

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD—BLESSING OF CANDLES, 2ND FEBRUARY

If you wish to have your candles blessed, please bring them for blessing during mass.

LUNAR NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULES 2021

Eve of CNY: Thursday, 11 February 2021

3.00pm (Usual weekday Masses)

1st Day of CNY: Friday, 12 February January 2021

8.30am (E) , 10.00am(E) and 5.00pm (Mandarin)

Blessing and distribution of oranges during these masses on the 1st Day only

Saturday & Sunday, 13 & 14 February 2021

Normal weekend mass times

MASS OFFERINGS—3 WAYS

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).

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

There will be two masses on **Ash Wednesday (17th February) at 6.30pm and 8.00pm.**

For those unable to attend the two masses and would like to participate in the rite of imposition of ashes, you may collect sachets of holy water and ashes with a copy of the para-liturgy **from this weekend (30th January) onwards.**

Collection points will be East Coast and Chapel Road exits.

FRIDAYS IN LENT 2021

For each Friday in the season of Lent, there will be a combined worship event (2-in-1) of the Stations of the Cross and Mass at **7.30 pm**. To attend, please book online at my-catholic.sg

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**.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

6 CHAPEL ROAD SINGAPORE 429509 Tel: 6344 0046

Website: <http://www.holyfamily.org.sg>

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Adrian Yeo | ☎ 63440046 | ✉ adrian.yeo@catholic.org.sg

Asst. Priest: Rev Fr Stanislaus Pang | ☎ 63466240 | ✉ stanislaus.pang@catholic.org.sg

Asst. Priest: Rev Deacon Clement Chen | ☎ 63448468 | ✉ finance@catholic.org.sg

Seminarian: Bro Bernard Tng | ☎ 3440046 | ✉ bernard.tng@catholic.org.sg

Parish Media & Communications Office:

E: chf.comms@catholic.org.sg

Office Manager: Damian Boon

T: 63440046 ext 1002

E: chf.padmin@catholic.org.sg

Parish Office (Admin): Andrew Teo

T: 63440046 ext 1003

E: chf.officeadmin@catholic.org.sg

Parish Secretary: Julie Jam

T: 63440046 ext 1001

E: chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg

Parish Admin Asst: Raymond Ng

T: 63440046 ext 1001

E: chf.itadmin@catholic.org.sg

Catechetical / Columbarium Ofc: Jennifer Tan

T: 63440046 ext 1005

E: chf.catechist@catholic.org.sg / E: chf.columb@catholic.org.sg

Youth Co-Ordinator: E: chf.youth@catholic.org.sg

Little Shepherd Schoolhouse: Linda Wah

T: 64404344

E: lss-cohf.principal@catholicpreschool.edu.sg

Website: <http://www.holyfamilykindergarten.com/>

Katong Catholic Book Centre: Bob Cheong

E: katongcatholic@gmail.com

T: 63451413

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 7.30am Mass

Every Thursday, 1pm to 2.30pm @ Junction Hall

Tuesdays/Thursdays 7.30pm

Every Friday, . . . Church

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

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

SUSPENDED



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018 – Year B

Sunday Missal Page No:

714

GOOD NEWS

Capernaum, hometown of Simon and Andrew, became Jesus' home base too. On the Sabbath, he went out to the synagogue to teach with authority over physical and spiritual evils. He dramatically cast out devils, curing Simon's mother-in-law and healing many other sick people. Jesus went about the messianic work. That labour came to fruition as he cast out death itself in his Passover to resurrection. Bolstered by prayer, Jesus single-mindedly set out to spread the good news. How do we join him?

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 7 February

Job 7:-4, 6-7 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 Mk 1:29-39

MESSAGE FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, 31 JANUARY, YEAR B, 2021

A day in the life...

Today's passage from Mark is really the beginning of a busy day (and night) for Jesus in which are contained, one might say, all the main characteristics of his public life. He joins in public worship, he teaches, he heals, he drives out evil spirits – and he prays privately. There is also the astounded reaction of the ordinary people.

This first reported day in Jesus' public life is a Sabbath day. And we find Jesus with his fellow townsmen in the synagogue. It is important for us to realise that Jesus was a practising Jew and he normally observed the requirements of the Jewish faith, as did his disciples even after the resurrection. He never criticised that faith. What he did criticise were what he saw as distortions, hypocrisies and other corrupting elements. Jesus' message is, as he says himself in Matthew, not an abrogation of the Jewish faith but carrying it to its logical fulfilment (Matthew 5:17).

In the synagogue

The synagogue service was basically a Scripture and prayer service. There was no sacrifice; that was confined to one place, the Temple in Jerusalem. Most Jews very seldom went to the Temple for the simple reason that, for most of them, it was too far away. We see Jesus apparently going there about once a year or, like his compatriots, for some of the major feasts.

However, on every Sabbath (Saturday to us) they went to their local synagogue for common worship and prayer. The service was simple: some prayers, reading from the Scripture (the Hebrew or Old Testament, of course) and someone preached. There were no formal clergy or priests in the synagogue. (Again, these were confined to the Temple; John the Baptist's father was one of them. It is only when Jesus goes to Jerusalem that he comes in confrontation with them. They are not to be confused with either the Pharisees or the Scribes.)

In the synagogue, then, anyone could be invited to get up and preach. On this particular Sabbath day, Jesus was invited. Perhaps he already had a name as a speaker. In any case, as soon as he opens his mouth the people feel immediately that here is someone who is different.

When the Scribes, the experts in the Law, preached, they were primarily explaining the given meaning of the Jewish Law in the sacred books. But when Jesus spoke it was with 'authority.' Somehow the people realised that he was not giving out someone else's teaching. He was giving out his own. As we hear it in Matthew's gospel: "You have heard it said ... but I say..."

A man possessed

But Jesus not only spoke with authority. He also acted with authority. Right there as he spoke there was a man with an 'evil spirit.' We need to remember that in the time of Jesus, people believed that the world was full of spirits – some good, some bad. They were everywhere and could attack people in all kinds of ways. You could even ask that evil spirits attack other people, for instance, people you wanted to take revenge on.

This is by no means a thing of the past. Such beliefs are still very much alive in many parts of the world, not least in parts of Southeast Asia.

In the time of Jesus, if any person was sick, or acted in an 'abnormal' way, they were said to have an evil spirit. It was natural to think that people such as epileptics, spastics, mentally disturbed people were the victims of some force that had invaded their bodies. Because of the spirit, people seemed to lose control of their speech and movements. The spirit had taken over. Were these evil spirits real? It is difficult to say. Obviously, some would have a simple medical diagnosis today. But one does meet people in some parts of the world who are convinced that

there are forms of possession. The point is that they were healed, made whole again, by Jesus and liberated from their affliction.

The evil spirits of our own day

That there are evil forces in our world today is difficult to deny. Some of the appalling sufferings that people are made to endure by the inhuman behaviour of individuals and groups are hard to explain otherwise. And, while we often look on helpless, somehow we are part of it ourselves. What is important is that, in the time of Jesus, people really believed in the existence of all kinds of forces. These forces were the source of great and even paralysing fears. What Jesus does is to liberate people from their fears. It was not the evil spirit that was the problem so much as the victim's fear of that spirit. It is not objective reality that limits our freedom and effectiveness but the way it is seen by us.

Jesus shows no fear in the face of the spirit in the synagogue. "Be quiet! Come out of him!" The man is thrown into convulsions but he is free. And what is really important is that he feels free. What are our fears? What spirits are we afraid of? What are the things, the persons, the places which prevent us from doing what we really want to do, from being the person we really want to be? It is important that we identify our fears and that we see them within ourselves and not simply blame others for them. Once we recognise them within ourselves, we can ask Jesus to help us drop them. Let us put ourselves under his authority and he will liberate us.

Jesus, a man of authority

We can see here how powerfully Mark presents the impact that Jesus makes. His work of salvation has begun. The Kingdom of God is near when he acts like this. People experience the power. But what kind of power is it?

It is the power of authority. The word authority comes from a Latin verb *augere*, which means to make something increase. Its root can be found in words like 'authority,' 'author.' Its root is also found in the English verb 'to wax' (as the moon 'waxes' and wanes).

So real authority is not just, as we often interpret it, having power over people so that we can make them do what we want them to do. Genuine authority is the ability to enable people, to empower them. To enable them to transcend themselves, to grow as persons, to be more effective in the development and use of their innate gifts.

Authority as service

This is the kind of authority which Jesus wields. Jesus did not come to rule and control people. He came, he said, not to be served but to serve. He came, above all, to make people free. So that in their freedom, they could generate all the productive and growth energies within them and be alive with the life of God within them. He freed them from all the 'evil spirits' of fear, compulsions, narrow self-centredness, anger, resentment, hostility and violence which prevent people from truly enjoying the experience of being alive. "I have come that they may have life, life in abundance."

How sad it is then that so many people see being faithful to the Christian faith as a burden to be sloughed off so that they can be "free" of oppression and limitation. To what extent is the Church responsible for giving this image which is such a contradiction of the Gospel message?

So, let us all pray today that Jesus, with his growth-inducing authority will be a real source of liberation for us. May he free us from all those spirits which make us deaf, dumb, blind and lame in life – and paralysed by fear.

- Living Space