



# CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

6 Chapel Road Singapore 429509 Tel: 6344 0046 Fax: 6348 0552

## MESSAGE

My Dear Parishioners, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

I write to let you all know that I, together with Fr Stanley and Fr Alphonsus, am praying for you in this terrible time of Covid-19. We miss being with you all at the Eucharistic celebrations and at the various parish activities. I never imagined that I would ever miss you all so much. The most painful is that we are not able to meet personally as a community for worship and fellowship. But we need to go through this pain for the common good of our church and society at large.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we are indeed in difficult times emotionally and physically. But we must not let this difficult situation get us down. This is a good opportunity for us to act as faithful and loving disciples of Christ and staunch and ardent Catholics.

There is much that we can do. We can offer help to one another, especially those most in need. It is a time where we can reflect on our spiritual life to lift our spirits in prayer and reading and reflecting on the Word of God. In this special time of Lent, we can do our Lenten Reflections personally and with our families. Please make use of the Booklets "Communion in Growth" we gave you. We have also posted on our parish website an online Lenten Retreat entitled "Living Water" which I hope and pray will be really beneficial to you and your family this extraordinary Lent. Our catechists are doing their best to reach out to our children through online catechism sessions. This would be a wonderful opportunity for you parents to journey with your children in the development of their faith and in the building up of your own.

At the heart of our Catholic life is not the rituals, which can be dispensed with in certain circumstances. At the heart of our Catholic life is our personal relationship with Christ which can never be dispensed with. This is a good time for us to grow in our personal relationship with Christ. This virus is showing us the futility of a dependent relationship on material things. It is so transient and so easily destructible. Our relationship with Jesus is what will not destroy us. It will open to us the deeper meaning of life and living the wonderful way of Jesus, which not only can never be destroyed, but actually is the answer to deepest desires in our life. This gives the celebration of our rituals their true and deepest meaning.

While we may not be able to come together physically, we can come together spiritually during the online Masses and pray for each other and the community. I would also like to encourage all our families in the parish to pray every day as a family. Make time as a family for God. The family that prays together stays together.

I intend to communicate with you all regularly to share the word of God and spiritual reflections with you as well as keep you updated on what is going on in the Parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to address a number of issues regarding parish activities that are important during our unfortunate prevailing conditions due to Covid-19.

Suspension of Masses: All masses will continue to be suspended till further notice. This is throughout the Archdiocese in Singapore. We don't expect masses to resume for some time. The government has already advised that we should avoid gatherings of more than 250 people in order to stem the spread of infections. Please continue to follow the on-line masses on weekends and weekdays at [www.catholic.sg/mass](http://www.catholic.sg/mass).

Suspension of small group gatherings. As advised by the Archdiocese, we should avoid small group gatherings and Masses. As such, all ministries are asked not to have formal gatherings including meetings. This will also include NCC Masses. Many parishioners have enquired of the possibilities of NCC Masses. Unfortunately, such Masses will have a number of people attending and could lead to infections, so we will not have NCC Masses.

Penitential Service. Given the serious situation of the Covid-19 contagion and with the rising number of infections, His Grace, Archbishop William Goh has instructed all parishes to suspend Penitential Services in the Archdiocese. For more information please visit our Archdiocese website at [www.catholic.sg](http://www.catholic.sg)

Weddings and Funerals. Weddings and Funerals are allowed. However, parishioners requesting for these Masses must be responsible for temperature taking, contact tracing information and social distancing. Parishioners will also be required to keep the attendance at such Masses to a minimal in order to avoid large gatherings. Enquiries should be made at the Parish Office.

Donations to the Church. Weekend Mass collections have been a very meaningful way for our parishioners to contribute towards the welfare and well-being of the parish community and to contribute towards the funds required to run the parish including maintenance of the parish, payment of staff, procuring various supplies and equipment and utilities. With the suspension of Masses, these contributions have been greatly reduced. We have been circulating an info graphic to inform parishioners of how they can make donations to the church. If you have not seen this, you make your donations in these ways:

- a. By Cheque: Payable to "Church of The Holy Family". You can send by mail or drop off your cheque at the Parish Office.
- b. By Cash: Place your contribution in the Donation boxes at the church entrances or drop off at the Parish Office.
- c. By PayNow: Key in UEN: T08CC4048E. Enter Reference: Mass Collection

Donations to SSVP. The Society of St Vincent de Paul is also in need of donations. Please give generously in any of these ways:

- a. By Cheque: Payable to "Society of St Vincent de Paul Holy Family Conference. Mail to c/o Church of the Holy Family, 6 Chapel Road, Singapore 429509.
- b. By Cash: Please write on the envelope: Donation to SSVP. Please hand the envelope to Parish Office.
- c. By PayNow Donations: UEN Code: S61SS0149BNCS

God Bless.  
Fr Eugene Vaz