



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

Ordinal Time

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
18 Jan 2026

Is 49:3, 5-6
1 Cor 1:1-3
Jn 1:29-34

With the close of the Christmas season, the Church brings us into Ordinary Time; not in the sense that there is nothing special about it, but that the weeks that follow are ordinal — an ordered series of something important. In the liturgical calendar, there are 34 weeks of Ordinary Time interspersed between the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. During Ordinary Time, readings and prayers focus on the public ministry of Christ, honouring and celebrating the mystery of Christ in its fullness. Through this, we learn to live our lives in imitation of Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

To begin Ordinary Time, the Church offers us the climax of John the Baptist's ministry when, pointing to Jesus, he calls out: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29). To the Jews of that time who were eagerly anticipating the coming of the Messiah-king who would free them by a new exodus from poverty and oppression, the reference to the Lamb of God would have caused quite a stir. It would have immediately evoked thoughts of the Passover Lamb — how its blood on their doorposts, and the liturgical eating of the Lamb, conferred divine protection from death and inaugurated the first exodus under Moses' leadership.

With this in mind, the Jews of that time might have perceived that John was actually revealing who Jesus is and

implicitly pointing out the sacrificial dimension of his mission. Jesus is revealed as the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah (cf. Is 53:7), who bears the sins of the multitudes and is the true Paschal Lamb — one who not only forgives sins but gives life (cf. CCC 608).

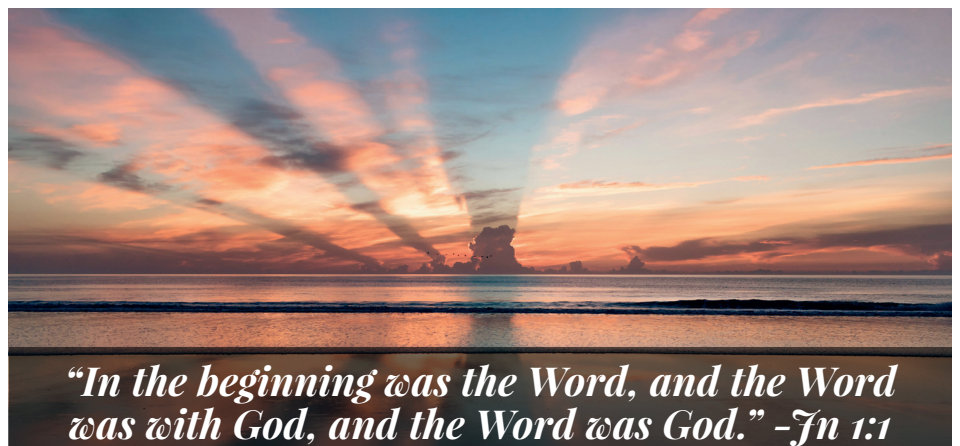
John was six months older than his relative Jesus, and so it might seem strange for John to declare that Jesus was before him and ranks higher (cf. Jn 1:30). John was not referring to physical birth but to the pre-existence of Jesus — that Jesus existed before John was even conceived. This is why, in the preamble to his Gospel, John the Evangelist declares: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1), and later, "the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (Jn 1:14). In faith, we echo this truth in the Creed when we profess belief in "one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God..."

At Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, John witnesses the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove and remaining on him. The symbolism is significant. The Spirit is more often described as a pillar of smoke or a consuming fire. The dove recalls the one that Noah sent from the ark at the end of the flood, which returned with

an olive branch — signifying new life after the destruction caused by sin and heralding a new beginning. Jesus, anointed with the Holy Spirit at his Baptism, likewise inaugurates a new creation, fulfilling Isaiah's prophesy in today's First Reading (cf. Is 49:6) — bringing light to the nations and salvation to all mankind.

When speaking of the Holy Spirit "remaining" on Jesus, the Greek word used is *meno*, meaning to dwell or abide — not a temporary visit but a lasting, rooted presence — one that holds fast in relationship. Through this description, we glimpse the gradual revelation of the Holy Trinity, which reaches its fullness in Jesus' Great Commission after the Resurrection: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19).

As a witness to all these things, John the Baptist can confidently and truthfully declare that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. Therefore, we too — baptised into the Mystical Body of Christ, which is his Church, can also faithfully proclaim the good news: that God has come among us, and through Jesus, we are incorporated into his New Creation for all eternity.



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." -Jn 1:1

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.



GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a 2nd collection for the Catholic Foundation's GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme. GIFT is a regular giving programme to rally support for and fund the Archdiocese's organisations and initiatives for youth, evangelisation, catechesis, formation and others. Please drop your contributions or GIFT envelopes into the collection box. Do consider signing up for a regular pledge, as it is the most reliable way of supporting the Church. Visit catholicfoundation.sg to contribute online or find out more.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Intercessory Prayer Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at the JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer session is on **Mon 19 Jan, 8pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by a talk on 'Prophecy in Proportion to Faith: Living the Gift of the Spirit'. All are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 19 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.

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE LENTEN RETREAT: NO CROSS, WHAT A CROSS!

What does the Cross mean in your life - a burden to avoid or the very source of God's wisdom and power? This Lenten retreat invites you to rediscover the Cross through the words of St Paul and the spiritual insight of St Louis Marie de Montfort, who teaches that God has enclosed in the Cross an abundance of grace, life, and even joy, known only to those who befriend him. What the world calls foolishness, God transforms into salvation, reminding us that perhaps the greatest cross of all is not having one.

Dates & Time: Fri 6 Mar, 7pm to Sun 8 Mar, 1pm
Venue: Montfort Centre (624 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, S678212)
Register: <https://www.montfortcentre.org/events-1/no-cross-what-a-cross>



TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Parishioners attending weekday Masses are kindly reminded to park their vehicles in the **designated (painted) parking lots** available on both surface and basement areas. This is to avoid safety issues and allow proper traffic flow for other road users within the church premises. **Parking in non-designated areas is strictly prohibited.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

LITTLE SHEPHERD'S SCHOOLHOUSE: RENOVATION WORKS

Please be informed that over the next few weekends until **1 Feb from 8.30am - 6.30pm**, the Little Shepherd Schoolhouse will be undergoing renovation works.

During this time, a skip tank will be placed as shown in the image reference. Please navigate the area with caution and follow the guidance of the wardens on duty. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



SFX YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Come and celebrate Blessings at the fundraising concert staged by the SFX Youth Choir on **Sat 31 Jan, 8pm** at the **Auditorium (Parish Centre, Level 3)**. While tickets are sold out, your generous donations are much appreciated. For further inquiries, contact Denis at 9663 9274.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

"There is one body and one Spirit. Just as you are called to the one hope that belongs to your calling." - Ephesians 4:4

This is an invitation to all Christians to come and join in prayer and reflection and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

Mon 19 Jan, 12pm

The Bible Society of Singapore

The Bible House,
7 Armenian Street S179932

Thu 22 Jan, 8pm

Blessed Sacrament Church

1 Commonwealth Drive S149603

Wed 21 Jan, 8pm

Armenian Apostolic Church of St Gregory the Illuminator

60 Hill Street S179366

Guided tour of Gallery at 7.15pm. Sign up is required at bit.ly/WPCU26tour

Fri 23 Jan, 8pm

Queenstown Lutheran Church (Mandarin Service)

709 Commonwealth Drive S149601

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

My Personal Compass returns as a set of 10 sessions. Get introduced to the basics of morality, which are applicable to all and not just Christians. Come and build an ethical foundation so you can journey towards fulfilling your potential as a person made in the image of God. For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org

Dates: Thursdays, 5 Feb - 16 Apr (No class on 2 Apr)

Time: 8pm - 9.30pm

Venue: CANA (55 Waterloo St, Level 2)

Register: www.bit.ly/perscomp-feb26



Fortify Retreat 2026

The Fortify Retreat took place on 2-4 Jan, kick-starting a new year for our parish youth community, Fortify. The theme was from Matthew 9:16-17:

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Sessions based on Scripture helped to remind the participants that choosing to believe in God's truth gives us open hearts for God to reveal his deep love for us.

Forty participants across seven cohorts and 17 new friends came together during the retreat to re-encounter Christ through several sessions and activities. The activities included a time of reflection accompanied by a gallery of testimonies from community members, as well as a time of recommitment and surrender to the Lord around a campfire.



"At first, I didn't plan to join. I saw the sign-up form in the L10 group chat, and my mom encouraged me to go, but I didn't want to spend the last two days of my school holidays there. Then, at an L10 gathering, my friends asked if I had signed up and told me to join them if I hadn't."

It would be a good idea to attend because I wanted to join Fortify, and it would be a great opportunity to get to know the Fortify members. It also felt like a great way to start the year with the Lord.

I really enjoyed the retreat. Fortify welcomed us with open arms, spent time with us, and started meaningful conversations with us. I really enjoyed the sessions they led; I felt they were very meaningful. They taught us about community living – what being in a community is, how important it is, and what it means to them.

Overall, I am pleased that I attended the Fortify Retreat and had the chance to serve at the L10 retreat."

Janine (16)



"During the retreat, I was reminded of how God is so present in the hearts of every person; for the good things He has done in the lives of all in Fortify in drawing our hearts closer to Him every day. I allowed myself to walk with Jesus and recollect my journey, and was reminded of how God CALLS with LOVE."

Community has been a crucial part of my life since I got confirmed: the people who've held me in my vulnerability and also challenged me in my faith to grow in trust for Jesus. I was reminded of how over the years, they've shown me what it means to love and forgive our differences; to journey in faith with one another although we may be at different stages and seasons of our lives.

To those who might be curious of how community can be part of your faith journey, come and see what the Lord has in store for you!"

Esther (20)



"Going into the camp, I was excited to reconnect with my community - both familiar and new faces. But beneath the excitement was a quiet fear of what it means to truly receive and to truly understand my place in the community. The reality is that although the community is full of love, it also carries its share of hurt. For the past year, I had been struggling with my prayer and community life. There were moments when I felt alone, as if the people I once leaned on were no longer around. This was a result of my close friends coming and going. It felt unstable and soon, going for CG (Cell Group) every Saturday felt like a routine, as if I was going just to tick it off my checklist. I came to Fortify camp hoping to find God and to rediscover the meaning of community.

Throughout the camp, I caught up with community members that I haven't seen in a long time and made friends with new members as well. I received so much during the entire duration of the camp, but one thing that stayed with me was the Fortify gallery. A gallery was prepared for the participants to visit at any time during the camp. There were pictures of Fortify members from start to present and testimonies of all the current Fortify members hung from the ceiling. Reading everyone's testimony, I realised that everyone has such a deep love for this community. This made me very emotional and hopeful - I finally felt like I wasn't alone, the community that just felt like a house was becoming a home.

I have much hope for Fortify, that we will continue to grow in love for God and for one another. I pray that we will continue to choose to show up for each other, especially when it's hard. I hope to continue carrying the warmth and renewal I experienced during camp into every CG, every fellowship, and in every prayer. Fortify is a community not just in name, but in spirit - rooted in Christ, strengthened by faith and love, and always ready to welcome old and new members home."

Kayla (18)



Looking for more information?
Visit www.sfxchurch.sg

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 - 11pm
Closed on Public Holidays
after 9am Mass

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9.30am - 6.30pm
Sat & 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