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**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Prepare - Not Predict

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of the Poor
13 Nov 2022

Mal 3:19-20
2 Th 3:7-12
Lk 21:5-19

Christians are different from every other people - we live in anticipation that the world will end at the second coming of Christ.

We are already living in the "last days" since the "Passover" of Jesus (CCC 585). Every age has viewed his second coming apocalyptically. For us, Covid-19 comes to mind. In the Second Reading, some Thessalonians simply downed tools and sat waiting, after Paul warned that the end is near (1 Th 5:2). Throughout history, a few doomsday cult leaders have led their followers to mass suicide.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns against false Messiahs in the last days (Lk 21:8). Satan does not retire. He relentlessly sows fear to deceive, depress and steal souls. Christians must be alert and be unwavering witnesses to the truth till the end of time (Lk 21:13). **Jesus promises that the power of the Holy Spirit will prevail - truth, courage, conviction and unity will triumph over deception, fear, confusion and division.** We will be harassed, betrayed, even martyred - but never defeated (Lk 21:14-19). Paul is an exemplary model - in persecution and imprisonment, he continues unperturbed, with his living (making tents) and proclaiming of the Gospel throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

According to St Augustine, we should prepare for Jesus' second coming by living an authentic Christian life. He comments on Psalm 95: "Let us not resist his first coming, so that we may

not dread the second ... We love him, yet we fear his coming. Are we really certain that we love him?"

Loving Christ means obedience to his commandments, doing his work (Jn 14:12-15) and being fruitful (Jn 15:5) through the Holy Spirit. Jesus has already come to us. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20). In holiness, we can face death with peace and calm (St Faustina, Diary #1343).

The paradox of holiness is that the closer we get to Christ, the more unworthy we feel (CCC 208). Feeling righteous? We may be Christian in name, Pharisee in practice. Pride often distorts holiness as exclusive, insulated and separated from people considered sinful. This opposes the inclusivity, openness and love preached and lived by Jesus. He engaged, not alienated - showed mercy, not judged. Are we guilty of alienating sinners, ostracising our enemies and opposing those we dislike? In this World Day of the Poor, we are reminded not to despise but to be charitable to the poor and marginalised.

Legalism is an equally insidious trap - the scrupulous observance of laws as a mean to salvation. It supplants the salvific power of the cross. Are we unconsciously relying on our own merit for salvation, instead of on Jesus? Are we glorifying self, not God?

Society is addicted to comforts and conveniences. Steve Jobs once said: "Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there." Attachment to life itself leads to fear of death and suffering. Death can be faced courageously when we focus on our heavenly destiny. Jesus transformed death in his Resurrection (CCC 1009). Where there is faith, death is a gateway to new life. Where there is love, there is no pain - only sacrifice.

The fallen stones of the temple (Lk 21:6) are a grim reminder that all things are transient. God does not

spare the Temple of Jerusalem, his physical abode of the old covenant, from destruction. Things are to be used, not idolised. Happiness is lost once things are gone. Only in God do we have true and everlasting joy. Hence, the First Reading and the Psalm exhort us to rejoice that God is coming to judge with righteousness, justice and fairness (Mal 3:19-20, Ps 98:5-9).

Before the second coming, we must face a final trial - the rise of the Antichrist and a great apostasy that will test our faith to its limit (CCC 675). Will we fall for the "religious deception" of the Antichrist? We may not know who the Antichrist will be, but we do know Jesus Christ and can follow him confidently - for he did not say "fear" but: "when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (Lk 21:28)



"Jesus promises that the power of the Holy Spirit will prevail - truth, courage, conviction and unity will triumph over deception, fear, confusion and division."

Lk 21:14-19

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 CHURCH PEWS?

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



SSVP COLLECTION

With your kind donations last weekend, SSVP was able to raise **\$7,337.70** for our Friends-In-Need. We thank you for your generosity and continued support of their activities.

Please note that if you wish to make a cheque payment or through PayNow, it should be payable to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)
• OCBC Bank Account No:
686 596 768 001

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 14 Nov**, followed by Bible sharing. All are welcome!

Time: 8pm - 10pm
Venue: SFX Auditorium
(Parish Centre, Level 3)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date: Mon 14 Nov 2022
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILING LIST

Have you changed your address? Are you new to the parish? Never received an SFX Christmas Card? Please update your address and any other details with the Parish Office or send an email to secretariat@sfxchurch.sg.



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**.

REGISTRATION FOR 2023 CATECHISM

Registration for catechism for children from **K1 to L1 in 2023** will be online via myCatholic.sg/Catechism. Parents must create an account for the child and login into the child's account to register. The child's baptism certificate must be uploaded at the time of registration. **Registration closes on 31 Dec 2022**.

For other levels, please email catechism@sfxchurch.sg for the registration process. For further enquiries, please contact Dan Lai (9749 1635).

CTIS: APPLICATION DEADLINE

Following on from the Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore (CTIS) Roadshow last Sunday, please be reminded that applications must reach CTIS by **Sat 10 Dec**. Do allow enough time for the recommendation letter in the form to be signed off by the Parish Priest. Application forms are also available on <http://www.ctis.sg/application>.



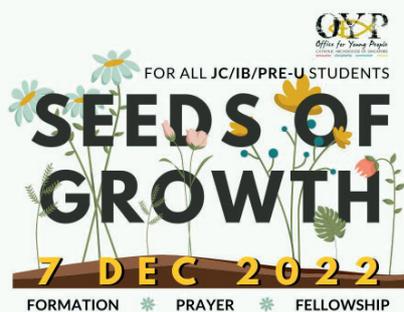
Fr Ben with some of the 25 SFX students and alumni of CTIS at last Sunday's roadshow.



Office for Young People
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SINGAPORE
encounter discipleship communion mission



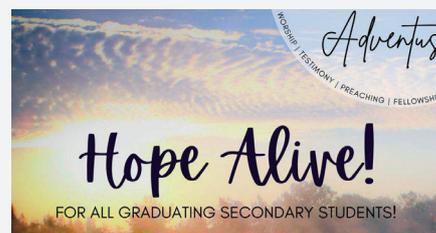
UPCOMING EVENTS



Seeds of Growth

Join us this December at the Office for Young People (OYP) for Seeds of Growth, a formation session for JC/IB/Pre-U students! We will be having a time of formation, prayer as well as fellowship to give thanks and recollect the year as well as look forward to the future with hope!

Date: Wed 7 Dec 2022
Time: 10am - 1pm
Venue: OYP (2 Lor Low Koon, Singapore 536449)
Register: <https://bit.ly/oypsogdec22>



Adventus 22: Hope Alive!

Know someone who is graduating from Secondary School this year? OYP is excited to bring to you Adventus, an outreach programme for graduating Secondary 4 and 5 students! On this day, we gather to experience what it means to be alive in hope as you prepare yourselves to enter a new phase of life as you graduate! For any enquiries, please write to Neumann at neumann.oyp@catholic.org.sg.

Date: Fri 16 Dec 2022
Time: 10am - 1pm
Venue: OYP (2 Lor Low Koon, Singapore 536449)
Register: <https://bit.ly/ADVENTUS22>

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT BY SFX YOUTH CHOIR

Attention Choral Music Lovers: Our SFX Youth Choir will be staging our Christmas Concert in December. Booking of tickets is through the QR code. You can also purchase them at the Parish Office.

Date & Time: Sat 17 Dec, 8pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium

Cost: \$20

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXYouthChoirTickets2022



Save the Date

CHRISTMAS FIESTA

**A GIFT GIVEN,
A GIFT SHARED**

We're bringing back your favourite event of the year - CHRISTmas Fiesta! Themed "A Gift Given, A Gift Shared", join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship. There's something for everyone so mark your calendars and bring along your family and friends. All are welcome!

Date: Fri 30 Dec 2022
Time: 6.30pm - 10pm

THANK YOU

for Responding in Love

CHARIS
Make Hope Happen

On behalf of our member organisations and beneficiaries, CHARIS would like to express our gratitude for the generosity of our Catholic Community during Humanitarian Month.

TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY 2022

GO FORTH!

Join us for our 63th Anniversary Triduum and Feast Day Celebrations! This year, Jesus is calling us to 'Go Forth' together as he leads us as our Shepherd. We continue to envision a vibrant parish community filled with disciples of Christ. As part of our feast day celebrations, we also welcome our former shepherds back to SFX to celebrate our triduum Masses.

Please note that there will be no 6.30pm masses from Wed 30 Nov - Fri 2 Dec.



FEED

TRIDUUM DAY 1
WED 30 NOV

P&W 8pm
Mass 8.30pm
Celebrant: Fr John Sim
Fellowship 9.30pm

HEAL

TRIDUUM DAY 2
THU 1 DEC

P&W 8pm
Mass 8.30pm
Celebrant: Fr Peter Tan
Fellowship 9.30pm

WITNESS

TRIDUUM DAY 3
FRI 2 DEC

P&W 8pm
Mass 8.30pm
Celebrant: Fr Brian D'Souza
Fellowship 9.30pm

FEAST DAY

SAT 3 DEC

Mass 5.30pm
Celebrant: Fr Benedict Chng
Fellowship 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

SUN, 4 DEC:

7am, 9am, 11am*, 5.30pm
Celebrant: *His Eminence
William Cardinal Goh



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

FEAST DAY

Celebrations



We have lined up a series of events from **Sat 26 Nov to Sun 4 Dec** to celebrate the patronal feast of St Francis Xavier. Come join us for a time of prayer and fellowship with our parish community.

SAT
26
NOV

Evangelistic Pilgrimage Walk

Time: 7am - 5pm

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXPilgrimageWalk2022

SUN
27
NOV

Mass for the Elderly and Sick with Anointing

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Main Church

Register: tinyurl.com/MFETS2022

TUE
29
NOV

Abide – an evening of worship and adoration with Br Joseph D Cruz for youth

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: <https://bit.ly/1cor12abide>

FRI
2
DEC
to
3
DEC
SAT

Overnight Eucharistic Silent Adoration

Date & Time: Fri 2 Dec, 11pm - Sat 3 Dec, 4pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Room

Capacity: 15 pax/hour

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/overnightado>

SUN
4
DEC

Treasure Hunt for Families

Time: 1.30pm - 5pm

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/SFXTreasureHunt>

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

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/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