



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

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

**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*

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

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Fr Edward Lim  
6282 3151  
[frelim@catholic.org.sg](mailto:frelim@catholic.org.sg)

**Online Mass Offering:**  
[tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings](http://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings)  
**UEN:** T08CC4033  
**Reference:** Mass Collection

## The Unveiling of God

The Epiphany of the Lord  
5 Jan 2025

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

"In many and varied ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he created the ages" (Heb 1:1-2). In his wisdom and goodness, God speaks to his creation through words and deeds which have an inner unity that no man can conjure. "[T]he deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them." (cf. Dei Verbum 2) These revelations point to the birth of the Divine Messiah and are fulfilled in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Packed in today's readings are words and deeds that begin the unveiling of Jesus as the divine Son of God who would redeem not only the Israelites but all Gentiles like you and me.

Firstly, the Magi's visitation takes place in Bethlehem, the city of David from the tribe of Judah and where David was anointed king with a divine promise that someone from his lineage would rule the world forever. (cf. Gen 49:10, cf. Mt 1:3-6, cf. 2 Sam 7:12-14). With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we begin to see the fulfilment of what God has promised. Even the very name Bethlehem is

a sign of the future - Bethlehem in Hebrew means the house of bread, pointing towards Jesus in the Eucharist, the bread of life.

Secondly, the star that guided the Magi, as described by St Matthew, is not quite an ordinary star. Some Church Fathers surmise that the star is, in reality, an angel in the guise of what looked like a star. The star also brings to mind the oracle of Balaam, a pagan prophesying in the time of Moses to Balak the king of Moab: "I see him, but not now; I behold him but not near: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel." (cf. Num 24:17) Extra-biblical sources confirm that Balaam is a historical figure and his prophesy of a 'star' and a ruler coming from Jacob is likely well-known outside of Israel. This indeed may be the very reason why the Magi set out on a

perilous journey, determined to find the definitive King when they first saw the star. God speaks to pagans through a pagan seer, pointing them towards his Son, the Saviour of the world.

Thirdly, the Magi prostrate themselves before the child Jesus in a homage offered only to a divine king. Their gifts fulfil the prophesy of Isaiah from our first reading (cf. Is 60:6) and reflect their thoughts on the child Jesus - gold is a worthy gift for a king; frankincense, an incense, points to his divinity; while myrrh points to the Passion, also cited in John's Gospel as one of the ointments used to anoint the body of Jesus. (cf. Jn 19:39) The mystery of the Cross thus casts its shadow even at the very beginning of our Saviour's life.

Lastly, it is the non-Jewish Magi who find Jesus, not the priests and scribes in Herod's court who had the knowledge of Christ's birthplace but lacked the faith and perseverance to find it. This is indeed good news for all of us who are Gentiles. As long as we remain humble enough to hear what God has to say, we can find him as long as we obey his voice.

The Epiphany, which we celebrate today, is the "manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the World". (cf. CCC 528) It is a truth revealed by deeds and words from God; not an idea or notion conjured up in the mind of man, nor a thought arising from the wisdom of the world. Our Christian faith rests on this revealed truth that Jesus is the Son of God who became man; suffered, died, and rose again to redeem all humanity - past, present, and future.



*"A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel."  
(cf. Num 24:17)*

## 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)

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATION 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 parish. If you would like to donate digitally, please PayNow to our UEN "T08CC4033J" and indicate in the reference 'maintenance'. We thank you for your generosity.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 8 Jan, 8pm** at the **Mount Tabor Adoration Room**, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at [www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer](http://www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer). All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

### CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us on **Mon 13 Jan, 8pm** at **JPII Hall** for the rosary procession within the church grounds. You may bring your own waxless candle.

### BAT: O COME LET US ADORE HIM

John Paul II called Eucharistic Adoration "the greatest of all devotions after the sacraments themselves." In this talk, you will encounter a gold mine of references from Scripture and the Catechism and explore ten reasons why the practice of Eucharistic Adoration is so important for Catholics today. Perhaps the ten reasons will have you running to the nearest chapel to adore our Eucharistic Lord and revel in the mystery of the Real Presence.

**Date:** Sun 5 Jan  
**Time:** 9am - 10.30am  
**Venue:** Jeremiah Room, Parish Centre, Level 2  
**Link:** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjCnfpf1gVT2B7bgmANcZU>

### ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT & CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES SALE

On **4/5, 11/12, 18/19 Jan** weekend, the Altar Servers will be selling Chinese New Year cookies, as well as beautiful gift boxes perfect for sharing outside **JPII Hall and Church Foyer**. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our Altar Servers! They will also be handing out recruitment forms for those interested in joining the Altar Servers Society, so do come and find out more.

## ORDINATION OF BR. TIMOTHY SOO TO THE DIACONATE

*By the Grace of God and the Laying of Hands by His Eminence, William Cardinal Goh*

*"You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last." - John 15:16*

### Friday, 24 January 2025

On the memorial of St Francis de Sales

### Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Parking space will be limited

### Mass will begin at 7pm

Followed by reception

### Transportation to/from Br. Tim's Diaconate Ordination



We are excited to announce that our Parish will be arranging two-way transport to and from the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From 11/12 Jan weekend, you may secure your bus ticket from the Parish Office on a first-come, first-served basis!

**Date:** Fri 24 Jan (There will be no 8pm Mass)

**Pick-up:** 6pm sharp; Leave Nativity at 9pm

**Deadline (for booking of bus tickets):** Mon 20 Jan

**Ticket price:** \$5 per person (transferrable)

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2025

The Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) is dedicated to preparing couples for marriage in the Catholic Church.

This course, spanning six half-day sessions on weekends, is designed to help couples build a strong foundation for a lasting fulfilling marriage. Couples intending to celebrate your union in the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend MPC as early as possible before your wedding date.

Dates are now open for:

**Q1: 9 Feb to 16 Mar**

**Q2: 4 May to 8 Jun**

**Q3: 20 Jul to 31 Aug**

**Q4: 5 Oct to 9 Nov**

**Cost:** \$300 per couple

**Register:** <https://www.mpcsingapore.com/registration>

## HEART-TO-HEART CONVERSATIONS WITH WILLIAM CARDINAL GOH: MARRIAGE – RELEVANT? IMPOSSIBLE?

With modern attitudes, work stress, and the high cost of living, young Singaporeans are finding it difficult to find someone to settle down with-let alone start a family. Despite these realities, why does the Church continue to uphold her views and stance on marriage?

*Is marriage really necessary?*

*"Until death do us part": an honour or a burden?*

*Should marriage evolve to embrace modern realities?*

Whether you're single, married, engaged, or simply curious, join us for a Heart-to-Heart Conversation with William Cardinal Goh. Share your thoughts, ask questions, and be part of a meaningful discussion about Catholic marriage and its relevance in today's world. Limited seats are available, so indicate your interest by **Fri 17 Jan!**

**Date:** Wed 5 Feb

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Cathedral of the Good Shepherd Annex, Level 3

**Register:** <https://go.catholic.sg/hth-marriage>

## EPHESIANS 6: ARMOUR OF GOD RETREAT (EPH6)

A 2D1N stay-in retreat that unpacks the spiritual and practical implications in St Paul's letter to the Ephesians Chapter 6 and helps leaders to be equipped with the "whole armour of God, so as to withstand the wiles of the devil" (Eph 6:11).

The retreat includes talks by Fr Valerian Cheong, Fr Andrew Wong and Joseph Fernandez on being more aware of supernatural realms on social media and other openings which lead people away from God, what the first commandment entails and so on.

**Date:** 8 - 9 Feb

**Venue:** Punggol Retreat Centre

**Fee:** \$320/- per pax inclusive of GST (en-suite single room & meals included)

To register or find out more, visit [www.catholicleader.sg](http://www.catholicleader.sg)

## HEARTS FOR THE LORD: A NEW YEAR'S DOR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OPEN TO RELIGIOUS LIFE

Come and join religious friends of the Lord in this Day of Recollection (DOR), for session, prayer and conversations! The objective of this DOR is to help young people begin their discernment journey in the New Year well.

Our religious presenters will help participants better understand and make sense of religious life from a different perspective and how that might be moving their hearts in the Lord, especially in the context of their discernment journey. The day will end with Sunday Mass in the Chapel at 5pm. There will also be a BBQ fellowship dinner together after Mass, providing opportunities to interact and speak with members from different religious congregations. So come to find out more!

This is a collaboration effort between various religious congregations and is open to all male and female Catholic young adults aged between 18 to 35+ years old, who are open and looking to explore and discern the possibility of a vocation to religious life.

A contribution of \$15 per person will be used to cover the cost of dinner prepared by the Jesuits, usage of venue and other miscellaneous costs. Additional love offerings will also be greatly appreciated. For further enquiries, you may message Friar Gerald on Telegram @friar\_gerald.

**Date:** Sun 12 Jan  
**Time:** 2pm - 8pm  
**Venue:** Kingsmead Centre (8 Victoria Park Road, Singapore 266492)

## Christmas Fiesta 2024

Fr Ben and Fr Edward would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers for your support and being a welcoming face of Christ to all who attended our Christmas Fiesta. It would not have been possible without your generosity in service, talents and resources!



## CHARIS OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION COURSE

The Overseas Humanitarian Foundation Course is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their lives' faith journeys and answer the call to be living missionary disciples.

The course features speakers like Fr David Garcia, OP, Khoo Peng Beng and Christopher Chan.

**Date:** Sat 18 Jan  
**Time:** 9am - 4pm  
**Venue:** Church of Divine Mercy

For more information or to register, visit <https://makehopehappen.charis-singapore.org/Activities/ohfc-5>



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF JAN

**FOR THE RIGHT  
TO AN EDUCATION**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

### IN THE MONTH OF DEC 2024

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

1. Sivaruben s/o Periasamy & Sylvia Seakar
2. Koh Chuan Shen Marcus & Chong Yin Yi Christy
3. Stephen Hon Ka Leung & Tracy Hildegard Wong Tsui San
4. Felix Olivier Randy Tan Han Xiang & Chan Zi Ning

#### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Paul Ang Kheng Chong
2. Poey Wuk Lye @ Sister Germaine
3. Chew Bong Soo AnnAnna Tan Ann Nap

#### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Rayna Gabriella Huq
2. Kyrie E Chua
3. Ezra Kaize Tan



## 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

**Sat:** 4.20pm - 5.20pm  
**Sun:** 8am - 1pm

### COLUMBARIUM

**Mon - Fri:**  
10am - 7.30pm

### Sat - Sun:

8.30am - 7.30pm  
*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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)