems with the many false theories that have been introduced over the past hundred years, resulting in widespread skepticism about the reliability of Christian Faith. He tackles head-on questions like: Were the four Gospels written anonymously? Did Jesus claim to be God? Did Jesus fulfill the Jewish prophecies of the Messiah? and many more.

THE CASE  
FOR JESUS

DR. BRANT PITRE



### Mass Timings

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue & Thu:  
6.30pm

Fri:  
8pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset  
(VACCINATED/  
PET ONLY):  
5.30pm

Sun: 9am, 11am,  
1pm, 5.30pm  
(There is currently  
no Confession  
before Mass)

MASS ON PUBLIC  
HOLIDAYS  
9am

HOLY HOUR  
Suspended until  
further notice

### Opening Hours

#### PARISH OFFICE

For pastoral care services (e.g. anointing, funerals etc), you may contact before coming at the following hours.

Mon - Sat:  
9.30am - 6.30pm  
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm

#### ADORATION ROOM

Closed until  
further notice

#### LIBRARY

Closed until  
further notice

#### COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:  
10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm  
Booking via  
<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>

### 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



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

### 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.

### MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least one week 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)