



**Disciples**  
*Making Disciples*



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



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



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

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



**Online Mass Offering:**  
[tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings](https://tinyurl.com/SFXMassOfferings)  
**UEN:** T08CC4033J  
**Reference:** Mass Collection

# Let Your Thoughts Be on Heavenly Things

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
3 Aug 2025

**Eccles 1:2, 2:21-23**  
**Col 3:1-5, 9-11**  
**Lk 12:13-2**

This weekend's readings bring us back to the true meaning of life and what we should be focused on. As we reflect on them, let us consider how often unimportant things are given great importance—judged purely by earthly standards.

The first reading warns us that even the fruits of hard work can be vanity. All the work of our hands, though carried out “wisely, skillfully and successfully” (Eccles 2:21), must ultimately be left to others after our death. Earthly pursuits, while necessary, can become distractions from the ultimate goal of life—union with God. This reminds us not to place all our hopes and meaning in our labour, and the transient nature of earthly goods. We are prompted to question the purpose behind our “laborious days, [our] cares of office, [our] restless nights” (Eccles 2:23). Ultimately, these too are vanity. Instead, we must reorient ourselves towards what is truly lasting—focusing our eyes on Christ and on our heavenly home. While work can be a means to serve God, work without Christ is fruitless and in vain.

In the Second Reading, St Paul offers a clear and urgent instruction on how to treat our earthly impulses and redirect our purpose. He uses strong language: “[K]ill everything in

you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed” (Col 3:5). We are called instead to embrace the “true knowledge” (Col 3:10) that comes through Christ. By putting on the new self, made in the image of Christ, we are set free of distinctions and prejudices towards others: “There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything” (Col 3:11). This challenges us to ask: Have we truly stripped off our old selves — obsessed with appearances and trapped in earthly ways? Or do we still cling to our earthly weaknesses, excusing them as simply part of our fallen human nature? As we go about our lives today, let us courageously resolve to die to self and to live solely for Christ, rising to become the people he is calling us to be.

Likewise, in the Gospel, Jesus warns us to “guard against avarice of any kind” (Lk 12:15), reminding us that true security is not found in our possessions or achievements. He shares the parable of a rich man who, after amassing great wealth (“good harvest”), believed that he could finally rest in comfort. This parable is perhaps the most condemnatory of all the parables; nowhere else in the Gospels is anyone outrightly called a “Fool!”. Jesus makes clear that such self-reliance and greed do not prepare us for eternal life. This same truth is echoed in the Catechism, which “forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power” (CCC 2536). Instead of clinging to earthly wealth, we are invited to store up heavenly treasures—using this life to prepare for the life to come.

As we reflect on our own lives, our obsession with possessions and the stress we place on ourselves to make more money, we must awaken from this blind stupor. We need to



***“There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything”***  
**(COL 3:11)**

realise that centering our lives and talents on Christ is the better, freer path. Without Christ, all is vanity. In the light of Christ, all things take on new meaning, and we can truly live with hope, joy, and purpose as we look forward to our heavenly home. We should ask ourselves: When was the last time we used our gifts, possessions, or work for the glory of God? Or to further the mission of the Church or to uplift a fallen brother or sister?

This week's readings call us to a deep re-examination of our motives and our purpose in life. Our true security lies in being loved and known by God. From this foundation, we can move forward in the light of Christ—toward true knowledge, peace, and everlasting joy.

## 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)

### FAULTY CHURCH PEWS?

Spot any faulty or damaged pews in church? Scan the QR code to share with us at [tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport](https://tinyurl.com/SFXFacilityReport).



### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE & NATIONAL DAY MASS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed on **Sat 9 Aug (National Day)**. Please note the following Mass timings:

- 10am (Ordination Mass)
- 5.30pm (Sunset Mass)

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Bible Apostolate Team (BAT) Ministry will be serving breakfast this Sunday at JPPII Hall. Besides the usual favourites, come by and enjoy chicken sandwiches, lemongrass jelly and lemon/ chempedak/ lavender cakes.

### CHARISMATIC

The next Charismatic Prayer Meeting is on **Mon 4 Aug, 8pm - 9.30pm** at the Auditorium. There will be Praise & Worship followed by Praying Over. All are welcome!

### INTERCESSORY

Join us on **Mon 4 Aug, 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.



### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (DAY OF OBLIGATION)

**Thu 14 Aug (Vigil):**  
6.30pm

**Fri 15 Aug:** 6.30am,  
6.30pm, 8.30pm



### BLESSED SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARIES TO FR BENEDICT & FR DAVID!

On Friday, 8 August, we joyfully mark two significant milestones: Fr. Ben's 12 years and Fr. Garcia's 32 years of dedicated priestly service.

We're grateful for their selfless ministry, through which we encounter God's presence in the Sacraments. As we celebrate their Sacerdotal Anniversaries, let's pray for their continued strength, wisdom, and deepening faith. May their love for Jesus continue to burn brightly. *Ad multos annos*, dear Fathers! May God bless them abundantly.



### MY PERSONAL COMPASS: CHRISTIAN MORALITY BY FR DAVID GARCIA, OP

Does God exist? Why does evil exist? Does morality come from God? Do Christians have a separate ethical system? Why do we pray? After introducing the foundation of morality earlier this year, My Personal Compass now returns to explore the relationship between morality and grace. Join us to find out whether non-Christians and Christians should have different morals! For enquiries, please email Caritas Singapore at [formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:formation.cst@caritas-singapore.org).

**Dates:** 28 Aug - 25 Sep (Every Thursday)

**Time:** 8pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Caritas Agape Village, Multi-purpose room (Level 3)

**Register:** [www.bit.ly/compassaug25](http://www.bit.ly/compassaug25)



### CARITAS SINGAPORE: WALK WITH CARITAS FAMILY

Caritas Singapore invites all to take part in a simple but powerful act: to walk — for children and families, for seniors, for mental wellness, for disability inclusion, for other communities in need, and for hope. With over 3,000 participants and Guest-of-Honour Minister Ong Ye Kung, this flagship event brings together more than 12 charitable organisations from the Caritas Singapore Family network, each serving some of the most vulnerable in our community. Every participant selects a cause to support. But all walk together, because a compassionate society does not leave behind members who are most in need. Beyond the walk, a vibrant community carnival and sustainability marketplace offer opportunities to connect, contribute and take action — building a more compassionate, inclusive Singapore, together.

**Date:** Sat 23 Aug

**Time:** 8am - 11am

**Venue:** The Meadow, Gardens by the Bay

**Register:** [www.caritas-singapore.org/walk-with-caritas-family](http://www.caritas-singapore.org/walk-with-caritas-family)



### SACERDOTAL ORDINATION OF DEACON TIMOTHY SOO

*"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother"*  
John 19:25

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
The ordination to the sacred order of priesthood of  
*Deacon Timothy Soo Zhi Ren*

MASS OF ORDINATION  
**9 Aug 2025, Saturday**  
10am, Church of St. Francis Xavier  
celebrated by His Eminence  
William Cardinal Goh

#### 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.**

**Livestream:** [youtube.com/@SFXChurchSG](https://youtube.com/@SFXChurchSG)

## CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE: DEVELOPING A DISCERNING HEART

A workshop to help leaders listen to God and to themselves, making choices out of an interior freedom and desire to do God's will. Learn how to recognise the movements of consolation and desolation, and develop greater intimacy with God through one's daily conversations with Him.

**Date & Time:** Sat 30 Aug, 9am - 5pm  
**Venue:** Kingsmead Centre  
**Cost:** \$25/pax  
**Register:** [www.catholicleader.sg](http://www.catholicleader.sg)



The theme for this year's Catechetical Awareness Weekend (CAW) is "A Community of Hope". In line with OFC's catechetical theme of the year "Embracing Hope", this year's CAW theme focuses on how the catechetical community exists as a beacon of hope in fostering faith formation.

In the first blessing "Urbi et Orbi" of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, he spoke about how we are called to "build bridges through dialogue, through encounter, uniting everyone to be one single people always in peace." Here are some testimonies from our catechists:



**N. Mario Rinaldi**  
 (L9 Catechist)

### Why be a catechist?

**Mario:** After serving as an altar server for over a decade, I started to ask God how I could make a greater impact in my parish. In 2023, while conversing with the L9 Catechists, they shared how tough it was to connect with the teens and them needing more help. That really stuck with me. It felt like God was nudging me, saying, "This is where I need you to be now." I've always loved the faith, and I realised that maybe it was time to start planting seeds in others the way others once planted them in me. Like what St. Josemaría Escrivá says "Do everything for love. That way there are no little things. Everything is Big". I may not have all the answers even today, but hopefully my walk with the teens will allow them to be inspired and I'm sure God will take care of the rest.

### What keeps you motivated?

**Mario:** Watching the teens encounter Christ in honest, sometimes unexpected ways reminds me of why this mission of ours matters. Preparing sessions has then also become a space where I grow. I don't just teach but I learn, reflect and rediscover my own faith. What makes it even more special is doing this alongside close friends like Rachel Chow and Sarah Chua. Serving with them reminds me that ministry isn't meant to be done alone but it's a shared journey, filled with laughter, prayer and real support. However, at the core of it all, is my love for God and for the Church. Every week, he calls me out of my comfort zone not to overwhelm me, but to stretch me, grow me and to remind me that I can trust him with the little I bring. And each time, he shows up, faithfully. St. Augustine of Hippo says, "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

### What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

**Mario:** One challenge we face is having so many good ideas that it's hard to settle on one. Everyone brings passion and creativity, which is a blessing but it can make decisions tricky. What helps me is prayer, open conversations and trusting that the Holy Spirit guides us. In the end, it's not about the "best" idea, but the one that helps the teens meet Christ most clearly to find him, the greatest human achievement.



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

#### FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

### IN THE MONTH OF JUL 2025

#### WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following couple:

1. Tan Yong Hao, Jeff Jr  
Jeremiah & Ho Li Yan, Melissa

#### CONDOLENCES

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

1. Andrew Soh Cheong Chee
2. Chua Gek Choo Mary

#### BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Benedict Pua Cheng Boo





**Rachel Anne Chow**  
(L9 Catechist)

## Why be a catechist?

**Rachel:** After serving at a retreat, I felt very exceptionally moved by the teens' encounter with the Lord and felt what joy it was to be a part of their journey. In faith, I'm always reminded to live a life that centres on God, as it is the only thing that can give me a true sense of purpose and true joy. Upon reflection, I felt a desire in my heart to do more than just give back only during the retreats that I always serve. I felt a call to journey and grow intentionally with teens while finding somewhere to strengthen my knowledge in the faith. Coincidentally, I heard there was a call for catechists and felt that this was a great place to serve the Lord, to spread His love that I received. Furthermore, it is to "pay forward" the love my catechists have given me through their service as they were the ones that kick-started my journey.

## What keeps you motivated?

**Rachel:** Seeing my co-catechists week after week coming back and planning sessions with so much fire and desire for the teens to encounter the Lord. Their love and heart of service for teens that they don't know always inspires me to be present and do better too. Furthermore, I recognise how I have grown thus far as a catechist. Catechism is now also a new form of community and kingdom friendship for me, which keeps me going.

## What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

**Rachel:** Juggling school and work. Weekends have been very precious and being committed to coming for catechism is always a challenge. I often have an internal struggle of being present during my weekend, in my tiredness. However, in this challenge I recognise that God is fully present through His truths. I recognise that I'm only human and it's normal to have limitations. The Lord doesn't expect me to be perfect and to overexert myself but to have faith in Him and His plans. Through my experience, I always feel the Lord is providing and giving me strength which is what keeps me going.

## Why be a catechist?

**Sarah:** Initially, I said 'yes' to being a catechist only because help was needed. But over the past 4 years, my love for this role has really grown and deepened. Catechism requires a lot of sacrifice and giving, but in turn I receive even more when I am preparing for lessons and doing my own research, getting to know the teens, and watching them grow in their own faith. I get to see God's love and mercy at work every week!



**Sarah Chua**  
(L7 Catechist)

## What keeps you motivated?

**Sarah:** Seeing the smiles on the teens' faces and chatting with them every week.

## What is one main challenge you face and how do you overcome it?

**Sarah:** One of the biggest struggles is meeting the teens where they're at. But I try to put myself in their shoes and think about how receptive and curious I was at their age and use that as my starting point.

## DISCERN YOUR CALL, BE A CATECHIST

Catechesis is not just about sacramental preparation for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation; it seeks to put the person not only in touch but in an intimate communion with Jesus Christ (Pope John Paul II on Catechesis in Our Time (CT), #5) so that as a disciple of Christ, one becomes more like Him (CT 20).

The role of the catechist, assistant, and facilitator then is as a 'steward of the mystery' (1 Cor 4:1), facilitating the candidate's encounter with Jesus and His Church as there is "only one Teacher, the Christ." (Mt 23:10)

Interested parishioners may pick up the registration form from Church and submit the completed form to the Parish Office. For further enquiries, contact Dan Lai at 9749 1635 or email [cat.ministry@sfxchurch.sg](mailto:cat.ministry@sfxchurch.sg).



Looking for more information?  
Visit [www.sfxchurch.sg](http://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 - 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](mailto:mmm@sfxchurch.sg)