



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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## The Ultimate Revelation

The Epiphany of the Lord  
7 Jan 2024

**Is 60:1-6**  
**Eph 3:2-3, 5-6**  
**Mt 2:1-12**

December was travel-month for many Singaporeans. The roads were emptier than usual and most flights out were fully booked. Travel might be Singapore's favourite pastime because we like to discover new places and different cultures.

Today's readings are also about embarking on a journey of discovery, one that is more meaningful than anything you will experience as a tourist.

It is about the search to discover life's purpose and what we are here for. All of us have experienced, to a lesser or greater extent, the yearning to find a deeper meaning to our existence beyond our bodily needs and everyday routine. It is what drives us to our faith. The story of the Magi's search for the infant Jesus in the Gospel reading represents the same quest and is ultimately about our own pilgrimage.

As Pope Benedict XIV said in a homily in 2013, "Their outward pilgrimage was the expression of their inward journey, the inner pilgrimage of their hearts...Faith draws us into a state of being seized by the restlessness of God and it makes us pilgrims who are on an inner journey towards the true King of the world and his promise of justice, truth and love."

The Magi were learned scholars who belonged to the highest courts of the land but they also wanted to look for something bigger than themselves.

We do not know what their lives were and it is not hard to imagine that they too struggled to find an inner peace in a troubled world.

"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage" (Mat 2:2).

Isn't it wonderful that there suddenly appeared a beacon in the night sky to guide them in their search? It shows how ceaseless God is in revealing himself because he wants us to find him so that we may be at peace with him. His revelations are everywhere, even among the stars at night.

But do we see him? The first reading from Isaiah tells us that we are often surrounded by darkness that prevents us from noticing the light that radiates from God.

"Lift up your eyes and look around" (Is 60:4).

Often though, even as we look around, we do not see because we see only what we want to see.

It begs the question: What do you really want to see, which, ultimately, is about what you want your life to be.

God knows our struggles and difficulties in coming to terms with this issue amid all the distractions of the world and our own human weaknesses.

That is why his revelations are omnipresent and everywhere to make sure that we will not miss his presence. He is literally staring us in

the face but we have to be Magi-like in knowing what to look for.

"Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit" (CCC 50).

The truths that God reveals can only be obtained through him and not from our own powers of reasoning or intuition. They include the purpose of our existence and his plan for our salvation.

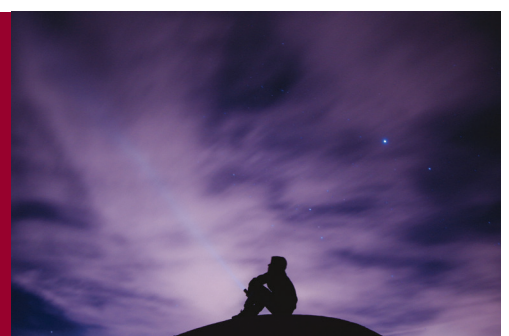
Everything that is to be known has already been revealed. It is truly comforting to know at the outset of the journey we are embarking that God has already revealed everything we need to know to complete it successfully.

Today's Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is a celebration of the ultimate revelation of God in Christ.

Our journey through life is like the Magi's in one other respect, which is that we too need a guiding star to show the way. Jesus Christ is our star and he guides us through the Scripture, the Church and all the saints that followed after him. Like the Magi, the sight of this star will fill us with delight.

Lift up your eyes and look around!

*Lift up your eyes and  
look around (Is 60:4)*



## 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)



## COLLECTION OF OLD PALMS

Do drop off your old palms in the boxes located at the Church Foyer and outside JPil Hall. Please kindly help to remove all plastic bags and rubber bands.

## 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 operations of our Parish. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference 'maintenance'. Please give generously.

## CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 8 Jan 2024**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by praying over by CPG Team. All are welcome!

**Venue:** SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm

## INTERCESSORY

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

**Date:** Mon 8 Jan 2024  
**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

## CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Come meet us on **Sat 13 Jan, 8pm** at **JPil Hall** for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle.

## 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' and write 'Mass Collection' behind the cheque. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

## FAMILY APOSTOLATE: BUILD YOUR HOUSE UPON THE ROCK NOT SAND

Based on the parable in Mt 7: 24-27 which in some way seeks a response to be doers rather than be hearers, our parish is starting a family apostolate. You are invited to join us to support, assist and illuminate not only yourselves and your families but also to share yourselves and be Christ to other individuals and families. Hear us at our Information session on **Sun 14 Jan, 3pm - 4.30pm** at **JPil Hall**. Scan the QR Code or register at <http://tinyurl.com/SFXFam2023> by Sun 7 Jan as we hope you share some of your thoughts about family challenges!



## CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: FAMILY CONFERENCE 2024 - BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

It's Time To Reconnect With Our Families! Calling all Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers and Educators! Join us at our Family Conference 2024! The conference aims to unpack the challenges and opportunities of modern family life, with a focus on building resilience, understanding and unity, by integrating our Catholic faith and values in family life. Let's come together as one family to build stronger families. For more information, visit [www.familylife.sg/FamilyConference2024](http://www.familylife.sg/FamilyConference2024).

**Date:** Sat 27 Jan 2024  
**Time:** 9am - 5pm  
**Venue:** Saint Francis Xavier Seminary Building  
(618 Upper Bukit Timah Road, S678214)  
**Register:** [http://bit.ly/CFL\\_FC2024](http://bit.ly/CFL_FC2024)



## MY PERSONAL COMPASS: SHORTENED EDITION BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

"My Personal Compass" returns in a shortened edition this year. Come and get introduced to the basics of morality in an increasingly complex world. Build an ethical foundation to journey towards fulfilling your potential as a human person made in the image of God. To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y38faeyr>. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at [mpmc@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:mpmc@caritas-singapore.org).

**Dates:** 18 Jan - 21 Mar 2024 (Thursdays)  
**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
**Venue:** CANA at Catholic Centre (55 Waterloo St, Level 3)  
**Fee:** \$100



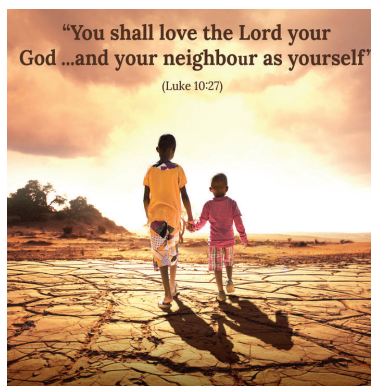
## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024

Organised by the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) and respective hosts. No prior registration is needed. Just bring a fellow Christian and turn up to experience the joy of prayer, fraternity and fellowship as one big Christian family.

**Fri 19 Jan, 8pm: Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace**  
(4 Sandy Lane, Singapore 437321)

**Sat 20 Jan, 2.30pm: Cairnhill Methodist Church**  
(inside Anglo Chinese School Junior at 16 Winstedt Road, Singapore 227988)

**Mon 22 Jan, 12pm: The Bible Society of Singapore**  
at **The Bible House** (7 Armenian Street, Singapore 179932)





# Make a spiritual resolution for 2024

Towards the end of Dec and early Jan each year, we start thinking about how we want to make a brand new start - exercising regularly, losing weight, stopping a bad habit. All geared towards trying to become a better version of oneself, physically and mentally. Its good to focus on these goals but have you thought about your spiritual health? What are your spiritual resolutions for 2024?



Here are a few to start with but at the end of the day, choose one and commit to doing it well. Start the year well spiritually.

## *Begin your day with the Morning Offering*

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Hit the snooze button? Roll over? St. Josemaría Escrivá wrote about the heroic minute, meaning that once the alarm rings, get up, and say a prayer. There is a traditional prayer you could learn called the Morning Offering. It's a beautiful prayer which helps us give to God everything we will do during the day.

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.*



## *Read a spiritual book*

There are many books written by Catholic authors available to deepen your knowledge of Jesus, Mary, the Church, the saints, and other topics relevant to Christian living. Decide to read one book this year that will benefit your spiritual life and help you grow in virtue. Check out the attached list that our Parish Library has recommended.



## *Attend a retreat*

If you plan ahead, you can make the time for a retreat once per year. Yes, it will involve some sacrifice and juggling with your schedule, but if you commit to it, you won't regret it. The best part about attending a retreat is that everything is already planned, so all you have to do is block out the days, pay your fee (if applicable), and show up.

To make it even easier, you can attend the parish retreat so that you won't have to travel far (unless you want to). Or check out the retreats offered by the Catholic Spirituality Centre (CSC). Even a one-day retreat is worth the effort and will enrich your life if you attend with an open heart.



## *Pray with or read the Bible*

Have you always wanted to read through the Bible but didn't know how or where to start? There are many apps or books that can help. Or maybe choose to read through a certain section like the Gospels or the Letters of St Paul or the prophetic writings? You can pray with the Bible, through a process called lectio divina, in which one reads a passage and spends a few moments meditating on a word or phrase, or engaging one's imagination with the Scripture passage. Come to know God better and listen as He speaks to your soul in your contemplations on His Word.



## *Volunteer*

If you have the time and would like to help, there are many ministries in SFX that need hands. The type of volunteer work and commitment level is entirely up to you, based on prayer and discernment. The point is, giving of your time will fill your heart more abundantly and cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude.



## *Choose someone to forgive*

All of us struggle with forgiveness and grievances in our lives. Some people are hard to forgive but you need not begin with the toughest cases. Small acts of grace can grow. Forgive the person who cut into your lane while driving. Forgive the person who made an unkind remark about you. Deliberately choose to forgive and not retaliate, forgiveness is a soft shield for your soul.



## *End your day with an Examen*

Why not do an examination of conscience every day and not just before you celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation? It's not just identifying our faults, but also calling to mind how God was with you throughout the day, where you received his grace, and how you could respond to grace better tomorrow. Just as we begin our day offering it to God, it's just as good to end our day asking, "How did I live for God today?"



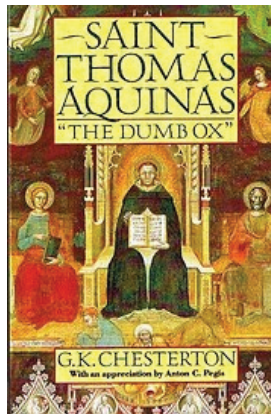
Looking for more Information?  
visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://www.sfxchurch.sg)

## St Jerome Library: Recommended Reads 2024

### Know these Saints in 2024

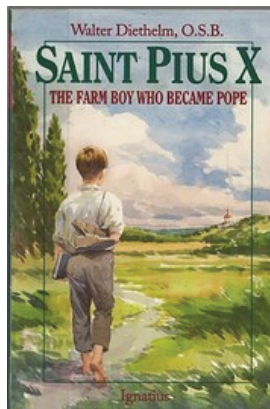
#### SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, "THE DUMB OX"

2024 marks the 750th death anniversary of the "Dumb Ox" who turned out to be the great Dominican "Angelic Doctor" of the Church, St Thomas Aquinas. St Thomas' voluminous work, *Summa Theologiae*, is still widely regarded as the greatest masterpiece on Christian theology. St Thomas' wisdom and knowledge was sought by the Pope at the the Second Council of Lyon (the Council that first defined the doctrine of purgatory). However, while on his way to Lyon, St Thomas passed away at the Cistercian Abbey at Fossanova on March 7, 1274.



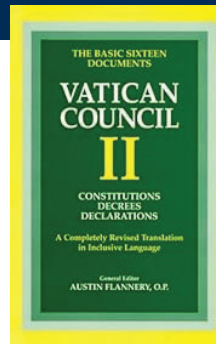
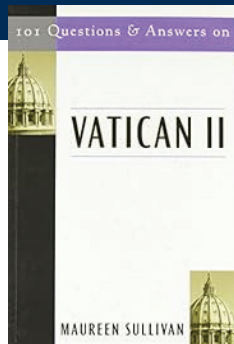
#### SAINT PIUS X, THE FARM BOY WHO BECAME POPE

Pope St Pius X, also known as the "Pope of the Eucharist" died 110 years ago on 20 August 1914 and was canonised 70 years ago in 1954. He encouraged frequent recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that one could worthily receive the Eucharist even on a daily basis. He lowered the age of First Communion to 7 years old (from 10 -14 years old in different places) saying that "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven".



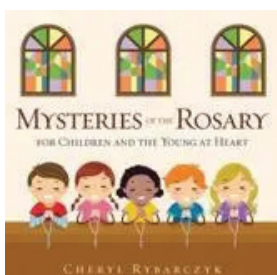
### Vatican II

We all know that a Constitution of a country or organisation spells out the rules and principles by which a people or a corporation will live, operate and thrive. Not many of us, however, are aware that the Church, too, has a Constitution and it is called *Lumen Gentium* ("Light of the Nations" - Dogmatic Constitution on the Church). *Lumen Gentium* was promulgated at the Second Vatican Council in 1964 (2024 is the 60th anniversary of the promulgation). Why is the church a "Mystery" (Chapter 1) and what does it mean to be "the people of God" (Chapter 2)?



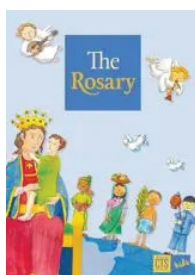
### For our young readers

Introduce the mysteries of the rosary to your children and pray along with them.



*Mysteries of the Rosary for Children and the Young at Heart*

by Rybarczyk, Cheryl



*The Rosary*

by Juliette Levivier (author), Anne Gravier (illustrator)

#### 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

Closed on Public Holidays  
after 9am Mass

##### BACK GATE

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

Closed on Public Holidays  
after 9am Mass

##### 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)