



**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)

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier  
6280 8331  
[xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg](mailto:xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg)

## God's Prophets – Past & Present

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
30 Jan 2022

**Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19**  
**1 Cor 12: 31-13:13**  
**Lk 4: 21-30**

When we are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we become the sons and daughters of the Father and co-heirs with Jesus Christ. In that instant, we are made priests, prophets and kings in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ (CCC 783: "Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet and king. The whole People of God participate in these three offices of Christ and bear the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.")

As prophets, like Jeremiah, Jesus and Paul in the readings, we may be called to deliver unpleasant messages to our family, friends and even acquaintances. We have to prepare ourselves to be rejected, ridiculed or abused when speaking the truth that is not popular in the secular world. They reject us because they are unable to see us as God's instruments, the channel through which God's healing and saving grace flows. God will equip us to face opposition and rejection in life just as He equipped Jeremiah. The task of a prophet is to speak and to live out God's truth. We must never be afraid of this call, for it is the Holy Spirit who will supply us with the courage, the words and the deeds we will need to oppose the evils in our society. As G.K Chesterton said, in a topsy turvy world, the prophet is the one who

stands on his head so that he might see things in the right way. That is why prophets have always been viewed as being eccentric or mad.

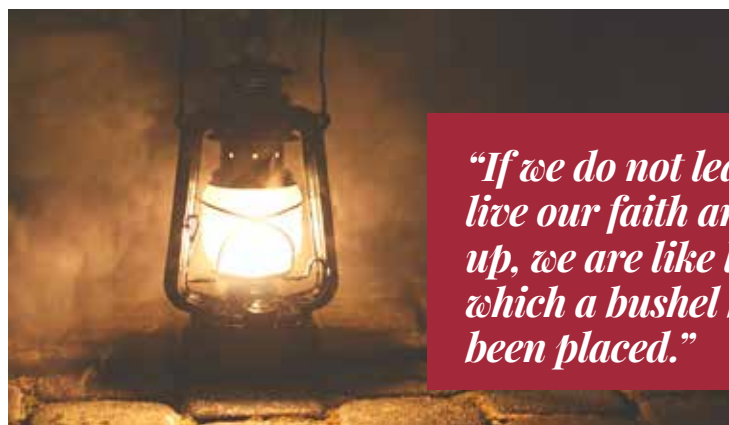
Paul in the second reading spoke with great conviction to the Corinthian Christian community where there was jealousy and fighting over the exercise of God's gifts. He taught them that all their gifts were useless without love. He urged them to see Christ in each member of the community and redirect their efforts to build each other up instead of tearing each other down. He wanted them to build unity in the church with love.

Jesus shows us how to face unbelief and criticism with prophetic courage. He responded to the townsmen's scepticism by referring to the Biblical stories of how God blessed two Gentiles, (the widow of Zarephath in 1 Kings 17:7-24 and Naaman in 2 Kings 7:3-10), while rejecting the many Jews in similar situations. The reason for this was that these Gentiles trusted the prophets while the other people could not bring themselves to believe. Jesus thus forewarned that if he did not receive support from his own community, he would bring the good news to the Gentiles instead. Jesus dared to speak the Truth to people who did not want to hear it.

Let us not reject God in our lives, like the people in Jesus' hometown. Sometimes our lack of trust and humility prevent us from seeing God's plan and we miss out on His help through His words in the Bible, and through the advice of others. We very often are prejudiced against some people and reject their actions and intentions. We should know that God's power can transform even the most unlikely people and that His power may come to us through unlikely instruments.

God calls us in many ways. We as baptised prophets can prepare ourselves by studying our faith in its different aspects - church history, spirituality, philosophy, theology, and the lives of the saints. We could read the writings of saints like Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Teresa of Avila and John Henry Newman. There are also widely-acknowledged great Christian writers like G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis. If we allow ourselves to be illuminated by these gems, we can then be beacons of light wherever we may be. If we do not learn and live our faith and speak up, we are like lamps over which a bushel basket has been placed.

Are we, as baptised prophets, willing to respond to God's calling and carry out our role in fulfilling God's purpose?



*"If we do not learn and live our faith and speak up, we are like lamps over which a bushel basket has been placed."*

## 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 the Parish Office operating hours during the Lunar New Year period:

**Mon 31 Jan:** 9.30am - 12pm

**Tue 1st Feb - Wed 2nd Feb:** Closed

### COLUMBARIUM CLOSURE

Please note the Columbarium will be closed from **Mon 31 Jan to Wed 2nd Feb** during the Lunar New Year period.

### RETURNING OLD PALMS

Do return your old palms to the boxes placed at the front of Main Church Foyer/JPII Hall/Choir Entrance from **1 - 28 Feb**. Please kindly help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.



### BLESSINGS OF CANDLES



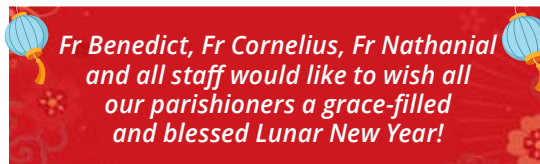
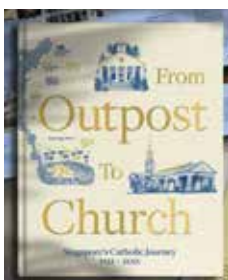
You may bring your own candles for blessing on **Wed 2 Feb**, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Keep them with you during the Mass as we will not be providing a separate table on which to place them. They will be blessed during the Mass.

### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please note there will be no intercessory prayer on **Mon 31 Jan**. You may submit your prayer request to [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer). All prayer requests are kept confidential.

### CATHOLIC 200SG COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Drop by the booth outside JPII Hall after each weekend Mass to get a copy of this commemorative book at **\$30**, while stocks last! Please bring the exact cash amount.



## February Mass Bookings

From 1 Feb, all Masses registered through [mycatholic.sg](http://mycatholic.sg) will be strictly for the vaccinated. If you are unvaccinated and would like to attend Mass, please register your contact details with the Parish Office by Sun 13 Feb.

### Tue 1 Feb, 12pm

2nd booking of all weekday and weekend Masses, usual policy of 1 weekend Mass, and 5 weekday Masses per booking session.

#### UPDATED MASS CAPACITY:

- **Tue & Thurs:** 100 pax
- **Fri and ALL weekend Masses:** 180 pax
- All Masses are Vaccinated Masses.**

#### Things to note:

- Mass Entry: Tue & Thur Masses via Church Foyer, all other Masses via Church Foyer and Choir Entrance.
- Mass bookings/cancellation may be made **1 hour** before Mass.

### Admission Criteria:

- Fully vaccinated, as indicated by TraceTogether or HealthHub status.
- Recovered from COVID-19 infections and granted a 180-day exemption period (including unvaccinated or partially unvaccinated) & have an official MOH Discharge Memo.
- Medically ineligible for vaccination, as indicated by either TraceTogether or HealthHub status or an official certificate issued by MOH.
- Children aged 12 years and younger (born on or after 2010)

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



## Key February Masses

#### Lunar New Year Masses:

**Tue 1 Feb:** 9am (180 pax), 11am (180 pax)

\* There will be distribution and blessing of oranges at all Masses; you may also bring your oranges to get them blessed.

#### The Presentation of the Lord:

**Wed 2 Feb:** 9am (180 pax), 11am (180 pax)

\* You may bring your own candles for blessing at Mass. There will also be distribution and blessing of oranges at all Masses; you may also bring your oranges to get them blessed.

#### Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd:

**Mon 14 Feb:** 6.30pm (100 pax)

### 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**.

### CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

A 12-week DVD-based programme to support those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage, divorce or separation. The video presentations by priests, theologians and teachers will help you cope, and lead you to God's divine mercy and love. For more information, visit [www.catholicdivorce.sg/events](http://www.catholicdivorce.sg/events) or email [catholicdivorce.sg@gmail.com](mailto:catholicdivorce.sg@gmail.com).

**Dates:** 10 Feb - 12 May 2022

**Time:** 8pm - 10pm

**Venue:** Via Zoom

**Cost:** S\$60 (non-refundable)

**To register:** <http://bit.ly/SD-register>



### BIBLE QUIZ WINNER

Thank you to all who participated in last week's Bible Quiz. We are pleased to announce that **Mr John Lee** is the winner who got all the answers correct. He wins a digital subscription to the Universalis app, an app that helps with praying the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass readings plus other prayers. Congratulation again and enjoy using Universalis.



14 - 15 January 2022

# RCIA Retreat: Jesus Calls Us to New Life

On the first day of the retreat, the catechumens and candidates were invited to reflect on God's love which is comparable to the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine on the mountains to go in search of his lost sheep. He is constantly on the lookout for us but will we hear that call and will we want to be found? To go on this journey of faith 'to be found' is not one by chance for:

"Truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray."

- Matthew 18:13

As the participants immersed themselves in praise and worship, sessions conducted by our communities from Mustard Seed and Cornerstone, reflection and discussions, whatever doubts and questions that might have lingered in their minds gradually melted away. From the story of blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52, the participants pondered on what it meant to see Jesus in their lives, and to not be afraid to call out to him for he is waiting to restore our blindness.

The retreat included praise and worship, testimonials, Eucharistic Adoration, quiet time for reflections and a concluding Mass.

"I went into RCIA retreat not knowing what to expect but it was truly an eye and heart opening experience for me.

The question 'Do you know God?' was what struck me during the retreat. For the past year, I have been reading scripture reflections, trying to make sense of the parables and verses in the Bible, and even attended Mass but still I could not see Jesus. But something changed after listening to the testimonials and experiencing what's called "adoration" for the first time. My heart kept stirring and I found myself moved to tears throughout the day."

**Ashlyn Aw**



"The speakers were informative about his word and they helped me see God as a gentle shepherd and my personal saviour. It was only through journaling that I realised that God has been talking to me all this time but I was not listening to him due to the distractions in my life. I had some doubts about my journey as a catechumen but the RCIA retreat opened my mind and heart to God and added clarity in my decision to live in freedom as a child of God."

**Parvathy R**



\* In light of the Covid pandemic, the two-day retreat was non stay-in. Safe distancing measures were observed throughout.

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



### Mass Timings

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tue & Thu:**  
6.30pm

**Fri:**  
8pm

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Sat Sunset**  
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>

"I came into the RCIA without any expectations, but with an open heart. During the retreat, it was through the testimonies and praise and worship that I felt overwhelmed with emotions. I found the bible verses and group sharing very insightful and the sessions by Cornerstone with brother Nicholas Wong's sharing and prayers during adoration were most encouraging and meaningful in my spiritual experience with the Lord.

Though I was physically and emotionally drained from the day, come evening Mass, I was once again touched by Father's explanation on how the Mass was run. The encounter with Jesus has left me feeling truly blessed and at peace."

**Vinod K**

"The retreat provided me quiet time away from everyday life and allowed more time for prayer, contemplation and personal reflection. The talks and testimonials on the Catholic faith and relationships with God were insightful, inspiring and meaningful. Father Ben's detailed explanations of the order of Mass also helped to deepen my understanding of the significance and perspective of Mass."

**Victor Chin Wee Keong**

"I was most touched hearing various members of the community share their personal encounters with the Lord and blessing us with their beautiful music and voices. My faith journey has been enriching so far and I hope to continue to encounter God more."

**Elaine Tan**

### 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)