

***IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ATTENDING MASS ***

Dear Friends of Holy Family,
To facilitate the increase in capacity for worship, Church of the Holy Family will be transiting to TraceTogether SafeEntry (TTSE) only. **We strongly encourage parishioners to download the TraceTogether App**, an app by MOH and GovTech, at <https://www.tracetgether.gov.sg> #SGUnited or to collect your Safe Entry token. This is in preparation for the phasing out of Safe Entry using Singpass and Camera QR Code scanner.

Do note that you will still need your NRIC / FIN card / other ID for MARS booking verification (for Mass) if you are using a token; whereas your NRIC barcode can be accessed if you are using the app. If you need any assistance, do approach someone from our team who will guide you as needed.

MASS TIME FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Please note the following timings:

Christmas Eve Thu 24 Dec 2020 – 6.30pm, 9.00pm & 11.59pm

Christmas Day Fri 25 Dec 2020 – 8.00 am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm , 4.00pm (Mand) & 5.30 pm.

Those who are registered with the Church of the Holy Family may book online for **only 1 mass**. Booking starts from Tue, 15 Dec 2020 at 3 pm at mycatholic.sg. If you are not currently registered and wish to be registered, please also visit mycatholic.sg to do so.

DONATIONS TO CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Parishioners who wish to continue their weekly donations may consider sending your cheque favouring **Church of the Holy Family**.

Alternatively you may also send via PayNow. Please enter **T08CC4048E** Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "**Church of The Holy Family**" and in the reference, type **Mass Collection**.

MASS OFFERINGS

You can make your mass offerings by:

Cash—drop your envelopes in the donation boxes in Church or at Parish Office

Cheque favouring Church of the Holy Family with the time, date of mass, intention and name(s)

Paynow T08CC4048E Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "Church of The Holy Family" and in the reference, type **Mass Offering**. Send a screenshot of the acknowledgement of transfer by email to chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg with time, date of mass, intention and name(s).

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Those seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation are requested to make an appointment by sending an email directly to: Fr Adrian Yeo (adrian.yeo@catholic.org.sg) or Fr Stanislaus Pang (stanislaus.pang@catholic.org.sg).



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Times

Weekdays:

6.30 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

8.30 am (Public Holidays)

Saturday Sunset Masses:

4.00 pm & 5.30pm (English)

Mandarin Mass

8.00 pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays)

Sunday Masses:

8.00, 9.30 & 11.00 am

5.30 pm

Columbarium

Infant Baptism

Weddings

Adoration Room

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Elders Catechism (Dialect)

Meditation Classes

Divine Mercy

Family Rosary

Family Eucharistic Adoration

Mon—Fri: 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Online booking only,

Please check with the Secretariat Office for dates.

Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance

Mon – Sat 7am to 10 pm , Sun | Public Holidays: 7am to 8.30pm

Every Saturday, 6pm Mass or Evening Prayer 7.30am Mass

Every Thursday, 1pm to 3pm Adoration Hall

Tuesdays/Thursday 9am to 11am Adoration Hall

Every Friday, 7am to 9am Adoration Hall

1st Saturday of month, 3.30—4pm @ Main Church

1st Saturday of every month, 4—5pm @ Adoration Room



PREPARE THE WAY



“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” In *Godspell*, John the Baptist announces blows his horns and announces his cousin’s coming. But Jesus is not an actor or a clown – he is the Christ, the Messiah, the one whom the prophets said would put all things back in order and the one who baptizes not just with water but with the Spirit of God. Like John, his cousin, Jesus planted the seeds of our salvation when the two met on Jordan’s bank. In God’s own good time, it comes to flower. For our world, the Lord is a patient gardener, and the gardener’s time is not ours. Thanks be to God! We are called to be ready for the harvest.

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020

– Year B

Sunday Missal Page No: 624

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 20 December

2 Sam 7:1-5 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:28-38

MESSAGE FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 2020

The theme of today the Third Sunday, is one of joy and happiness. The first word of the Entrance Antiphon is “Rejoice”, in Latin gaudete, so today is also known as “Gaudete Sunday”.

There is a relaxation of the penitential mood, a small opening to the coming celebrations. And you will notice that one of the candles lighting today on the Advent wreath is rose-coloured. This is an anticipation, like a “trailer” of the coming joy of Christmas.

This sentiment is repeated in the responsorial song: “*My soul rejoices in God my Saviour.*” These words and the whole of the canticle are from the great hymn that Mary sang when visiting her cousin Elizabeth. It is a hymn of liberation for the weak, the dispossessed, the marginalised, the hungry (in every sense of the word). The joy is because this promised liberation is going to become a reality through the coming of Jesus as Saviour and Liberator.

Good news for the poor

This liberation is also reflected in the First Reading from Isaiah. In Luke’s Gospel, when Jesus began his public ministry, he chose this passage to read in the synagogue of his home town. And it is clear that he applied it to himself. He told the people then that this reading was being realised as they were hearing it read to them by him.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.” Jesus is filled with the Spirit of God. The Lord has anointed him. The word Christ means “anointed one”; it is the Greek form of the Hebrew word ‘Messiah’.

And for what has Jesus been anointed? “To bring good news to the poor and afflicted, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, the opening of prison to those who are bound...” The coming of Jesus means all these things: it is certainly a matter of rejoicing. For us this is the real meaning of Christmas and that is why we celebrate.

Encouragement from Paul

So, in the same frame of mind, Paul writes to the Christians of Thessalonika in the Second Reading. What he tells them is very fitting advice as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus – in Bethlehem, at the end of time and in our daily life: “Rejoice always: pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances... Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything... May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

The theme of joy is not explicit in the Gospel but it is there under the surface. It speaks about John the Baptist. Compared to Jesus, his role is clearly secondary: “[John] came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness to the light.”

It is clear that the religious leaders in Jerusalem were puzzled as to John’s role and identity. To their questions, he denies that he is the Anointed One, the Christ, the expected Messiah. Nor is he the prophet Elijah, who was expected to return just before the coming of the Messiah.

They keep pressing him: “What do you say of yourself? Who are you really?” He replies: “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”

In that case they ask him, “If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah, why are you baptising?” “I

baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.” They must have found this reply very intriguing. Who could this Person be whose sandal straps John was not worthy to untie?

John’s role is plain: He is to clear the way for the coming of Jesus, who is the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. There is an air of expectation and excitement for Jesus to appear.

John – a model for us

What has this to say to us today? As we saw last week, John’s role is very similar to ours. On the one hand, we come after Jesus and are the beneficiaries of his being among us, sharers in the life he has brought. On the other hand, it is our role to go before him, clearing the way so that he may come into the lives of other people. This is our apostolic, our evangelising responsibility.

Like John, we are not the Light but we are called, by our baptism, to bear witness to the Light by all we say and do. To be honest, could we say that that is really an accurate description of our daily life?

So let us hear asked of ourselves the questions the religious leaders put to John: “What do you say of yourself?” Who are you really? What is your role in life? This is not a question about your career or what you spend most of your time doing. What is my ultimate role? Why do I do the things that I do? Is it just a question of money or of being busy and active? John the Baptist knew the answer to that question. How many of us do?

So, as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, we might look into ourselves and find the answer to that question: “Who are you? What do you say of yourself?” It is better to answer that question now than at the very end of one’s life. Then it will be too late.

Now is a time for us to count our blessings. And what better way to express our thanks for those blessings than by joyfully using them for the benefit of others? “Let your light shine before others that they may SEE your good works and come to praise our Father in heaven.”

- Living Space

COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium is open on **Mondays to Fridays, 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm and Saturdays 9.30am—12.30pm**. Entry will be restricted to a maximum of 5 per group. Please book online minimum **48 hours in advance** via this link: <http://calendly.com/holyfamilysg/columbarium>.

THRIFT SHOP

Due to upcoming renovation of Emmaus House, the Thrift Shop will be closed indefinitely. **Please do not leave your pre-loved items in the Church compound.**

GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS.

Next weekend, 19/20 December, being the 3rd weekend of the month, there will be a call for contributions for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge. You can also give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). More info at catholicfoundation.sg.