



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 Edward Lim
6282 3151
frelim@catholic.org.sg

A Personal Invitation to Discipleship

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
14 Jan 2024

1 Sam 3: 3-10, 19
1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20
Jn 1: 35-42

Have you checked your spiritual mailbox lately? It is never empty. The Lord always has an open invitation for us to discipleship. These divine missives come through different aspects of our lives, not only through church- or faith-related activities.

His call to us can often be heard out in the world, so that we can be sign-posts for others, to be disciples making other disciples, like John the Baptist and Andrew in the Gospel, and Eli in the first reading, pointing the way to him, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just like it was for Andrew and Simon (Peter), God's call for us is personal, unique, and intimate. It is not collective, superficial nor impersonal. He invites us individually – by name and for a specific purpose – because he desires to have a personal relationship with each one of us. There is no deeper invitation than one that invites the recipient to a relationship. And our relationship with him is covenantal, likened to the ultimate marital union – wherein Lord Jesus is our eternal Bridegroom, and we, as his disciples, who make up his body, are his bride, for whom he died. No other relationship can be more abiding, nor more everlasting (CCC 796).

When we respond to our Lord's call to relationship with him, the Holy Spirit pours abundant grace on us. We are temples of the Holy Spirit where his

love, peace and joy empower and direct us to live like true disciples, as the Father's sons and daughters, the royal Bridegroom's bride, whom he loves with an agape love.

What does discipleship mean and how can we become effective disciples?

Discipleship is an ongoing process that requires us to work at it our whole lives. It's not an aimless following, but a radical, passionate, obedient going-after that slowly deepens into a relationship and never stops growing.

Discipleship is missionary. In the Gospel, on that day, John the Baptist's mission was to bring two of his disciples (Andrew and the other unnamed disciple) to become apostles to Jesus. Andrew's mission was to bring Peter to Christ; Andrew (and Phillip) would later also evangelise the Greek Gentiles (cf Jn 12: 20-22). In the first reading, Eli the Priest's mission was to direct Samuel to be receptive to God's call and his will. We take up discipleship to pass it on, as St Paul writes to Timothy: "You have heard everything that I teach in public; hand it on to reliable people so that they in turn will be able to teach others" (2 Tim 2:2).



"Come and see"
(Jn 1:39)

Discipleship is to keep our eyes on Jesus. John the Baptist says, "Look, there is the Lamb of God" (cf Jn 1: 29).

Simon is forever changed after he meets and follows Jesus. Jesus renames him Peter, which means Rock, an allusion to his future mission as the first Vicar of Christ (cf Jn 1: 42). At Confirmation, we too are called, renamed, sent out to do his work – transformed into active discipleship.

Discipleship requires us to be obedient and willing like Samuel, whose famous words "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3: 10) has become the perfect response to God when he calls.

Discipleship is a search for the Truth in the person of Jesus, who asks the two disciples of John the Baptist, "What do you want?" Their reply: "Rabbi, where do you live?" reveals their genuine desire to know and follow him, and to invest quality time in understanding him (cf Jn 1: 39).

Discipleship is to be guided by God's law of love. In Psalm 40, King David praises God for laying out his laws as a way of leading him to truth and goodness.

St Paul in the second reading clearly states that besides being a life of daily martyrdom and interior purity, discipleship is also a call to bodily holiness and chastity (CCC 2348).

All's said and done, are we always prepared to "Come and see" (Jn 1: 39)? To worship the Lord's real presence and receive his body, blood, soul and divinity at Mass; to die to ourselves in order to be life-giving, to hunger for his Word, to be faithful in prayer, trusting in faith, bold and steadfast in evangelising?

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 may contact the Parish Office to make an appointment for the following time slots:

Fridays: 4pm - 6pm

Saturdays: 10am - 12pm

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.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 15 Jan**. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Fruit Of The Spirit' by Br Colin Wee. 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 15 Jan

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Mount Tabor Adoration Rm

SALE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

The Altar Servers will be having a pre-order for Chinese New Year cookies on **13 - 14 Jan, 20 - 21 Jan**. They will be selling keropok on **20 - 21, 27 - 28 Jan**, and **3 - 4 Feb**. Please come and support them outside JPil Hall!



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**.

AUDITION TO BE AN SFX ORGANIST!

SFX is eager to recruit more organists. Interested applicants will be auditioned and then shortlisted for 15 sessions of music training, which will be held on Saturday afternoons. **Those interested must have at least Grade 2 ABRSM or Yamaha Grade 9 Electone music background.**

There will be training fees for successful applicants. This will be fully refunded upon the applicant's successful completion of the program.

For more information, please contact Kenneth at 9733 9150.

AUDITION

Date: Sat 27 Jan

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)

Register: tinyurl.com/SFXAudition2024



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)

CATHOLIC PRAYER SOCIETY LUNCHTIME TALK: EUCARIST EXPLAINED

Join Rev Fr Terence Pereira as he walks us through the most important ceremony in the Catholic Church. Discover the significance of this sacred ritual and gain a better understanding of its central role in our faith.

Dates: 29 Jan, 19 & 26 Feb 2024 (Mondays)

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue: Cecil Building (137 Cecil Street, #04-01, Singapore 069537)

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



THE CENACLE SISTERS: PRAYING OUR BELOVEDNESS

It is an invitation to reclaim the truth of our belovedness. As Henri Nouwen said, "Our true spiritual work has to do with letting ourselves be loved fully, completely by God and to trust that in this Love, we come to the fulfillment of our vocation."

This stay-in weekend retreat is a journey of coming home to the reality of the First Love in our lives; that Love that has existed from eternity and abides for eternity. This is facilitated by Sr Bubbles Bandojo, RC and team. There will be input sessions, quiet personal time for prayer and reflection with faith-sharing.

Dates: Sat 17 Feb - Sun 18 Feb

Venue: LaSalle House (490 East Coast Road, Singapore 429058)

Register: <https://forms.gle/prCe841pCq35HTdy5>



Fortify Retreat 2024

5 – 7 Jan 2024



Living out our discipleship means claiming “The Lordship of Jesus” in our lives in the daily choices we make. That was the theme for the Fortify Retreat, to ground and fortify the faith of 30 participants who signed up. Twenty were already journeying together in cell groups in 2023, so space was created on Friday night for them to bond as a community. New faces joined the retreat from Saturday morning.

Testimonies:

Initially, I was not very excited to go for the retreat. The retreat was only one and a half days long and I was not sure if I would be able to encounter the Lord in such a short time. My reluctance to participate fully continued for almost the entire day. Only at the end of the day when we were doing Visio Divina (Jn 12: 1-8), I stared at the picture of Mary gazing lovingly at Jesus and suddenly I was reminded of why I signed up for the retreat. I was here to honour and worship him. The Lord wanted me to put him first and focus all my attention on him during prayer. As someone who is easily distracted during adoration, I like to repeat ‘Come Lord Jesus’, to allow myself to listen to Jesus’ voice.

Jenevieve, 16

Going into this retreat, I felt really lost and confused about my spiritual journey as I felt like I did not really fit in anywhere and that I was not wanted as I had stopped going to church for a while. But after a fun-filled two days, I have learnt so much more, made new friends and even felt a sense of peace, which was something that I had been wanting. I’m really

grateful to my best friend for inviting me and having faith in me that I would be able to find a church that I would like and would want to continue going to :) I encourage everyone to be brave and come for the next retreat as you may enjoy it and even learn more about yourself and the religion!

Vanessa, 20

Is Jesus my friend or my Lord? This retreat showed me that he is both. As a friend, he is closer to me than a fish is to water. He knows my deepest thoughts, he is with me in my most vulnerable moments.

Yet, he is more. Jesus is my Lord, who reigns over my life. More than just a person to lay my burdens on

and grant me comfort. He beckons my heart toward him. With love, he calls my name out of the darkness. Warmth and light follow in his footsteps. Because he is my source of joy, I will follow. All I can ask is that he never let me go.

More than learning to be a disciple, I learnt how to journey with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The lead duck in the migrating group flies ahead in a V-formation, supporting the ducks behind it by creating upward drafts. In the same way, community members are called to lead and support their brothers and sisters, guiding and protecting them as we journey together.

Joshua, 17





Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEACE

Artificial intelligence will become increasingly important. The challenges it poses are technical, but also anthropological, educational, social and political. It promises, for instance, liberation from drudgery, more efficient manufacturing, easier transport and more ready markets, as well as a revolution in processes of accumulating, organising and confirming data. We need to be aware of the rapid transformations now taking place and to manage them in ways that safeguard fundamental human rights and respect the institutions and laws that promote integral human development. Artificial intelligence ought to serve our best human potential and our highest aspirations, not compete with them.

*Extract from Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
for the 57th World Day Of Peace (1 January 2024)*



Two of John's disciples
followed Jesus

Help them find their way to Jesus



Source: uploads.weconnect.com

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

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 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