



Disciples
Making Disciples



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

We Will Overcome

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 Jul 2026

Wis 12:13,16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-43

"The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt 13:41-43).

This Scripture passage can bring a chill to the spine. The notion of eternal damnation is not something we like to think about. But read in context, there is something deeper to gain from today's readings — a message of hope beyond a "sobering warning".

The Gospel refers to the "good seed" as the "subjects of the kingdom", and the darnel as the "subjects of the evil one". As subjects of the Lord, we have been sown by him with the full capacity to grow in his goodness and under his care. A sower does not simply plant seeds; he tends the land to provide for a plentiful harvest. What more can be said about the sower who is the Son of Man? Will he not tend to his crops in the best way possible?

Thus, while the world may be filled with things that "provoke offences" and "do evil", we have the capacity to guard against offences, do good, and outgrow the wickedness of the evil one so that we may "shine like the sun" in the light of Christ.

Essential to this is our reliance on the never-ending mercies of the Lord. We are reminded of this through the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm, which speak of the goodness and mercy of the Lord, and how he has "given... the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance" (Wis 12:19). The battle is never over; each day we can choose again to lean into his mercy.

The Gospel gives us hope by assuring us that God's power dwarfs the power of the evil one a thousandfold, when Jesus says: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all" (Mt 13:31-32). In perspective, the tiny "weeds" planted by the evil one cannot overcome the power and mercy of the Lord.

This sounds simple, but reality is heart-wrenching. Choosing light and love each day is difficult when we are surrounded by destruction, evil, and temptations. But the Lord has given us his Spirit to advocate for us so that we may overcome. In the Second Reading, St Paul reminds us:

"The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God" (Rom 8:26-27).

When we find ourselves at the edge of our humanity, in despair, or at a loss as to how to move forward, we need only call upon the Spirit given

to each of us. Our heavenly Father knows and provides for our every need, in his goodness and timing (cf. Mt 6: 25-34).

In the waiting, may we remain hopeful, relying on the Spirit within us to bring us through each day with grace, love, and forgiveness. Being virtuous may not be as challenging as it sounds. As stated in the Book of Wisdom, "the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men" (Wis 12:19), just as the Lord has kindly shown mercy to us.

Let us then walk together in kindness, one step at a time, until the end, where we "will shine like the sun in the kingdom of [our] Father" (Mt 13:43).



"The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words."

— ROM 8:26

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

GIFT COLLECTION

This weekend, there will be a 2nd collection for 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 boxes. 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 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPII Hall. Do drop by for some food and fellowship. Love offerings are welcome!

INTERCESSORY

Come storm heaven with us in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Mon 20 Jul, 8pm - 9.30pm** at Mount Tabor Adoration Room.

CHURCH EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT): CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Church Emergency Response Team (CERT) is seeking 5 volunteers at every weekend Mass to provide First Aid and fire response support. Parishioners and medical professionals with valid First Aid and AED certification are welcome to join. Training will be provided, with certification valid for two years. Scan the QR code or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/SFXCERTVol2026>



PIETA SUPPORT GROUP FOR BEREAVED PARENTS (ZOOM)

PIETA is a faith-based support group for parents who have experienced the loss of a child, regardless of the child's age or when the loss occurred. Through prayer, reflection, and sharing on the Word of God, bereaved parents journey together in God's comfort, wisdom, and hope. To receive the Zoom link, please email pieta.singapore@gmail.com.

Date: Tue 28 Jul 2026
Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm

CONNECTION BEFORE CORRECTION: A POSITIVE DISCIPLINE INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS

Discover how building connection before correction can foster greater cooperation and reduce power struggles at home. This introductory workshop on Positive Discipline equips parents with practical strategies to better understand their children's behaviour and respond with both kindness and firmness.

Date & Time: Fri 31 Jul 2026, 8pm - 10pm
Venue: Church of St. Vincent de Paul, Room #04 - 02
Fee: \$20 per person | \$35 per couple
Who: Parents with school-going children
Register: familylife.sg/CBC



FAMILY EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026

Are you a parent, educator, or caregiver raising a child in today's complex and fast-changing world? How do we build resilience, recognise distress early, and speak honestly about identity and sexuality? We do not have to navigate this alone.

The inaugural Family Education Conference brings together parents, educators, and caregivers to explore how homes and schools can partner in the growth and formation of every child.

Date: Sat 1 Aug 2026
Time: 8.15am - 1pm
Venue: Church of the Holy Spirit
Register: www.familylife.sg/FEC2026
Fee: \$50 per pax | \$75 for 2 pax | \$90 for 3 pax | \$100 for 4 pax



CHOICE WEEKEND PROGRAM

Discover how God calls you to build deeper, healthier, and more authentic relationships. Through personal reflection and honest sharing from singles, couples, and religious, this transformative weekend invites young adults to better understand themselves, embrace loving vulnerability, and strengthen their relationships with family and those God has placed in their lives.

Who: Unmarried young adults (single or dating), aged 18 - 40
Date: 8 - 10 Aug 2026
Venue: ME House, Punggol
Register: <https://bit.ly/ChoiceSG26>



RETRouvaille WEEKEND

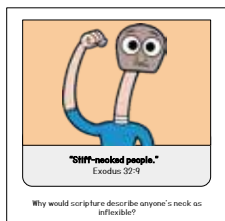
Retrouvaille is an international programme that came to Singapore in 1993. The programme aims to help troubled couples mend their relationships. If you are considering separation, divorce, or are already divorced and want to get back together, Retrouvaille may just be what you need as a couple.

Dates: 25 Sep - 27 Sep
Venue: ME House, 201 Punggol Seventeenth Avenue, Singapore 829651
Register: bit.ly/RetroWESep26

EXHIBITION ON POPE LEO'S CATECHESIS ON THE 16 DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN COUNCIL II



In his 4th Catechesis on Dei Verbum (Divine Revelation), Pope Leo highlights that God's decision to inspire human authors to write His saving message (Scripture) using their own cultural metaphors and modes of expression shows God's "condescension" and "gentle kindness" towards humanity (DV 13). Come visit the exhibition on Pope Leo's Catechesis on the 16 Documents of Vatican Council II outside JPII Hall. Come find out what it means when Christians say "all Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit." (DV 11, 2 Tim 3:16) **Explore all the 16 flip-cards there - how familiar do you think you are with ancient ways of speaking?**



DIFFICULT LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS (DLC)

Conversations are at the core of leadership. For Catholic leaders, how can we create safe spaces for authentic conversations to take place? How can we hold each other accountable for our shared mission or conduct difficult conversations when needed? How do we reach better alignment among ourselves? These critical areas of conversation will be covered in this half-day workshop.

Date & Time: Sat 29 Aug 2026, 9.30am – 3.30pm
Venue: Agape Village, MPR 1 & 2
Fee: \$200/pax
Register: <https://bit.ly/clc-dlc>



EPHESIANS 6:10-17: ARMOUR OF GOD RETREAT (EPH6)

A 2D1N stay-in retreat, anchored on St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians to equip oneself with the whole armour of God in order to stand firm against temptation and withstand the wiles of the devil. The retreat includes talks on recognising the dangerous influences of the digital age, new age practices, and other openings which may lead people away from God, as well as deepening one's understanding of the First Commandment and living it out faithfully.

Date & Time: Sat 5 Sep, 9am – Sun 6 Sep, 5pm
Venue: SFX Punggol Retreat Centre
Fee: \$380/pax
Register: <https://bit.ly/eph6retreat>



ST FRANCIS XAVIER MAJOR SEMINARY 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 happening from **14 to 16 Aug**. Priority will be given to first timers. **Registration closes on 31 Jul**. To sign up, scan the QR code or use this registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/vocationretreat2026>.



NOVENA YOUTH RALLY

At Novena Youth Rally 2026, you are invited to Mass and the Main Rally, with highlights of creative elements, input by keynote speaker, reflection, praise and worship and various Flea Markets. End the night with Eucharistic adoration.

Date: Fri 4 Sep
Time: 6pm - 10.30pm (Rally & Mass: 7.30pm - 10.30pm)
Venue: 300 Thomson Road, Novena Church

L9 Combined

Retreat 2026

From 25 – 28 June 2026, SFX premises were filled with close to 250 teens and youth service team for the combined L9 retreat. 145 L9 teens from Church of Saint Bernadette, Church of the Risen Christ and our parish Saint Francis Xavier, attended the retreat.

This year's theme focused on 'Jesus, Giver of Living Water' [Jn 4] – encountering Jesus just like the Samaritan woman at the well. Just as Jesus intentionally waited for the woman at the well, He encountered each of the teens at the retreat. The presenters shared Jesus' deep desire to meet the teens where they are and loving them deeply as He healed them of all hurts. The teens responded to the Lord, by encouraging each other to sit before Jesus for adoration and participated positively in prayer ministry sessions.

We are especially grateful to the dedication of the nearly 100 service team members who interceded in prayer throughout the retreat, as well as the logistics team who curated games and provided the perfect ambience for prayer and reflection. In group sharings, the facilitators created a safe space for sharing; in praise and worship, the worship team enhanced the prayer experience with song. Praise and thanks to Jesus, for the catechists and parents who gave time and food to feed our growing, ever hungry teens and the many others, who helped in small and big ways, which led to a successful retreat.



All praise to God for the testimonies we have before us!

This retreat has been really fun and helped transformed my relationship with God. There were emotional moments that helped me better appreciate what my parents have done for me.

- Timothy

The retreat allowed me to bond closer with my new friends and those around me. The sessions were well prepared and I felt closer to God through every activity, session and mass we had.

- Rebecca

This retreat was eye-opening and helped me see others in different ways. I have drawn closer to God and know that He really loves me. This knowledge brings me a profound sense of peace.

- Yva Grace

L9 retreat was different as compared to L8 or L7 retreat. I was initially disappointed to discover that all my close friends were in different groups. I am happy that I made many new friends, especially with teens from other parishes. My favourite moments has to be the Prayer Ministry. It was unexpectedly emotional and meaningful. This retreat made me unpack a new relationship with God.

- Christian

I came to the L9 retreat hoping to find God's plan for my life. Instead, God showed me that he has been walking alongside me throughout every mistake, success and milestone. In prayer ministry, a facilitator told me, 'It's okay not to know what tomorrow holds, because God has it all figured out'. I feel confident about my future, and I am determined to ignite a stronger relationship with God, remembering Jeremiah 29:11. God has showed me that the meaning in my life are the people He sent me to love and support. L9 retreat did not just bring me closer to God - it also brought me closer to the people I spend everyday of my life with.

- Theresa

I have learnt more about the Lord and the wrong wells I should not be drawing water from. I see everyone in a whole new light and I look forward to the retreat next year.

- Kayra

The retreat experience was very good and it helped me grow closer to God. I now have a stronger relationship with God.

- Joash

I enjoyed the retreat. I truly connected with God during the retreat, especially during confession, where I felt the calming presence of God standing over me.

- Emily

Going into the retreat, I assumed it would be like the other camps I had been to - Mass, games, and sessions. My relationship with God was not strong and I had trouble trusting in Him. I did not expect how much God would reach out to me. During the retreat, as I felt God speaking to me through the sessions, and praise & worship, I drew closer to God. I know now that I can always depend and trust in Him, and that He will always guide me back to Him, even when I stray away.

- Keisha



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

Sun: 8am - 1pm,
4pm - 5.30pm

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 JP II 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