



Disciples
Making Disciples



Parish Office:
6280 6076, secretariat@sfxchurch.sg



Parish Priest:
Rev Fr Benedict Chng
6288 0484
benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg



Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:
6280 8929, sfx_kindergarten@sfxchurch.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Cornelius Ching
6282 3151
cornelius.ching@catholic.org.sg

Assistant Priest:
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier
6280 8331
xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg

Overcoming blind spots in our lives

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
27 Feb 2022

Sir 27:5-8
1 Cor 15:54-58
Lk 6:39-45

Our gospel this Sunday comes from the end of the Sermon on the Plain, which is Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount that is found in Matthew's account. Jesus first, has some very strong things to say about false spiritual teachers: "*Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?*" (Lk 6:39) He then speaks out against any "unloving attitudes", in contrast to the attitudes of meekness, humility and magnanimity towards our neighbour when we judge each other. (Pope Francis' Homily, 13 Sep 2013)

What insights can we draw from both of Jesus' illustrations of the blind guide and the person with a "plank" in his eye? (Lk 6:41) It is perhaps that both of them lack the clarity and vision needed to help another person avoid the obstacles in front of them. Being led by them will probably lead to disaster – "both will fall into a pit." (Lk 6:39)

Jesus was of course using these two illustrations to point out the spiritual blindness of the scribes and the pharisees who had earlier criticised the disciples for picking grain to eat on a Sabbath – something that the pharisees regarded as forbidden by the law (Lk 6:2). Their legalistic observation of the Sabbath laws made them blind to the true spirit and purpose of the Sabbath and its laws – the revelation of God's love

and invitation to live by this love.

By contrast, Luke portrays Jesus here not only as a good guide, warning his disciples about the hypocrisy of the scribes and the pharisees (cf Lk 6:42), but also the good physician (perhaps based on Luke's own experience of being a trained physician himself). Most importantly, Luke distinguishes Jesus as the "Shepherd of our Souls" (cf 1 Pt 2:25). Unlike false spiritual teachers, Jesus is the definitive spiritual teacher. Unless we have surrendered to Christ and find in him salvation ourselves, we would not be in a good position to help and teach others.

This is true in the light of our own faults and misperceptions which may blind us. Reflecting on the reading reveals Jesus as the only physician we need, who can remove the "plank" in our eye and help us overcome our blind spots as well as the failings of our sins, weaknesses and ignorance.

A significant step to this requires that we always respond to the invitation of the Divine Physician who can heal us. Our Lord Jesus continually seeks out those who desire healing, pardon and restoration in their journey of faith towards him. When Jesus exposes sin, fear and condemnation in our lives, we are set free and restored to wholeness, ready to be his instruments of healing, pardon and restoration for others as well.

It is important then to realise that having a judgemental spirit will only hinder us from helping others to draw near to Jesus as their Divine Physician. The mention of figs and grapes over the thorns and brambles in the last part of the gospel represents the proverbial saying that you know a tree by its fruit. The fig tree was much-loved by the people

of Palestine. It represented fertility, peace and prosperity. In the same vein, grapes produced wine, which was the symbol of joy. Unfortunately, thorns and brambles were only good for burning as fuel for the fire. In the parable of the Sower, these were also the thorns that grew and choked the seed.

Therefore, a person will produce good or bad fruit depending on what is sown in their heart. Having received God's healing mercy and grace, have we allowed his loving-kindness to flood our hearts and permeate our lives? Does he guide our thoughts, words and actions? Are we intentional in being vessels - disciples of Christ who exemplify his spirit which heals rather than crushes?

Kindliness in judgement is a sacred duty. As we begin Lent this Wednesday may we use the time to renew ourselves in the Lord and make room in our hearts for charity, forbearance and kindness. This is the good fruit we are called to produce through the grace and strength of our Lord.



"It is important then to realise that having a judgemental spirit will only hinder us from helping others to draw near to Jesus as their Divine Physician."

Announcements

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

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER KIT

Limited sets of blessed ashes and a bottle of holy water will be made available for families who are not successful in securing seats for the Ash Wednesday Masses. The kit can be collected outside JPII Hall/Foyer after all Masses this weekend while stocks last.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. All prayer requests are kept confidential. Join us online every Monday to pray and intercede in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Date & Time: Mon 28 Feb, 8pm

Meeting ID: 861 5125 7252

Password: SFXIP28FEB



CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting via Zoom is on **Mon 28 Feb, 8pm**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'The Vocation And Mission Of The Lay Faithful' by Mike Arents. All are welcome!

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

Meeting ID: 884 2477 8685

Password: HOLYSPIRIT



ONE: 2022 LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Lent. They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection theme is "The Word Renews".

Please download the e-booklet at: <https://bit.ly/Lenten2022>

LANDINGS: WELCOMING RETURNING CATHOLICS

A Virtual Landings programme (conducted over Zoom) organised by The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd will commence on **4 March 2022**. We invite Catholics seeking a reconnection with the Faith and those interested in this ministry to participate in this 10-week programme. Interested participants will need to register at <https://landings.typeform.com/run12022> by **1 March 2022**. Please email returning@landings.org.sg or find out more at www.landings.org.sg.

March Mass Bookings

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

Parishioners are entitled to book **1 weekend Mass** and up to **6 weekday Masses**. Subject to availability. Seating capacity for all weekend Masses has been increased to 240. You can also book for Masses at another parish.

DATES FOR MASS BOOKINGS:

• **Sat 26 Feb, 12pm**

• **Tue 1 Mar, 12pm**

• **Tue 8 Mar, 12pm**

• **Tue 15 Mar, 12pm**

ADDITIONAL MASSES:

• **ASH WEDNESDAY**

6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

Fasting and Abstinence are to be observed.

• **Solemnity of St Joseph**

Sat 19 March: 9am

• **Every Tuesday: 6.30am**

• **Every Sunday: 7am**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All weekday evening Masses during Lent will begin with the Stations of the Cross. You may scan the QR Code on your entry ticket to access the Stations of the Cross.



Kindly note that you are required to attend both Stations and Mass together.

THINGS TO NOTE

- **Mass booking/cancellation** closes **1 hour** before Mass. Please be gracious to cancel your booking earlier if you are unable to attend.
- **Mass registration** 45 minutes before Mass.
- **Mass Entry:** Tue & Thur Masses via **Choir Entrance**, all other Masses via **Church Foyer and Choir Entrance**.

For more information, visit www.sfxchurch.sg/booking-of-masses-march-2022

MASS COLLECTION

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**.

LIVING THE FAITH EVERYDAY (LIFE): DIVINE MERCY WITH FR. MICHAEL GAITLEY

Come join LiFE as we explore this series on the divine mercy. Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. For enquires, please contact Desmond at 9011 5076.

Dates: 4 March - 22 April (Fridays)
Time: 8.30pm - 10pm (Zoom)



SOJOURNERS' COMPANIONS: VIRTUAL WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER @ SFX

Learn how to pray with Scripture and develop a closer relationship with the Lord. What better timing to do this than during Lent. As participation will be limited, please register by **Sun 27 March**. Participation is free, but love offerings to Sojourners' Companions are welcome. Register at www.sojourners.sg or email wogp@sojourners.sg.

Taster Session Via Zoom Sat 2 Apr, 2pm - 4.30pm

- Presentation of Prayer Methods
- Meet your Prayer Guide at Breakout Session

Week of Guided Prayer Mon 4 Apr - Fri 8 Apr

- Meet your Prayer Guide daily for half hour between 9am - 10pm
- Choice of Virtual meeting to be agreed with Prayer Guide

Closing Session Via Zoom

Sat 9 Apr, 2pm - 4.30pm

- Zoom Link will be provided to you 24 hours in advance

— The Covenant Rituals

Two covenant rituals were held on 13 and 20 Feb for our L9 and L10 teens. The Covenant Ritual is a paraliturgy that allows our teens and their families to examine their baptismal promises, as they prepare to receive the sacrament of confirmation. The ritual comes in 2 parts and is conducted over 2 years.



Covenant Ritual 1

Covenant Ritual 1 involves the use of water to recall the waters of baptism that most of the teens received in their infancy. Our L9 teens were able to re-experience what it was like at their baptism as they had their hands washed by their parents/godparents and were read the words of their baptism. A public commitment was also made to God, in the presence of the community, to continue on this journey in faith.



"Going through baptism as an infant, I did not have the capacity to make my own decision to enter the Catholic faith. This covenant ritual gave me the opportunity to voluntarily jump into Jesus' open arms and further my faith in him. It was a refreshing change from our usual catechism session and the ritual conveyed the feeling of renewal and new life so powerfully. The support my mum provided was reassuring too."

Jenevieve Yeo - L9

"At this point of my faith journey, this covenant ritual has offered me a greater insight into what God wants for us and what he wants us to do to grow closer to him. It was an eye-opening experience and it helped me strengthen my trust and deepened my faith in God."

John-Paul Ramachandran - L9





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Covenant Ritual 2

The 2nd Covenant Ritual involves the use of light to recall the light of baptism that they received when they were baptised. Our L10 teens reflected on how our Faith was handed to them through the passing of the light from a candle. They also recalled the commitment they made during their first Covenant Ritual as they enter the final leg of their preparation before receiving the sacrament of confirmation.



"Compared to infant baptism, confirmation is a choice that I can make myself knowing what it is and how it will impact my life. The covenant ritual was a meaningful experience that allowed me to express that I eagerly want to make a binding promise to God and strengthen my relationship with him. It brings me one step closer to my sacred agreement with God."

Kayla Lim - L10



"The covenant ritual made me realise that now is the time where I fulfil my role as a Catholic. The ritual was symbolic in the sense that the passing on of the candle (the light of faith) held great meaning for me. The ceremonious way it was held made it a wonderful experience for me."

Xander Chew - L10

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 27th, 2022

Mini
MANNA



A B D E F G I

N O R S T U

In today's Gospel reading Jesus told a parable about trees. What did He say? Use the code to find out!



Mass Timings

*WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue:
6.30am, 6.30pm

Thu:
6.30pm

Fri:
8pm

*WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm

Sun: 7am, 9am,
11am, 1pm, 5.30pm
(There is currently no
Confession before Mass)

*MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

* All are vaccinated Masses

ADORATION AT JPPI Hall

Wed & Sun:
7pm - 10.30pm

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

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:

10am - 1pm,
2pm - 4pm

(Closed on PH & Sundays)

<https://tinyurl.com/SFXColumbarium>
(by appointment only)

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 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