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# At Peace in God's Lap

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 Jul 2025

ls 66:10-14 Gal 6:14-18 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Today's readings answer two questions that are especially relevant in this troubled world: Why is it that despite much progress and improvement in living conditions and material comfort, there is still strife and conflict around us, and what can be done about it?

The answer to the first is complicated if you think only in secular terms but it is straightforward for those who have faith — peace cannot be found outside of God. No matter how hard we try, how much progress we make or how progressive our civilisation is, there will always be irreconcilable differences between men. It is part of the human condition that is beyond human resolution. Yet, people continue to believe it is within their power to do so, and in the selfish rush to improve their lot, they become even more divided and dissatisfied. God alone can offer peace because that is who he is. He is peace itself and in his infinite love, he offers it as a gift to us.

The First Reading illustrates this in vivid and touching imagery: "Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river ... At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted" (Is 66:12-13).

The idea that peace comes from God is so alien to many in the world, that



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it requires this picture of us sitting on God's lap as his children, to be nursed and comforted, to convey this truth. What do we need to do to attain it? Because of man's fallen nature, Christ entered the world to save us from our sins. Our search for peace can come only through him.

In the Second Reading, St Paul puts it this way: "The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature" (Gal 6:14-15).

Attaining peace through Jesus requires us to change and become a completely new person living a life of integrity and truth, committed to God and his will. But the world can be peaceful only if enough people believe this and do their part. We are thus called to be messengers of peace, following on the example set by the seventy-two whom our Lord appointed for the task, as recounted in the Gospel reading.

He knows it is not easy which is why he gave clear instructions on how to proceed: Carry no purse or haversack, or even sandals. Stay in the same house, not move from one to another, and not expect any special treatment but to eat and drink what is offered.

What happened when they returned from this mission? They came back rejoicing: "Lord, even the devils submit to us when we use your name" (Lk 10:17).

Being messengers of peace and love is hard work and the outcome can only be assured when it is undertaken by a wider and united community, which is what the 72 disciples represent.

This is why it is important to support the work of the Church, to grow and strengthen its reach to spread the message of Jesus, the prince of peace. Our individual acts of kindness and encouragement to others to carry out the Lord's mission are important but so is our work to support the Church.

Pope Leo XIV in his homily during his first public Mass stressed this important point.

"It is essential to do this, first of all, in our personal relationship with the Lord, in our commitment to a daily journey of conversion. Then, to do so as a Church, experiencing together our fidelity to our Lord and bringing the Good news to all." (Pope Leo XIV, homily, 9 May 2025).



"It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature"

GAL 6:15

# Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to **mm@sfxchurch.sg** by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

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# 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.

### 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.

## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The L9 cohort from Catechetical Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do support our teens and drop by for some food and fellowship.

## CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 7 Jul, 8pm – 9.30pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over. All are welcome.

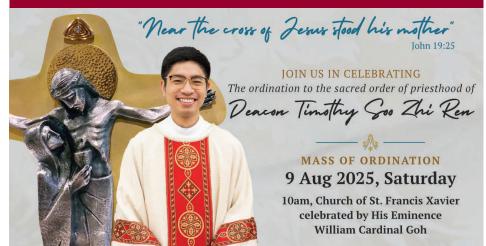
# INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 7 Jul**, **8pm** at the Mount Tabor Adoration Room, where we will pray together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Submit your prayer requests at <u>www.</u> <u>sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-</u> <u>prayer</u>. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

# CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Join us for the candlelight rosary procession on **Sun 13 Jul, 8pm.** Meet in JPII Hall. The procession will take place within the church grounds. Bring your own waxless candle and join us in prayer as we honour our Blessed Mother. All are welcome.

# SACERDOTAL ORDINATION OF DEACON TIMOTHY SOO



### **A PLEASE NOTE:**

- All are welcome to attend the Mass of Ordination and the lunch reception that follows.
- Church doors will open at 8.30am.
- On-site parking is limited to guests with issued parking decals.
- Parishioners are encouraged not to drive. If necessary, kindly park only at designated public lots.

### Let us keep Deacon Timothy in prayer as he prepares for his sacerdotal ordination.

# PARISH RECOLLECTION

In our busy lives, it's easy to lose sight of our connection with God. God's question – "Where are you?" – offers a gentle invitation to pause, reflect and re-centre ourselves on him. Join Deacon Sherman Kuek for a reflection on the Luminous Mysteries, exploring what these mysteries reveal about our Catholic life and find rest in the Lord. **Registration closes on Sun 13 Jul.** 



Dates: Fri 25 Jul – Sun 27 JulVenue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)Fee: \$50Register: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SFXPR25">https://tinyurl.com/SFXPR25</a>

# SYMBOLON: THE FAITH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Unlock the profound beauty and depth of the Catholic faith with *Symbolon: The Faith of the Catholic Church*, and delve into Catholicism's rich history, core teachings and spiritual practices.



This series, guided by the Creed, explores everything from the sacraments to inspiring saintly stories, empowering you

to understand, live and share your faith confidently. The LiFE ministry will be continuing with the next seven episodes. For further enquiries, contact Brian Rezel (9789 2253) or Monica Yap (9669 6781).

Time: Fridays, 8pm - 9.30pmVenue: JPII HallRegister: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/LiFESymbolon2025">https://tinyurl.com/LiFESymbolon2025</a>

## **UPPER ROOM**

The community of In One Spirit (IOS), part of the SFX 1Cor12 Communion of Communities, warmly invites you to set aside the busyness of life and enter into a sacred time of prayer and rest in the Lord. Come and join us for our Upper Room Session - a night of prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We hope it will be a space where you can encounter the Lord and renew your spirit. Bring a friend — all are welcome! Light refreshments will be served after the session. For enquiries, please contact @raphaeltheseira or @makotog on Telegram.

Date & Time: Fri 11 Jul, 8.45pm Venue: SFX Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER MAJOR SEMINARY: ANNUAL VOCATION RETREAT

Have you felt a desire to give more? Do you think the Lord may be inviting you to consider the diocesan priesthood? The St Francis Xavier Major Seminary invites all young men aged 21 to 35 for their annual Vocation Retreat. Priority will be given to first timers. Scan the QR code to register by 3 Aug.



Dates: Fri 22 Aug - Sun 24 Aug Venue: St Francis Xavier Major Seminary (618 Upper Bukit Timah Road) Register: tiny.cc/vocation2025

# WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER SINGAPORE

Oct, Nov and Dec Weekends are now open. The ME Weekend is an enrichment programme recommended for couples who have been married for 3 years or more. Couples who are preparing for their marriage should attend the Engaged Encounter (EE) or Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) instead. Couples who have been married for less than 3 years can attend on exception. The ME weekend is



conducted primarily in English in almost every month. Find out more and register at <u>www.wwmesg.org/Weekend\_Reg</u>

# COURAGE SG: BE ENCOURAGED RETREAT

If you are a parent or loved one of someone who is same-sex attracted or identifies as LGBTQ, the EnCourage community invites you to come pray and reflect on how you are called to love and accompany them as God does. Registration closes on 10 Jul.



**Dates:** Fri 18 Jul - Sun 20 Jul **Venue:** Lifesprings Canossian Spirituality Centre **Register:** <u>tinyurl.com/5byrvzka</u>

# A Historic L9 Retreat

# **Across Three Parishes**

For the first time in our parish's history, the Church of Saint Francis Xavier held a combined L9 Retreat with the Church of the Risen Christ and the Church of St Bernadette. A total of 131 teens were ministered to by 107 service team members as speakers, facilitators, intercessors and logistics members from across the three parishes.



Centred on the theme "Jesus Heals the Haemorrhaging Woman" (Mark 5:25–34), the retreat led the teens into a profound encounter with the Lord through the many inspiring teachings and testimonies, Sacrament of Reconciliation, praise and worship, a praying-with session, and Eucharistic Adoration.

Parents also participated in two dedicated sessions. In one session, Brother Alex, a seminarian currently attached to Church of the Risen Christ, shared a meaningful teaching using the Holy Family as a model — reminding us that holiness does not require perfection. The session also featured a moving testimony from a couple who shared how the Lord healed and transformed their marriage through His grace.



# HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JUL

# FOR FORMATION IN DISCERNMENT

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

# IN THE MONTH OF JUN 2025

# WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couples:

- 1. Malcolm Lim Tse Ming & Heather Loh Hui Min
- 2. Ho Yiu Hong Neil & Hannah Marie Clunies Ross

# CONDOLENCES

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

- 1. Sim Lye Hiang
- 2. Ricky Tan Swee How
- 3. Sia Geok Eng Irene

# BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

- 1. Piper Sebastian Ng Jian Rui
- 2. Philippe James Ng Rui Xun
- 3. Claudya Choo Clare
- 4. Maeve Therese Wu
- 5. Ryan Kayden Lin Zi Jie
- 6. Charlotte Lim Xin
- 7. Billy Anders Foo Yong Jie
- 8. Noelle Ng Li Nuo
- 9. Andrew Lau Kim Lok
- 10. Ricky Tan Swee How
- 11. Ronald Lam Chee Kin

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<sup>66</sup>The church retreat was truly an eye-opening experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions where we delved deeper into our faith, as well as the group sharing sessions, which were both meaningful and full of laughter. I am also especially grateful that this retreat allowed me to experience the beauty of praise and worship in the company of others, reminding us that we are never alone in our journey with God! \*





Fantastic programme which was meticulously curated. Parental involvement in the programme sealed the deal. I could only wish I had gone through the same programme when I was preparing for my confirmation 35 years ago. Volunteers were always at hand to guide and support the kids. Most importantly, it was evident that Russell emerged from the camp a different person. A different Catholic with new understanding and a clear desire to serve the Lord. We cannot thank the organising team enough for putting together this wellplanned programme and having it run flawlessly. Having attended the camp last year, Russell was eagerly looking forward to this and having witnessed the programme, we can tell why. ??

### •Kelvin & Belle (parents of Russell Koh)

<sup>66</sup> Coming into the L9 retreat, I thought life was fine and expected just another routine experience. But over four days, everything changed. The theme of the haemorrhaging woman showed me how healing comes from seeking Jesus, even when we struggle. We journeyed through topics like sin, love, and healing. Facing my own flaws and wounds was tough, but through God's grace and the support of fellow L9s from three parishes, I encountered His deep love and healing. I realised God is present not just in me, but also in my relationships — especially with family. Seeing others touched by God moved me deeply. This retreat has been the most formative in my faith, and I now desire to grow closer to Him. \*\*



<sup>66</sup>Before the retreat, I expected a similar experience to those I had in Sec 1 & 2. But this time, I found myself growing much closer to God, and my faith was truly strengthened through the sessions. I also deepened my friendships, and for some reason, this camp touched me in a unique and memorable way. I really enjoyed it! 99



•• I was deeply moved by a spouse's sharing during the parents' session. I can only imagine the pain and struggles she went through, and her vulnerability and honesty touched me. Her story reminded me that only a Christ-centred marriage can truly heal and strengthen a couple's relationship. It also highlighted important communication how is in understanding our spouse's needs, and how important it is to give each other space and build trust. I left the session feeling encouraged and reminded of the hope we have when we place our marriage in God's hands. \*

- Angela (mother of Elizabeth Mahimy)



Looking for more information? Visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

### Mass Times

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon - Thu: 6.30pm

# **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

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

> 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 pravers 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 JPII 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