



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:
6011 1076, lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

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

Suffering in Mission is Strengthened by Dwelling in His Presence

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Mission Day
23 Oct 2022

Is 2:1 – 5
Eph 3:2 – 12
Mk 16:15 – 20

In today's Gospel, Jesus mandated his disciples to "Go, make disciples of all nations..." (Mk 16:15) As missionary disciples, we constantly face trials and tribulations. There are days when we feel tired, unmotivated, hurt, rejected, confused and unappreciated. Missionary disciples, even after having encountered Jesus, can still fall away. In Lk 8:13, Jesus explained why there are some who fall away even though they have encountered his word, "Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no roots; they believe only for a time and fall away in times of trial."

How can we maintain our missionary zeal? Pope St Paul VI states that "Evangelisation will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit." We see in Lk 4:14 that it is "in the power of the Spirit" that Jesus returns to Galilee and begins his preaching at Nazareth. It is the Holy Spirit who inspires the words to use, who predisposes the hearer to be open and receptive to the Good News and to the kingdom being proclaimed. (cf *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 75) As mere instruments, we need the Holy Spirit to work through and sustain us.

St Paul too is filled with the Holy Spirit before dedicating himself to his apostolic ministry. (Eph 3:7) In today's second reading, St Paul did not fall away but held firm to his faith,

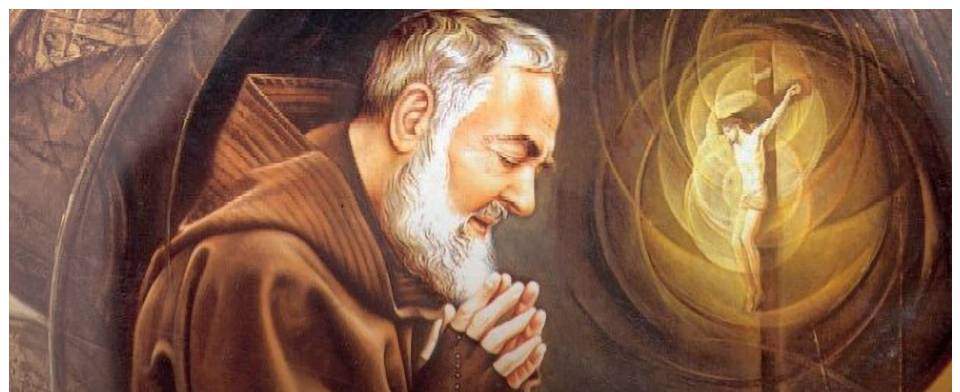
despite imprisonment, probably house arrest in Rome (Ac 28:16), for preaching to the Gentiles. St Paul suffered tremendously for preaching "the inscrutable riches of Christ," (Eph 3:8) We can trace St Paul's deep faith to his deep conversion when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. Like St Paul, we too can draw strength by recalling our own encounter with the Lord to invigorate us in times of struggle and lethargy. Like St Paul who was focused on his goal of evangelizing the Gentiles, we too can keep our eyes focused on the goal to keep us energised in our mission.

St Pio of Pietrelcina, whose feast we celebrated exactly a month ago, embarked on his mission by offering his suffering through his stigmata to remedy men's ingratitude. When Jesus appeared to St Pio, he said, "My son, do not think that my agony only lasted three hours, no; I will be in agony until the end of the world, on account of the souls whom I have most blessed... the ingratitude and the sleep of my ministers make my agony even more burdensome." (*Padre Pio Under Investigation: The Secret Vatican Files, Chapter 2*) St Pio was a very prayerful, holy Franciscan Capuchin friar, stigmatist and mystic who loved the Eucharist. Our evangelical zeal must spring from true holiness, nourished by prayer and above all by the love of the Eucharist.

(cf *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 76))

As the Church celebrates World Mission Day, Pope Francis reiterates Pope St Paul VI who tells us that as missionary disciples, we are to be led by the Holy Spirit, who is the principal agent of evangelisation (cf *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 75). In his message, our Holy Father wrote, "All Christ's missionary disciples are called to recognize the essential importance of the Spirit's work, to dwell in his presence daily and to receive his unfailing strength and guidance. Indeed, it is precisely when we feel tired, unmotivated, or confused that we should remember to have recourse to the Holy Spirit in prayer. Let me emphasize once again that prayer plays a fundamental role in the missionary life, for it allows us to be refreshed and strengthened by the Spirit as the inexhaustible divine source of renewed energy and joy in sharing Christ's life with others." (Message For World Mission Day 2022).

If our mission is not rooted in our relationship with Christ that is energised by the Holy Spirit, through a deep prayer life, Scripture, Magisterial Church Teachings, regular reception of the Sacraments and support afforded in communal life, it will not be surprising that when we are faced with scandals, hurts, betrayal, sufferings etc, we will fall away.



"My son, do not think that my agony only lasted three hours, no; I will be in agony until the end of the world, on account of the souls whom I have most blessed." (Vision of Christ to St Pio)

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



PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON MON 24 OCT - DEEPAVALI

There will only be **one Mass at 9am** and no evening mass. Please note that the Parish Office and Columbarium will be closed.

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

Mass collections received through physical and online means from **22 - 28 Oct** will be set aside for the spread of the Gospel. The total amount collected will be placed at the disposal of the Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

INTERCESSORY & CHARISMATIC

Please note that there will be no intercessory and charismatic prayer this coming week.

DAILY CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSIONS

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. There will be nightly processions within the church grounds in honour of Our Blessed Mother. You may bring your own waxless candles. **There will be no procession on Mon 24 Oct (Public holiday).**

PROCESSION SCHEDULE

Mon, Wed, Thu: 8pm @ JP II Hall
Tue: 8pm @ Grotto
Fri: 6pm @ JP II Hall
Sat, Sun: 8pm @ JP II Hall

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

"Restore, Rekindle and Renew your marriage at the ME Weekend!"

To deepen your couple relationship, do sign up for a Marriage Encounter Weekend scheduled for **2 - 4 Dec 2022** by contacting Joe & Reenie @ 9670 5390 or email at mewkend@gmail.com.

ALL SAINTS' DAY VIGIL MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday, 31 October
6.30pm**

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS SCHEDULE

DAY OF OBLIGATION

**Tuesday, 1 November
6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, 2 November
6.30am, 6.30pm, 8.30pm**

There will be blessings of niches after all Masses



Thank You Safe Management Measures (SMM) Volunteers!

The priests and staff would like to thank all SMM volunteers who have served tirelessly for the past two years. We appreciate all of you who have contributed so much of your time, effort and patience in carrying out the SMM regulations to make the Church a safe place for all to come back and worship!

MASS FOR THE SICK WITH ANOINTING

In conjunction with our Parish Feast day, we invite all who are unwell to this special Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing. Come experience the special grace on the Christian "experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (CCC 1527). Mass will be on **Sun 27 Nov** from **2pm - 4.30pm**, and confession will be from 1pm. Family and friends are also welcome to join in this special Eucharistic Celebration as we give support to them as a loving and prayerful community. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MFTS2022 by **Sun 20 Nov**.



Volunteers are needed to provide transportation to and from church, and serve refreshments after Mass. If you are keen to do so, please register at tinyurl.com/MFTS2022Volunteers by **Sun 6 Nov**.



For further enquires, you may contact 9622 0212 (Long) or 9099 0200 (Grace).

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**.

PIETA SINGAPORE: OCT MONTHLY SESSION

PIETA is a support group for bereaved parents who have united in faith to seek God's comfort, wisdom and hope. The session, run by bereaved parents, meets monthly to pray, reflect and break open the Word of God. Any parent who has lost a child (regardless of age and no matter how recent or long ago) is invited to come and be united in faith. PIETA has recently resumed their face-to-face monthly sessions. For more info, email pieta.singapore@gmail.com or visit www.PietaSingapore.org

Date: Tue 25 Oct
Time: 7.30pm - 9pm
Venue: Agape Village, Toa Payoh Lorong 8

CPS LUNCHTIME TALK: ANONYMITY OF CATHOLICS

Join Rev Fr Terence Pereira as he shares how we live our Catholic faith out in the open. Registration is required. Register by scanning the QR code or via <https://tinyurl.com/CPSTalksAnonymityofCatholics>

Dates: Mon 31 Oct 2022

Time: 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Venue: TPI Building
(62 Cecil Street, 6th Floor) or
via Zoom



THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY (10 HOUR COURSE)

Considered one of the greatest legacies of Pope St John Paul II, this catechesis explains Catholic teachings through the lens of the Nuptial Mystery. Understanding Sexuality, Love and the Meaning of Life is critical not only for marriage and sexual morality, but concerns the entire Gospel, the Bible and in fact the Whole Mission of Christ. A must for all in family and youth ministries and adult/teen catechesis; and all who want to make sense of the sexual moral confusion and scandals in the Church and the world.

For more information, visit catholicact.wordpress.com

Dates: (Thursdays) 3, 10, 17, 24 Nov and 1 Dec 2022
Time: 8pm – 10pm
Venue: Zoom
Presenter: Andrew Kong, BSc, LLB, JCL
Cost: Love Offering



CARITAS SINGAPORE: MIND IF WE TALK?

Do you have a friend who is struggling with mental health? Have you ever wondered how you can accompany them better? Join this workshop by Caritas Young Adults and Clarity Singapore as they explore how we can be a friend to those grappling with mental health issues, and what our Catholic faith has to say on mental health. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at mpmc@caritas-singapore.org

Date: Sat 29 Oct
Time: 10am – 1pm
Venue: CANA The Catholic Centre
(55, Waterloo Street #02)
Register: <https://bit.ly/MindIfWeTalk!>



SFX's Fight with Covid-19

SFX wasn't hard hit in the early days of Covid-19. Life went on right up to the Circuit Breaker from 7 April to 1 June 2020. After which, only attending online masses was possible. Our spiritual life changed so much - from the daily availability of the Holy Eucharist to the total inability to receive Christ's body.

Only later in July 2020, did SFX reopen with 50pax Masses held in JPPII Hall. With this limited capacity, it was a fastest-fingers-first rush to book yourself into a particular mass. Safety Management Officers were appointed to ensure people who came were actually registered for that particular Mass. It was sad to turn away parishioners/friends because they made booking errors. There was a need for use of the SafeEntry application to record one's visit to Church, for contact tracing purposes.

Later in September 2021, we could have 180pax (1m rule) vaccinated and 50pax unvaccinated Masses. Then, the TraceTogether application's usage started with parishioners needing to have the app/token verified with working Bluetooth so that close contacts could be easily traced. In the event where a



case was detected, precautionary notes from Fr Ben were shared on social media and people who were seated within 2.5m of the infected were also notified after their particulars were obtained from the Archdiocese Digital Team.

In February 2022, mass capacity was raised to 240pax, following an earlier requirement that VDS (Vaccination Differentiated SMMs) be started (and PET testing be disallowed for entry into VDS Masses). Mass capacity was lifted in April to 700 VDS and 500 non-VDS Masses.

Now in October 2022, all MCCY SMM restrictions have been lifted, but the Archdiocese still has some strongly recommended practices.

Through all these tightening-loosening-tightening seasons, SFX was blessed to have a group of Safe Management Support volunteers. At every Mass, we would have between two to five volunteers to ensure SFX compliance to SMMs of both government and Archdiocese guidelines. These volunteers would setup the necessary equipment 45 to 60 minutes before Mass started, to register and count everyone coming in for Mass and a few minutes after Mass to closeup or handover to next team.

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With each change of regulations and guidelines, volunteers needed to go through retrainings and/or briefings on what and how to handle the various changes in protocol and IT systems.

Through all this, each volunteer would have several stories to tell of how they had to turn away some people due to lack of documentation or booking; how families were separated by the seating arrangement such that family members were seated at two separate blocks; and how some parishioners were anxious and did not behave too well towards the volunteers.



Overall, our volunteers are relieved that the worst is over. We continue to pray that Covid-19 will not have a more virulent strain requiring re-imposition of SMMs.



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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)

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

Mon - Sat:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sun: 8.30am - 1pm
Closed on Public Holidays

ADORATION ROOM

Mon - Sun:
7am - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays

LIBRARY

Sun:
8am - 1pm

COLUMBARIUM

Mon to Sat:
10am - 6pm
Closed on Sundays and
Public Holidays.

CANTEEN

Sun:
7am - 12pm

ANOIDING 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/second 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



Saint Paul Match-Up

What comes next?

*Match up the first parts with the next parts
from today's second reading.*

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. I have fought ■ | ■ strength |
| 2. I have finished ■ | ■ the faith |
| 3. I have kept ■ | ■ the good fight |
| 4. The Lord gave me ■ | ■ the message. |
| . so that the Gentiles
could hear ■ | ■ glory forever
and ever. |
| 6. To Him be ■ | ■ the race |



2 Timothy 4:6-18

Source: <https://thekidsbulletin.com/>