



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## Hope Cometh

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
4 Dec 2022

Is 11:1-10  
Rom 15:4-9  
Mt 3:1-12

In the second reading today, St. Paul tells us that "Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope...." (Rom 15:4) The scriptures that St Paul refers to is none other than the Old Testament which is "an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture", and was "deliberately so oriented that it should prepare for and declare in prophecy the coming of Christ, redeemer of all men" (CCC 121-122). In a particular way, through Sacred Scripture consisting of the Old and New Testaments, God reveals himself to us and makes known his will by which through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, man might come to share the divine nature in the Holy Spirit. (*Dei Verbum* 2)

On our part, we can come to believe in these revelations because the events of history, and in particular salvation history, and sacred scripture have an inner unity that could not have occurred by chance nor could it have been conjured up by human thought. Indeed, "the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words [of Sacred Scripture], while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them" (*ibid*). In other words, God told us what he was going to do, and then did what he told us he would do; all the time pointing us to the coming of Jesus, his beloved Son, who through perfect obedience to God the Father, would redeem humanity by his death and resurrection.

***"Sacred Scripture have an inner unity that could not have occurred by chance nor could it have been conjured up by human thought" (cf Dei Verbum 2).***

This is the hope that St Paul refers to - that God having poured out his love for us through Jesus Christ, will also give us all the graces necessary for salvation as free gifts from God. And as we exercise the virtue of hope with charity, then by the grace of God, we will act in the "obedience of faith" (Rom 1:5, 16:26) to bring about our own salvation in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, as we continue on our Advent journey, if we are to keep this hope in Jesus Christ alive in us, we must once again reinvigorate our response to the cry of John the Baptist. John's stern and uncompromising words to the Pharisees and Sadducees to repent and "produce the appropriate fruit" (Mt 3:8) should be particularly pertinent to us who often allow modern secular materialism to creep into our understanding and practice of the Christmas season. It is in the interior wilderness of our hearts that we must make straight our paths to prepare the way of the Lord. Whilst our faith in Jesus Christ is our salvation, when we come before the judgement seat of Christ at our death or at the second coming of Christ, we will be judged by what we have done in our lives (Rom 2:6-8, Rev 20:13). From the intentions

of our hearts, how we conduct our lives today and everyday decides our eternal fate.

But we are not without help. The gifts of the Holy Spirit which Isaiah says rest on Jesus (Is 11:2) have also been given to us. The gift of wisdom, insight (understanding), counsel, power, knowledge and fear of the Lord are graces that Jesus freely shares with us as members of his mystical body (which is his Church). These gifts render us docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives, helping us to conduct our lives in union with God's will for us. The more we exercise these gifts of the Holy Spirit, the more we will act with prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, allowing the love of God and the virtue of charity to be the well-spring of all our actions.

So we, who have been baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire (Mt 3:11) must once again heed the words of John the Baptist. During this Advent, let us reconcile ourselves to God through the Sacrament of Repentance; and bear fruit that befits the hope that is in us, knowing that "even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire" (Mt 3:10).

## Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to [mmm@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg) by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

**SCAN QR CODE  
FOR MASS HYMNS**  
[www.sfxchurch.sg/mass](http://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](https://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilitiesReport)



## SSVP COLLECTION

There will be a second collection by Society of St Vincent De Paul this weekend to help the poor and needy in monthly rations and other aid programmes. SSVP members will be at the atrium area. Please give generously. For cheque payments or PayNow, pay to:

**Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP)**

- **OCBC Bank Account No:**  
**686 596 768 001**
- **PayNow UEN: S61SS0149B**

## ADVENT TAIZE SESSION



Genesis Family Choir is organising a Taize session in preparation for the coming of our Lord. The session involves Taize songs, which are a form of contemplative prayer, scripture readings, and intercessory prayers. All are welcome!

**Date:** Wed 7 Dec 2022

**Time:** 8pm

**Venue:** Hosea Room (Parish Centre Lvl 2)

## BAT: ADVENT TALK - PART II (ZOOM)

The Bible Apostolate Team (BAT) will be offering a 2-part series of talks on the Jewish Roots of Advent, based on the work of Dr Brant Pitre. The 2nd talk (based on the Mass readings for the 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent) will be held via Zoom on **Fri 9 Dec from 8pm - 9.30pm**. Do join us via this Zoom link <https://bit.ly/BATadvent2022>.



## TRIDUUM & FEAST DAY CELEBRATION - THANK YOU!

Our Parish Priests and all staff would like to wish all our parishioners a blessed & joyous Feast Day! We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers who have helped to make our Triduum and Feast Day celebration a fruitful event.

## ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN SERANGOON DISTRICT

- Wed 14 Dec, 8pm - Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **Thu 15 Dec, 8pm - Church of St Francis Xavier**
- Fri 16 Dec, 8pm - Church of the Transfiguration
- Mon 19 Dec, 8pm - Church of St Vincent de Paul
- Tue 20 Dec, 8.30pm - St Anne's Church
- Wed 21 Dec, 8pm - Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary



## ADVENT PRAYER TREE

What better idea than to give someone in need the gift of intentional prayer this Christmas? Just as we did last year, think of someone to pray for - either to return to Church or be open to knowing the Lord. The prayer tags will be available for you to write your prayers and drop them into the box located outside the JPIL Hall or in front of Mother Mary in church.

### CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Christmas Eve (Sat 24 Dec)</b> 5.30pm Pageant, 6pm Mass 8.30pm Carolling, 9pm Mass 11.30pm Carolling, 12am Mass	<b>Christmas Day (Sun 25 Dec)*</b> 9am, 11am <i>*There will be no 7am and 5.30pm Masses.</i>
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## 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**.



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RECRUITMENT - LAST CHANCE!

The Children's Liturgy Ministry will be organising this year's Christmas Pageant. We are looking for the young and the not-so-young to be involved. Scan the QR code to register. The pageant will be on **Christmas Eve at 5.30pm Mass** and on **Christmas Fiesta on 30 Dec, 7.30pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Lynnette at 9690 0750.



Practices will be from **7.30pm to 10pm** on

- **Wed 14 Dec**
- **Tue 20 Dec**
- **Fri 23 Dec** (Full Dress Rehearsal)





## CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY CENTRE AND SACCRE: BREATHE (YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS RETREATS)

Calling all Youth and Young Adults aged 18 to 35! COVID-19 has truly struck the heart of many of us and affected our relationship with God. Has there been dryness and do you desire to rebuild and revive your relationship with the God who loves us so? If this is you, come be reignited to live fully as Children of God, as we allow Him to breathe into us and to experience His love again!

**Dates:** Thu 15 Dec - Sun 18 Dec 2022 (Stay-In)

**Venue:** Catholic Spirituality Centre (1261 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 534796)

**Retreat fee:** \$140 (Financial Assistance is available)

**Register:** <https://bit.ly/cscsbreathe>

## REGISTRATION FOR 2023 CATECHISM

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

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

## *St. Francis Xavier: A Life of Zeal & Miracles*

December 3, 2022 marks the 470th year since the death of our patron, St. Francis Xavier, in 1552 and the 400th year of his canonisation in 1622.



As part of the Feast Day Celebrations, there will be a photo exhibit of St. Francis Xavier's conversion and his zealous missionary work in India, South-east Asia and Japan.

### Also on display:

- A 70-year-old Third Class Relic from the 1952 Exposition of his incorrupt body in Goa.
- A print of a letter written from Singapore dated 1552 in Francis' own handwriting.
- A taxidermied Crucifix Crab with the (miraculous!) cross on its carapace.



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### FOR VOLUNTEER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

## IN THE MONTH OF NOV 2022

### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Tan Jian Yao Gerald & Ng Suang Wei
2. Kang Ann Lun Gabriel & Vinitha Rajandran
3. Joel Raj Moosa & Laura Yeo Wei Wen
4. Irwin Lim Kai & Choong Shi-Xian, Natalie
5. Sng Wei Hao, Joshua & Goh Wei Ling, Cecilia

### CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

1. Margaret Koh Hiok Hoon
2. Lucy Yeo Cheng Sok
3. K.P. Karyan Egninus (Agnes Benjamin)
4. Lucy Lee Geok Neo

### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Ellie Jane Foo Qin Ying
2. Eden Liam Lim Yong An

The exhibition will be at St Jerome Library (next to the Mount Tabor Adoration Room) over two weekends at the following opening hours:

**Sat 3 & 10 Dec, 6.30pm - 7.15pm**  
**Sun 4 & 11 Dec, 8am - 1pm**

# Art @ SFX

Inspired by St Pope John Paul II's letter to artists on Easter Sunday 1999, an initiative was mooted to share art done by parishioners in SFX. More than 25 artists of all ages came forward to share their love of art. "He makes all things new" is the theme of this initiative. The art works can be viewed on the 2nd floor of the Parish Centre. You may scan the QR code by the canvas to find out more about the art piece from the artist.

*"Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colours, shapes and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look and listen."* - St Pope John Paul II



Dawn Wee



Luke Yeo



Margaret Hendriks



Lawrence & Lauren De Silva



## Mass for the Elderly and Sick

As part of the Feast Day Celebrations, there was a Mass for the Elderly and Sick held on 27 Nov. Various church communities gathered to pray for healing of our sick and elderly once again after 2 years of hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic (2020 - 2021). It also marked the beginning of Advent and SFX Triduum Week. A record of more than 145 participants (parishioners and non-parishioners) registered to attend this special Mass accompanied by over 90 family members and caregivers.

There were 5 priests (Fr. Ben, Fr. Nathaniel, Fr. John Sim, Fr. Abel Antony and Fr. David Garcia) who administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to about 100 participants.

After the Mass, there was a gathering held at JP II hall where participants were welcomed with refreshments, light snacks and community singing led by an inspired group of singers and musicians from Holy Trinity and other parishes. What a way to end the day on a high note after being healed by Our Saviour!

SFX community, as a whole, is very grateful for the support of all the church groups contributing their time, to the event finances and their valuable prayers for the sick and elderly in our midst. We witnessed so much healing, compassion, merriment and selfless effort. Truly, it was a manifestation that we are all one Body of Christ. We thank and praise the Lord for bringing us together.



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