



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

How to confront evil

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10 Sep 2023

Ez 33: 7-9
Rom 13: 8-10
Mt 18: 15-20

Today's readings challenge us to act in a way that many may feel uncomfortable with. For some of us, we instinctively try to be nice to everyone. We are reluctant to intrude into other people's personal lives, much less confront them when they have behaved badly and sinned. Yet, as the readings explain, it is our God-given mission as Christians to do so. The first reading from Ezekiel puts it rather dramatically: "If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death" (Ez 33:8).

Why does God compel us to act in such an uncompromising way to warn sinners of their wayward ways? It is because evil has to be confronted. If we do not, evil will thrive and even triumph. When we turn away from confronting sin when we see it, a possible consequence is it that leads to many of society's ills such as drug addiction, sexual promiscuity and acts of war and terrorism.

Our Lord is a loving gentle person but He always acts firmly and even harshly when confronting evil. In Matthew 16:23, when Peter rebuked Jesus for telling the disciples that he would soon be captured and killed, our Lord rebuffed him

sternly: "Get back behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's." In Matthew 23, he reserved some of his choicest words denouncing the scribes and Pharisees at the Temple of Jerusalem calling them hypocrites and blind fools who had misled the people. In Mark 11:15-17, he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves at the temple and would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple, saying: "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

Jesus was forthright because he wanted to set an example; that helping a Christian who has strayed off course is not an optional thing but an absolute necessity. It is important to do so in the right spirit and attitude. We intervene out of love because we care deeply about the salvation of our fellow Christians and never out of a sense of superiority or pride.



The Gift by Rod Peterson

***Our Lord is a loving gentle
person but He always acts
firmly and even harshly
when confronting evil.***

The second reading from Romans makes this clear. "You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour, that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments" (Rom 13:10).

The Gospel reading completes this teaching by telling us the approach of how to go about doing this. You are to first confront the person in private by having a heart-to-heart talk. If this does not work, bring along one or two other persons, preferably a friend or relative or someone whom the person trusts and listens to. Finally, if all else fails, tell the church about the problem and enlist the help of the wider community.

It should not surprise us the extent to which our Lord expects us to help those in need. The parable of the lost sheep about the shepherd who left his flock of ninety-nine to look for one lost sheep, in Luke 15, makes this point in a powerful way. "I tell you there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15: 7). This approach which Jesus commends us in the reading is called fraternal correction, at both the individual and the collective level.

We are our brother's keeper and he wants us to watch over them just as Ezekiel was called to be a watchman of Israel. The concluding lines of the Gospel reading reminds us that when we seek communion with God through the Eucharist, we must first be in communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ through our love for them. Fraternal correction is a necessary part of the journey towards this communion.

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/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

INTERCESSORY

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

Date: Mon 11 Sep
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Come meet us on **Wed 13 Sep, 8pm** at JP II Hall for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle.

FACILITATING SMALL BIBLE SHARING GROUPS

The Church of St Francis Xavier in association with the Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate is organising a course in Facilitating Small Bible Groups. The session is open to all members of parish ministries who are involved in, or wish to get involved in facilitating groups. The session will be conducted by Jane Lau, a founding member of the Harvesters.

Date: Sat 30 Sep 2023
Time: 9am - 5pm
(Lunch included)

Venue: JP II Hall

Register:

<https://bity.ly/FSBG20230930>

(Registration closes on 23 Sep, 12pm)



CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

This year, the Archdiocese celebrates 171 years of Catholic Education in Singapore. Catholic Education Sunday is on the weekend of **9th & 10th September**. The theme of the celebration is **"Catholic Education: To Love, Dignify, Serve and Lead"**. Besides a Prayer of Blessing for Catholic educators, screening of a video featuring the voices of our students, and distribution of a special Prayer Card in all parishes, school students in their school uniforms and their parents will join the congregation in prayer and worship during Mass.

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



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!

TAIZE SESSION

Genesis Family Choir is organising a Taize session on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The session involves contemplative Taize music, scripture readings, and intercessory prayers. No registration required. All are welcome!

Date: Thu 14 Sep 2023
Time: 8pm - 9pm
Venue: Hosea Room
(Parish Centre, Level 2)

AN ECUMENICAL EVENING OF PRAYER WITH THE SONGS OF TAIZÉ - UNITING IN PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND CHRISTIAN UNITY

All are welcome to join and strongly encouraged to bring along fellow Christians from all over Singapore for this meaningful and spiritually uplifting archdiocesan-level event to strengthen the bonds among us. No prior registration needed. Hope to see you there!

Theme: Together — Gathering of the People of God
Date: Sat 30 Sep
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: Church of St. Teresa
(510 Kampong Bahru Rd, Singapore 099446)

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL INTERCESSORY PRAYERS 2023 — IGNITING OUR CHURCH

Let us come together as a diocese and pray for God's guidance as we discern a 10-year pastoral plan for the Archdiocese. Masses as follows:

- **20 Sep, 8pm:** Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace
- **18 Oct, 8pm:** Church of St Bernadette
- **15 Nov, 8pm:** Church of St Mary of the Angels

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION DINNER 2023

This annual fundraising dinner hosted by His Eminence, Cardinal William Goh, Archbishop of Singapore is fully sponsored. All funds raised from the table sales and direct contributions from the dinner will go towards the building of the Catholic Hub. The future Catholic Hub will be a spiritual oasis providing the environment, space and facilities for parishes, ministries, organisations and groups to bring about greater communion in mission. Visit catholicfoundation.sg/the-catholic-hub for Archbishop's Vision of the Hub and more. For dinner information, please scan the QR code or visit catholicfoundation.sg/cfdinner. Alternatively, please call 6338 0348 or email cfdinner@catholic.org.sg.

Date: Wed 8 Nov 2023
Venue: Village Hotel Sentosa



1Cor12 Retreat The Shepherd Calls!

79 individuals attended the 1Cor12 Retreat on 25 - 27 Aug 2023 at SFX.

'1 Cor 12' is the umbrella body which consists of 10 youth and young adult communities of our parish. The retreat was conducted by ICPE Mission Singapore, a Catholic international community, which had preaching of the Word, praise and worship, testimonies, creativity and even a 'Talk show' that included interviews from the children and members of the ICPE community.

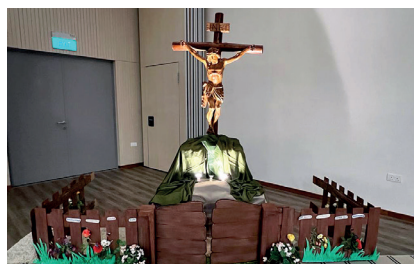
The retreat was based on the theme of the Shepherd seeking us out; of leading us to a response by actively receiving Jesus. The retreatants were invited to use the time and space during the retreat to seek and draw closer to the Lord. Along the way, the retreatants were urged to move out of their comfort zones and rise up to be shepherds to others; to lead in their communities and be kingdom builders for our parish.

Childminding services were provided during the retreat. Guided by adults, the 'Older' children from the ICPE Mission Singapore cared for 22 children from 2.5 to 11-years-old, engaging them in praying the rosary, action songs and games of fun and laughter, as their parents attended the retreat in the SFX auditorium.

1 Cor 12 wishes to express a big thank you to the various ministries who collaborated and helped during the retreat, from members from the SaLT Community (Servants at the Lord's Table) serving meals, to the Intercessory Prayer Group providing interceding prayers during the retreat.



So many of the sharings and activities during the retreat were what we needed to hear and experience.



*He tends his flock like a shepherd,
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
He gently leads those that have
young. - Isaiah 40:11*

Testimonies:

ICPE was a huge blessing to us. Thank you for opening up your hearts and sharing your inspiring lives with us! There were many moments that cannot be fully articulated, but one in particular stood out for me. It was the activity of entering the fold as retreatants were invited to walk through the gate. After the shepherds, the first group of people invited to do so were those without community / those discerning community / those whose community has closed down. On reflection, this activity struck me as the embodiment of 1 Cor 12, where the vulnerable members in our community, are valued and honoured. I was very moved by this moment! I am convinced that God was indeed moving within us during the retreat and within ICPE. Thank you ICPE! You are such a blessing to us! - Brandon, BASIC

I want to thank and affirm the ICPE for your thoughtfulness and love for us. So many of the sharings and activities during the retreat were what we needed to hear and experience. It shows how well the 1 Cor 12 team listened to our feedback in planning the activities during the retreat. I was initially unsure about the response to the synodal conversation but after all of you spoke, I am grateful that ICPE made space for these spiritual conversations. I feel so loved by all of you! Your children are beautiful and a joyful blessing. Thank you! - Melissa, IOS

This has been a much-needed time of rest in the Lord. It has allowed me to reconnect with God in a "heart-speaks-to-heart" manner. The Lord has calmed my fears and invited me to take courage to face my crosses and hardships. - Evelyn, MSC

FORMED®

Pick of the Week

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Fun with Exalting the Holy Cross Catholic All Year with Kendra Tierney

In honour of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, let's talk about... talking to kids about Jesus' suffering. Plus a family-friendly at-home Veneration of the Cross, and our favorite feast day foods.



Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows by Kimberly Hahn

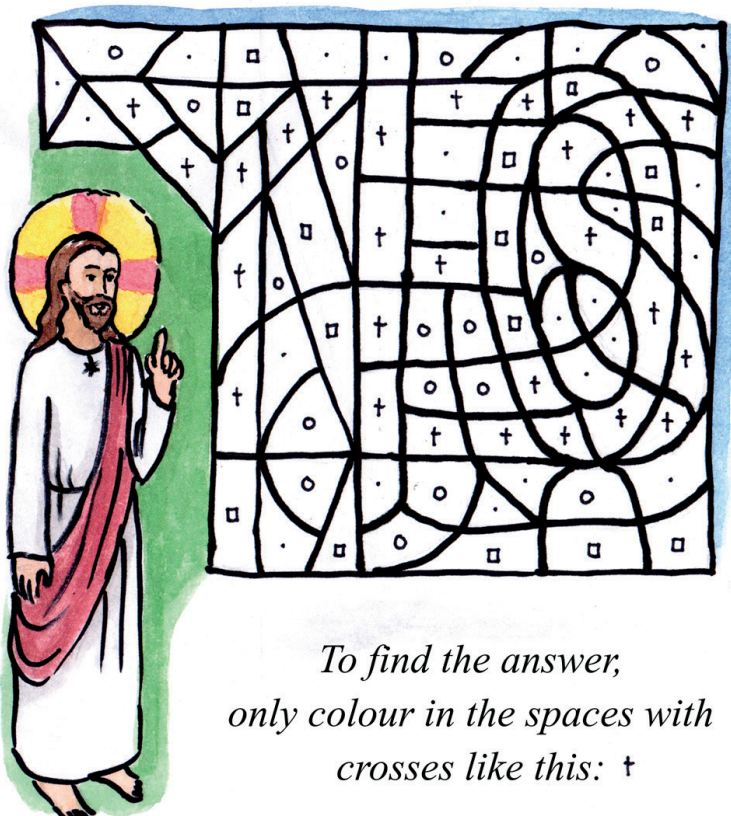
Speaker and author Kimberly Hahn, is a convert to the Catholic Faith. Although honouring Mary was difficult for her to understand initially, she began to encounter Mary's loving guidance in little ways on a daily basis. In this presentation, Kimberly reflects on the joys and sorrows that Mary prayerfully experienced during her time on earth, and shares how her example leads us closer to Christ.

Our Lady of Sorrows and the Power of Prayer

Discover the value of redemptive motherhood by tuning in to Anna Mitchell, co-host of EWTN's "The Son Rise Morning Show." Anna shares the story of her five-year-old's serious illness along with the miraculous intercession of a fourth-century martyr.



*Sometimes we see other people doing things
that we know are wrong.
When we see other people doing sins, does
Jesus want us to talk to them about it?*



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

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