



Disciples
Making Disciples



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Foreigners At The Gate

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 Sep 2022

Am 6:1a, 4-7
1 Tim 6:11-16
Lk 16: 19-31

Today is World Day of Migrants and Refugees which the Catholic Church has celebrated every last Sunday of September since the beginning of the First World War in 1914. It is a significant event for Singaporeans because of the large number of foreign workers in our midst and our own migrant history. What does our faith say about how we should view and treat them? Today's readings provide some answers.

So, too, our Holy Father. In his message to commemorate the day, he stressed that God's plan is inclusive and gives priority to those living at the margin.

"Among them are many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking. The Kingdom of God is to be built with them, for without them it would not be the Kingdom that God wants. The inclusion of those most vulnerable is the necessary condition for full citizenship in God's Kingdom."

Pope Francis recalls Isaiah's prophetic vision of foreigners, not as invaders but willing workers, helping to rebuild the walls of the new Jerusalem whose gates are open to all (cf Is 60:10-11).

Such an open and welcoming attitude to foreigners will lead "to a discovery of the richness present in other religions and forms of spirituality unknown to us, and deepens our own conviction", he notes.

If even our Holy Father is willing to learn from outsiders and people

of other faiths, how can we shut our doors to them and treat them poorly?

Yet, the reality is that our attitude to them, especially low skilled workers, leaves much to be desired. Although Singapore is heavily dependent on foreign labour, most Singaporeans prefer not to have anything to do with them. They are housed in secluded dormitories away from residential areas, with little opportunity to mix socially with the local population.

Theirs is a separate world that for the most part is invisible to Singaporeans.

It is the same invisibility present in the parable of the rich man in today's Gospel reading.

As related in Luke's account, it is not that the rich man has mistreated Lazarus, or that his wealth is a sin.

But he is self-centred and fails to notice or to care about Lazarus' suffering and deprivation.

This is an important point that is relevant to our attitude towards migrant workers: We may not have

treated them cruelly or inhumanely but our faith demands that we take an interest in their lives, and care about their living and working conditions because we are part of one humanity connected by God's love.

Our capacity to relate to and empathise with other people is God-given and central to what makes us human. When we choose not to see suffering, we make a deliberate choice that moves us away from God.

Our connectedness was made tragically obvious during the pandemic when the virus spread from the foreign worker population to the local community at an alarming rate.

Singaporeans learned the painful lesson that we are in this together and that if we do not take care of every single one - rich or poor, local or foreign - everyone ends up the poorer for it.

It took a pandemic to make this self-evident but the truth was clear to the early prophets including Amos who was not afraid to speak out against the rich and powerful, as recounted in the first reading.

For Amos, it was not possible not to see a wrong that had to be put right. He not only saw, he also proclaimed God's message loud and clear.

Contrast his approach to the rich man in the parable.

As we celebrate migrant workers in our midst today, it is pertinent to ask whether our own attitude resembles the former or the latter.

Indeed we should thank migrant workers for how they have enriched our lives, as pointed out by Pope Francis in his message:

"Thanks to them, we have the chance to know better our world and its beautiful diversity. We can grow in our common humanity and build together an ever greater sense of togetherness."



"I like to see this approach to migration reflected in a prophetic vision of Isaiah, which considers foreigners not as invaders or destroyers, but willing labourers who rebuild the walls of the new Jerusalem, that Jerusalem whose gates are open to all peoples." - Pope Francis

Announcements

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

**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MASS HYMNS**
www.sfxchurch.sg/mass



FAULTY/DAMAGED CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR Code to share with us at tinyurl.com/SFXFacilitiesReport



WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

This September, we celebrate Migrants' Month, remembering our migrant brothers and sisters who face daily struggles and challenges as they seek a better future abroad.

The Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) is calling for donations to support migrants who are vulnerable. To donate, visit their website at www.acmi.org.sg. Thank you for your generous support!

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

You may drop your petitions/thanksgiving letters into the box located in front of Mother Mary's stained glass icon. All letters are kept strictly confidential.



1COR12: EXAM MASS

Calling all students taking the major exams (O-levels, A-levels, IB, etc) this year! Come join us for a time of prayer, mass and lunch fellowship to pray for each other! Do invite your friends who may be taking their major exams this year too, or who simply want to come and spend some time with Jesus and each other. Sign up at bit.ly/1cor12exammass by **2 Oct 2022**.

Date:
Sat 8 Oct 2022
Time:
11am - 2pm
Venue:
Hosea Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP) DONATION BOX

With effect from **19 Sep 2022**, do note that the new SSVP donation box is located at the Atrium Plaza in front of JPPII Hall and all our other donation boxes will be removed. Please contribute generously in our support of the low-income and vulnerable community.



Safe Management Measures Update

Current check-in procedures for Vaccination-Differentiated (VDS) Masses remain unchanged. The mask-wearing requirement for indoor religious activities has been removed. If you are coughing/sneezing or not feeling well, kindly put on your mask or stay home.

NON-VDS MASSES (500 PAX):

- Weekday Masses (**EXCEPT SPECIFIED SOLEMNITY MASSES**)
- Sat 6.30am, Sun 7am, Sun 5.30pm

VDS MASSES (700 PAX):

- Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am, Sun 11am

As per MCCY guidelines, we regret that we may have to refuse entry when the maximum capacity has been reached.

* Vaccination-Differentiated

THINGS TO NOTE

- Trace-Together App/token and ID **NOT REQUIRED** for Weekday & Sat AM Masses except specified Solemnity Masses.
- Trace-Together App/token and ID **REQUIRED** for VDS Masses for Vaccination status verification and headcount.
- ID **REQUIRED** for Sunday non-VDS Masses for headcount.
- Mass Entrance: Weekday & Sat AM Masses - all doors; Sun 7am Mass - Choir Entrance only; all other Weekend Masses - Choir Entrance and Foyer.

The Rosary will be prayed 30 mins before all weekday Masses.

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'. Please write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

SFX LIFE MINISTRY: INTO HIS LIKENESS BY DR EDWARD SRI

Do you desire a deeper relationship with Jesus? Join us in a five-part series of videos presented by Dr Edward Sri that aims to help us follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit and be transformed ever more into his likeness. All are welcome!

Dates: 30 Sep, 7 Oct, 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 4 Nov, 11 Nov (Fridays)
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Jeremiah Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)
Register: WhatsApp Desmond Cai
(9011 5076)

CHARISMATIC & INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 26 Sep 2022**. Intercessory Prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by SFX IP Ministry and Praise & Worship by SFX CPG followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr John Chua, OCD. All are welcome!

Time: 7.30pm - 10pm
Venue: SFX Parish Hall
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

WATCHMEN RETREAT 2022

Led by the Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation, Rev. Fr Terence Pereira, together with Gloria Patri Charismatic Ministry, this 5 day stay-in retreat is for anyone who is interested in deepening and strengthening their faith while actively waiting for the Lord. Sign-ups are on a first-come-first-served basis. Registration closes **26 Oct 2022** or when retreat capacity is full, whichever is earlier. Watchmen Retreat will include talks, sharing, praise and worship, as well as spiritual sessions and direction.

Dates: 2 - 6 Nov 2022

Venue: St Francis Xavier Major Seminary (199 Ponggol Seventeenth Ave, Singapore 829645)

Retreat Fees: \$400 (including Accommodation and meals)

Register: one.org.sg/event/watchmen-retreat-2022/



NOVENA CHURCH: CALLED TO LOVE; *Called To Serve - Youth Mission Exposure*

We are inviting all youths between **14 to 21 years old** to join the youth Mission Exposure 2022 to Father Ray Foundation, a Redemptorist Centre located at Pattaya, Thailand.

Dates: 28 Nov - 6 Dec 2022

Venue: Father Ray Foundation, Pattaya (www.fr-ray.org)

Cost: \$950

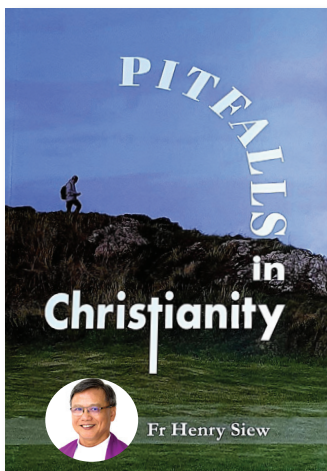
Register: tinyurl.com/RMTME2022

Registration closes on Fri 30 Sep 2022



St Jerome Library

This Sunday marks the opening of our very own St Jerome Library. Have you been to this cozy corner yet? Our boutique library-cum-exhibition space has something for everyone. Be it resources for casual readers/serious learners or Christian art/tapestries and materials to gaze upon. Come check out St Jerome Library soon, located next to the Mt Tabor Adoration Room.



One of the latest additions to the library's collection is Fr Henry Siew's book *Pitfalls in Christianity*.

This 107-page book begins by identifying the major "misconceptions and misunderstanding" of who God is and what he desires of us. These misconceptions arise when we read the Old Testament in a literalistic manner. Fr Henry calls these misconceptions "pitfalls" in Christianity. He says that holding on to some of these ancient mentality and practices are "inappropriate and inapplicable" to Christianity and can even lead to errors in beliefs and practices. In the first five chapters, Fr Henry contrasts numerous such examples with Jesus' responses in the Gospels (eg stoning for adultery in Leviticus 20, genocide in Numbers 21 and male chauvinism in Exodus 22). Jesus' teachings show that while the Old Testament writers' zeal was strong, their morality, conditioned by the ancient norms of their time, was distorted.

In Chapter Six, Fr Henry urges Christians to read the Gospels (begin with Luke - p34) to "experience the compassion of Jesus." Other "pitfalls" highlighted include misunderstandings about prayer, the "Prosperity Gospel" and religious extremism. In Chapter 17, the scandalous "institutional" and "personal sins" seen in the church are discussed. The book ends off with the bold claim that Christianity is not just "one religion among many" and each of us must examine deeply our reasons for wanting to be a follower of Christ.

Check out other books by Fr Henry Siew in St Jerome Library here: www.librarything.com/catalog/sfxchurchlibrary

Artworks @ St Jerome Library



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

Some of the current artworks that you can see at our library
feature **St Laurent Imbert**
(Feast on 20 Sep, Founder of the Catholic Church in Singapore)
and **St Hildegard of Bingen**
(Feast on 17 Sep, the 4th female doctor of the Church)



On the Three Persons

"Then I saw a bright light, which... designates the Father; and in this light, the figure of a man the colour of a sapphire which... designates the Son, who was begotten of the Father in Divinity before time began, and then within time was incarnate in the world in Humanity... the fire without any flaw... or darkness is the Holy Spirit, by Whom the Only-Begotten of God was conceived in the flesh and born of the Virgin within time and poured the true light into the world..."

St Hildegard von Bingen, Scivias, Book II, Vision II

(Taken from Illuminations by Matthew Fox.
Available for loan from St Jerome Library)



MEP Missionaries Frs Laurent Imbert, Pierre-Philibert Maubant and Jacques-Honoré Chastan tortured and subsequently beheaded on 21 September 1839 at Saenamteo, Korea. Painting in the Church of Saint Laurent Imbert in Marignane, Provence-Alpes-Cote-d'Azur-France

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Thu:
6.30pm

Tue - Sat:
6.30am

Fri:
8pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat: 5.30pm*

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

***For Vaccinated Only**

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

9am

CONFESSION

Contact Parish Office to make an appointment.

Fri:
4pm - 6pm

Sat:
10am - 12pm

OPENING HOURS

MAIN GATE

Mon - Sun:
5am - 11pm

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

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm

Closed on Public Holidays

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:

10am - 6pm

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

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

Spiritual preparation is held on the last Friday of every odd month. Baptism is held on the first Sunday of the following month. For registration, please refer to our website.



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