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 **Online Mass Offering:**
tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings
UEN: T08CC4033J
Reference: Mass Collection

**Disciples
Making Disciples**

Divine Beginning, New Creation

The Baptism of the Lord
12 Jan 2025

Is 40: 1-5; 9-11
Tit 2: 11-14; 3:4-7
Lk 3: 15-16; 21-22

This Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season in our liturgical calendar, and the start of Jesus' public ministry in the Lectionary. Moving forward, we will hear about the Lord's miracles, parables and teachings. Here was where our Lord stood at the cusp of bestowing his grace and mercy on the people of his time in the places he lived: healing the sick, exorcising the possessed, forgiving sins, raising the dead, multiplying providence, overcoming nature, and bringing the Kingdom of God to his followers through stories that touched them.

You could say that Jesus' Baptism was his big 'coming-out' ceremony, and the end of three decades of quiet anonymity; the coming out and revelation of Jesus as God, fully divine, the second person of the Holy Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus' Baptism was God's visible sign to announce – in his own voice – Jesus' identity as the beloved Son of God, and to disclose the eternal union of our Trinitarian God, the perfect love they share in the form of the third person, the Holy Spirit. And when the Spirit, as a dove, came to rest on Jesus, he became the source of the Spirit for all mankind.

Being sinless, Jesus did not need to be baptised and cleansed of original sin. When asked if he was the Christ, John the Baptist said, "I baptise you

with water, but someone is coming, someone who is mightier than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Lk 3:16). John's role as a baptiser was to be Jesus' messenger, the voice in the wilderness to point the Lord out (cf. Isa 40:3), so that the people would turn from their sinful ways, repent and follow him.

Our Lord's Baptism is a visible herald to fulfil Isaiah's prophecy that "'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him... He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms..." (Is 40:9-11). That, filled with the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus would raise up the "valleys" of those who are poor in spirit and humble the "mountains" of the proud (cf. Is 40:4-5). At Jesus' baptism, God the Father announces to the people of God that their Lord has arrived to shepherd them to fullness of life and eternal salvation as new creations (cf. Is 40:11).

For our God, there can be no glory without the cross. "The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's Suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Already he is anticipating the "baptism" of his bloody death" (CCC 536).

Through his baptism, Jesus was not only revealed as all-powerful God, he also assumed his humble humanity. He was submissive to his Father's will – "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness" (Mt 3:15), he had said to John – and allowed himself to be counted



"The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's Suffering Servant"
(CCC 536)

among us, to pave the way for all of us that the sacrament of Baptism is the gateway to being God's children in grace.

Our lives post-baptism ought to look like this: "[W]hat we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives" (Tit 2:11) because he has saved us "by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit" (Tit 3:6).

As baptised Catholics, we are configured to Christ, sealed with his indelible mark and belong to him (cf. CCC 1272). We have been reborn in the Spirit and must live as new creations; to be like Christ, Spirit-filled, prayerful, obedient and pleasing to the Father (cf. Lk 3: 21-22).

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.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Join us on **Mon 13 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. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 13 Jan, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by praying over by CPG Team. All are welcome!

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.

ALTAR SERVERS SOCIETY RECRUITMENT & CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES SALE

On **11/12 and 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.

CARITAS SINGAPORE: MY PERSONAL COMPASS BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

My Personal Compass in 2025 returns as a set of 10 sessions! Get introduced to the basics of morality, which are applicable to all and not just Christians.

Dates: 3 Feb - 14 Apr
(Mondays, no class on 31 Mar)
Time: 8pm - 9.30pm
Venue: CANA at Catholic Centre
Fee: \$100
Register: <https://bit.ly/CSTMPC>



ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF BR. TIMOTHY SOO

*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)

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Tue 28 Jan (CNY Eve): 6.30am, 4pm*

Wed 29 Jan (CNY Day 1)*: 9am, 11am

Thu 30 Jan (CNY Day 2): 9am

*There will be distribution of pre-packed oranges and blessing of oranges.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Organised by the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue (ACCED) and St Joseph's Church (Victoria Street), there will be just one prayer service to bring together Christians from all over Singapore to unite with one mind and one heart in prayer and reflection on the theme: Do you believe? (John 11:26).

Date: Tue 21 Jan

Time: 8pm

Venue: St Joseph's Church (143 Victoria Street, Singapore 188020)

BECOME A CATECHIST

The Catechetical Year 2025 was launched just last weekend. The theme for this year is Embracing Hope! And it is with hearts full of hope that we appeal for fellow parishioners to come forward to serve in the Catechetical Ministry. Inspired by Pope Francis' prayer intention this month for the right to an education, we would also like to also ensure that our children exercise their right to a fruitful and engaging Catechesis journey. To do that, we continue to seek support from you all to join the journey. We would like to appeal for help for the upper primary levels (L4 - L6). If you feel the Lord's nudging, you can reach out to Dan Lai at 9749 1635 to find out more.

CATHOLIC DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP SINGAPORE

Divorced? Separated? A 12-week DVD-based programme to support those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage, divorce or separation. The video presentations by Catholic priests like Fr Don Calloway, Fr Steve Porter, theologians and teachers: Christopher West, will help you cope during this difficult time, and lead you and your family to God's divine mercy and love. Visit www.catholicdivorce.sg/events or email catholicdivorce.sg@gmail.com for more information.

Dates: 21 Jan - 29 Apr (Tuesdays, except 28 Jan and 15 Apr)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Cost: S\$60

Venue: Church of the Holy Spirit (248 Upper Thomson Road, Singapore 574371)



Commemorating our First Mass: A Historic Moment

On 11 Jan 1959, a momentous occasion marked the spiritual landscape of our community as the Church of Saint Francis Xavier celebrated its first Holy Mass. This ceremony represented not just the inauguration of a new house of worship, but the culmination of years of dedicated work, faith, and community effort.

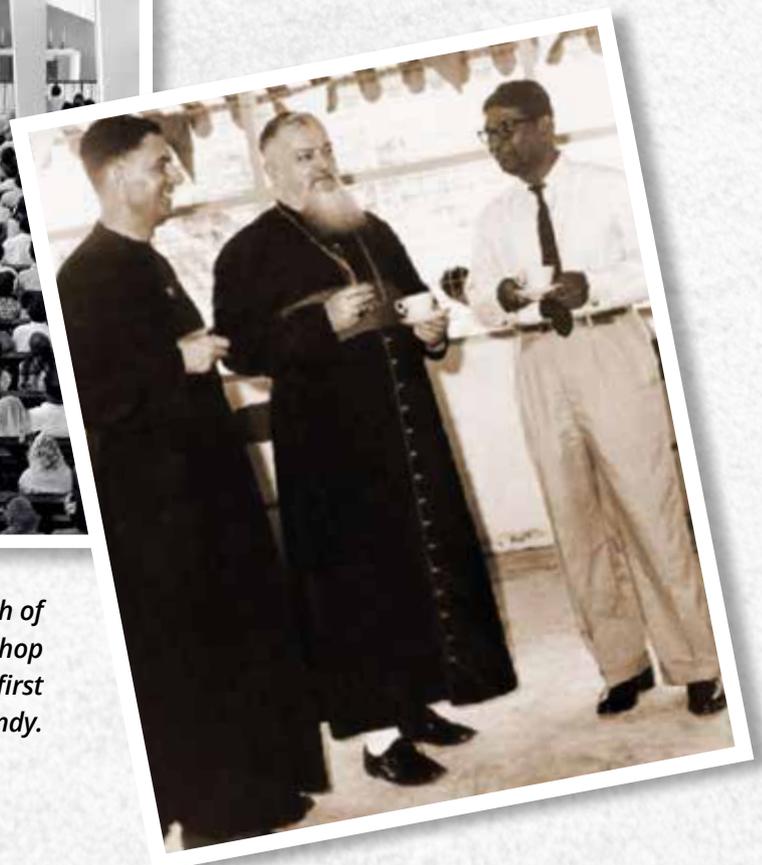
The inaugural Mass brought together faithful from all corners of Serangoon Garden estate, filling the newly consecrated church with prayers and hymns. The ceremony was officiated by Archbishop Olçomendy, assisted by Frs Norris and Barthoulot, marking the beginning of a spiritual journey that would touch countless lives in the decades to follow.

This historical milestone laid the foundation for what would become a vibrant centre of faith, community service, and spiritual guidance. Today, over six decades later, the Church of Saint Francis Xavier continues to stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of its founding members and the growing faith community it serves.

Let the Manna take you down memory lane as we look back in time. All photos reproduced from the 50th Anniversary book '*What Marvels The Lord Worked For Us!*'



[Left] In 1959 when the Church was built, the Tridentine mass was the norm. The altar was set against the wall and the priests and altar servers faced the altar.



[Right] A celebration after the Church of St Francis Xavier was officially blessed - Archbishop Olçomendy (centre), Rev Fr René Challet (the first parish priest) and Matthew Chandy.



(Above) The main structure of the Church was a large space to accommodate a congregation of 1,000. The figure of Jesus was carved in Austria but attached to the wooden cross in Singapore.



(Above) In early 1957, a five-acre plot of land was purchased for \$55,000. The foundation stone laying ceremony was held on 26 Apr 1958 and by Dec 1958, the Church was completed just in time to celebrate the feast day of St Francis Xavier.



The parish of St Francis Xavier, a place where God is and people come to worship, to meet and work, to share in grief and to celebrate in joy.

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

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 JPPII 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