



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



**Parish Office:**  
6280 6076, [secretariat@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:secretariat@sfxchurch.sg)



**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Benedict Chng  
6288 0484  
[benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg](mailto:benedict.chng@catholic.org.sg)



**Little Shepherds' SchoolHouse@St Francis Xavier:**  
6011 1076, [lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg](mailto:lss-cosfx.admin@catholicpreschool.edu.sg)

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Fr Nathaniel Xavier  
6280 8331  
[xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg](mailto:xavier.nathaniel@catholic.org.sg)

## The Cross - Carry it or Drop it

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
3 Sep 2023

**Jer 20:7-9**  
**Rom 12:1-2**  
**Mt 16:21-27**

From rock to stumbling block. First, Peter professes his faith in Jesus' divine sonship - the next moment he opposes the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

By opposing the idea of Jesus' suffering and dying, Peter opposes the way that God has chosen to redeem the world. Hence the rebuke by Jesus: "Get behind me, Satan!" (Mt 26:23)

True discipleship entails suffering. Jesus calls his disciples to take up their cross and follow him (cf Mt 16:24). Jesus is not simply asking us to embrace the pains and sufferings of our lives aimlessly, and call them "crosses". The deeper meaning of the call to "take up our cross" is to imitate Christ - to love like him and be obedient to his Father's will.

Carrying our crosses perfunctorily and suffering purposelessly make us sad and miserable. Like the pharisees' scrupulous observance of the law, it becomes obligatory and burdensome. In union with Christ, it becomes easy and light (cf Mt 11:30). The cross is a paradox of joy and peace amidst pain and suffering - there, the love of God smothered the effects of sin.

In the 1st Reading, prophet Jeremiah experiences this paradox (cf Jer 20:9). He laments because he has a tough time warning the citizens

of Jerusalem of the impending destruction of their city and their exile in Babylon unless they repent. The people of Jerusalem do not like the message, imprisons and tries to kill him.

Jeremiah feels duped by God. He does his job as a prophet but gains nothing but persecution. He tries to evade his duty but overcomes his fears and dread with a willing and joyful compulsion through God's grace.

Many of us may have a similar love-hate relationship with God. What can tempt us away from our crosses?

We need to be wary of our feelings. The world today tells us that if we feel it, it must be true. So, if we get tired of our spouse, get a divorce. If we do not want a baby, get an abortion. If we are uncomfortable being a boy, try being a girl.

In the 2nd Reading, Paul advises the Romans not to model themselves on the behaviour of the world. This applies to us too.

When our feelings and desires, exacerbated by societal norms, are in conflict with what we know to be true, a "new mind" is needed to bring our will and our lower nature into concert with the truth.

Paul says renewing our minds is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good (cf Rom 12:2). The motivation to follow Christ should come from an inner compulsion, not an external

compulsion of the Law. We should aspire to become a "living sacrifice", Paul's equivalent of the cross. When we transform our minds and order our will to the truth, our feelings will eventually follow and be formed in truth too.

Suffering is against human nature. Carrying our crosses requires God's grace. We cannot do it on our own effort.

If we are not reconciled to God and not living in a state of grace, we have fundamentally said no to God and his plan for our lives and yes to the devil. We will not be able to distinguish the difference between the inspirations of God and the temptations of the devil.

Living a life of grace means that we are living without unconfessed mortal sins and following the teachings of the Church (cf CCC 1495-1497, 857). We should receive the Sacrament of Penance and the Eucharist at least once a year - but monthly confession and daily Eucharist are strongly recommended (cf CCC 1457-1458, 1389). Cultivation of prayer life is essential to grow in intimacy with God.

Crosses are a blessing to the one who carries it, and a curse to the one who drops it. When carried, we become instruments of God's plan. When dropped, we become instruments of the devil. It is not enough to know and believe. We have to live it to become true disciples.

*"Jesus is not simply asking us to embrace the pains and sufferings of our lives aimlessly, and call them "crosses". The deeper meaning of the call to "take up our cross" is to imitate Christ - to love like him and be obedient to his Father's will."*

## 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 CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church?  
Scan the QR Code to share with us at  
[tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport](http://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport)



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is available via appointment only. You can contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

**Fridays:** 4pm - 6pm  
**Saturdays:** 10am - 12pm

## 2ND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH

There will be a second collection this week and all funds raised will go towards the general maintenance and operation of our church. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference General Maintenance & Operation. Please give generously.

## INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 4 Sep  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

## LA SALLE HOUSE: PARENTING PRE-TEENS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

For young parents (with children 12 years & below) to help them review their parenting skills and learn valuable tips to impact positively on the growth of their children.

**Date:** Sat 9 Sep 2023  
**Time:** 9.30am - 12 noon  
**Venue:** La Salle House (490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058)  
**Cost:** \$75/person  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/2jxu873t](http://tinyurl.com/2jxu873t)

## PARISH RECOLLECTION: WHERE ARE YOU? (GEN 3:9)

In the Book of Genesis, we are reminded of a profound question that God asks Adam and Eve: "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). This question, though directed at our first ancestors, continues to echo through the ages, reaching our hearts today.

**Dates:** 20 - 22 Oct (Non Stay-in)  
**Speaker:** Deacon Sherman Kuek  
**Cost:** \$50  
**Venue:** SFX Auditorium  
**Register:** [tinyurl.com/SFXRecollection2023](http://tinyurl.com/SFXRecollection2023)



In our busy lives, it is easy to lose sight of where we truly are in relation to God. We can become preoccupied with worldly concerns, distractions, and responsibilities that pull us away from our spiritual journey. Yet, God's question resonates with a gentle invitation to pause, reflect, and reorient ourselves towards Him. Come and find rest in the Lord for a time of input, reflection and prayer. Registration closes on Fri 13 Oct. Sign up now!

## MINISTRY RECRUITMENT FAIR

God has blessed each of us with gifts. Whether you have a talent for teaching, a flair for music, a passion for outreach, a desire to pray for others or just the call to serve, there is a ministry waiting for you! Our fair will provide you the perfect opportunity to explore the various ministries in our parish and find a meaningful way to serve our community. Come meet our volunteers and learn more about how your unique gifts can make a difference. The fair will be held outside JPil Hall and foyer with these following ministries:

**Sat 2 Sep, 5.30pm Masses**  
1. Infant Baptism

### Sun 3 Sep (All Masses)

1. Infant Baptism (9am & 11am Masses)
2. Intercessory Prayer (9am & 11am Masses)
3. 1Cor12

## CHRIST@WORK X YOUNG STEWARDS CONFERENCE 2023

In the spirit of One Church, Catholic Business Network (CBN) and Catholic Foundation (CF) are excited to bring you the joint Christ@Work and Young Stewards Conference on the theme "Joy at Work; Work in Love". How can we be joyful at our workspace and work with others in love? Our keynote speakers, Fr David Garcia, OP and Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District will seek to answer this question. Choose between the Christ@Work Track by CBN and the Young Stewards track by CF where various speakers will expand on the theme. The conference will conclude with sunset Mass celebrated by H.E. Marek Zalewski, Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore, with Fr Colin Tan, SJ as concelebrant. Visit [www.cbn.sg](http://www.cbn.sg) for more information.

**Date:** Sat 14 Oct 2023  
**Time:** 9am - 6pm  
**Cost:** \$25 (register by 10 Sep) or \$35 (register before 7 Oct)  
**Venue:** St. Joseph's Institution (38 Malcolm Road, S308274)  
**Register:** [www.bit.ly/cwysc23](http://www.bit.ly/cwysc23)



## OFFICE FOR THE NEW EVANGELISATION: WATCHMEN RETREAT 2023

If we are not careful, we can easily allow the noise of the world to drown out the still, small voice of God within us. When this happens, we can stray from God, and be swept by the currents of the world. In this retreat, come away with Him to learn how you can anchor your faith, and be a disciple who stays vigilant and is attentive to the Holy Spirit. Rest in His presence and truths, and be strengthened to remain steadfast in your walk with Him. Led by the Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelisation, Fr Terence Pereira, together with Gloria Patri Charismatic Ministry. For more information, please check the FAQs at [www.one.org.sg](http://www.one.org.sg) or contact the Office for the New Evangelisation at [enquiries.one@catholic.org.sg](mailto:enquiries.one@catholic.org.sg).

**Dates:** 2 - 6 Nov 2023  
**Cost:** \$400 (including accommodation and meals)  
**Venue:** Majodi Centre (Taman Perindustrian Sri Plentong, 81750 Masai, Johor, Malaysia)  
**Register:** <https://bit.ly/wmretreat23>





# Let Justice and Peace Flow

## Season of Creation 2023

**A Mighty River**  
Amos 5: 24

“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme chosen for Season of Creation 2023, the ecumenical celebration we hold each year from Sep 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 Oct, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The prophet Amos cries out, “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24), and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to embrace climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities that are most impacted by climate injustice and biodiversity loss.

Pope Francis’ second encyclical, *Laudato si’*, continues his call for the care and protection of our common home, the Earth. Building upon his first encyclical released in 2015, this document addresses the urgent need for ecological conversion and action in the face of environmental degradation, climate change, and social injustice.

In *Laudato si’*, Pope Francis highlights the interconnectedness of all aspects of life on Earth, asserting that our disregard for nature not only harms the environment but also affects vulnerable communities and future generations. He emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that integrates the environment, economy, and society, while advocating for the role of science, technology, and education in finding sustainable solutions.

The encyclical stresses the exploitation of natural resources, consumerism, and societal inequalities as key contributors to the ecological crisis. Pope Francis urges us to prioritize the common good, solidarity, and the protection of human dignity over profit and short-term interests. Furthermore, he pinpoints the importance of dialogue and collaboration between individuals and different communities, in order to address the complex challenges of our time to protect and preserve our planet for future generations. The encyclical also underscores the significance of personal responsibility and lifestyle changes, urging us to adopt simpler and more sustainable ways of living.

Overall, Pope Francis’ second *Laudato si’* invites everyone to embrace an ecological spirituality that recognizes the sacredness of creation and fosters a sense of stewardship towards our planet. It encourages us to work together to build a more just and sustainable world for present and future generations.



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

#### FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE MARGINS

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

#### IN THE MONTH OF AUG 2023

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Joseph William Cayzer & Tan Li Ling

#### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Brendon Tan Kheng Khng
2. Mavis Anita Lange
3. Sobrielo Maurice

#### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Alexis Riley Abraham
2. Georgia Low Xin En
3. Isaiah Chew Zheng Xian
4. Koh Kang Zhi Michael
5. Luke Choong Junze
6. Theodore Rex Chng Kai Jie





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

# Ministry Spotlight



## Infant Baptism Ministry

Infant baptism is held every other month as a communal service of the Sacrament at our church. The ministry conducts a spiritual preparation session to help parents and godparents before their child gets baptised. It is a great experience to facilitate the preparatory session and witness the babies' baptism. You can help by sharing your thoughts and praying together during the spiritual preparation sessions.



## Intercessory Prayer Ministry

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry, formed in May 2019, brings together a group of prayer warriors, who gather every week to give praise, worship, supplication, and thanksgiving to God our Father, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as well as through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Invoking God's Divine presence and touching His loving heart through faithful, hopeful, joyful, grateful, and penitent prayer, go to the crux of what we do as intercessors.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who often prayed to His Father in heaven, and who taught His apostles how to pray, the ministry comes together as one body to offer thanksgiving, humble contrition, and plaintive supplication as a spiritual work of mercy for everyone in need – the Church, our priests, the sick, our youth, souls in purgatory, our country, world leaders, sinners and saints among us.

Every Monday, from 8pm to 9pm, a prayer leader leads our members in an hour of united hope and petition, to intercede for the most salient needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Adoration Room. If you are stirred by the Spirit to be an intercessor, and have a heart for communion with Christ through prayer, we invite you to join us to stand in the gap for our beloved community and the world. You may email [intercessory@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:intercessory@sfxchurch.sg) to be a part of the ministry and move mountains with your prayers.

### 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

#### BACK GATE

**Mon - Sun:**  
5am - 1am

#### 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 - Fri:**  
10am - 6pm

**Sat - Sun:**  
8.30am - 6pm

Closed on 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/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 and outside JP11 Hall. 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)