

CHANGE IN MASS TIMES FROM 1ST MAY 2021

From May, there will be adjustments to weekend mass times. This is due to the lengthening of masses as singing is now permitted. **Marked in bold are the masses with its timings adjusted.**
Saturday masses will be **3:45pm** and 5:30pm.
Sun masses will be **7:45am**, 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:30pm.

OPENING OF CHURCH FOR SILENT PRIVATE PRAYER & WORSHIP

The Church will be open for private prayer & worship as follows:

Tue, Wed & Fri - 4.30 pm to 5.45 pm and 7.15 pm to 10.00 pm

Sun - 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

For those who wish to attend, you will be allowed to enter the Church by the Chapel Road Entrance only if you have done your temperature screening and SafeEntry check-in via TraceTogether App or Token & sign in to the register. Please observe safe distancing during the prayer time and keep your masks on at all times.

In the event that the Church is in use for other activities during the prayer times, we seek your understanding that we will not be admitting any persons into Church during this block-out period.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): AN INVITATION

An invitation to non-Catholics: are you searching for meaning in your life, searching for God? Have you been thinking of joining the Catholic Church? You are invited to come and see what the Catholic Church teaches through a process called the RCIA. Through this process, you are guided and cared for as you are gradually introduced to Catholic belief and way of life. Calling baptised Catholics: help bring others to faith in Christ! Do you have friends you would like to introduce to the Catholic faith? Invite them to the RCIA in our parish. Live out your baptismal calling by serving as a sponsor in the RCIA to accompany and support others in their journey of faith. Make a difference in your own faith life and in the lives of others by registering as a sponsor. Training will be given.

The next RCIA journey begins on 2 June 2021. Registration forms for sponsors and inquirers are available in the parish office, or by request at chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg.

MAY MASS BOOKINGS

First booking for weekend mass & all weekday mass bookings in May will be from **Tuesday 27th April 3pm onwards.**

ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASSES

Wednesday 12th May at 6.30 pm

Thursday 13th May 2018 at 7.45am, 9.30am, 11.30am pm and 5.30 pm

Please visit mycatholic.sg to make your mass bookings from 27th April 3.00pm onwards



PENTECOST TRIDUUM 2021 (WED 19 MAY TO FRI 21 MAY)

We warmly welcome everyone to join our annual Pentecost Triduum on **Wed 19 May, Thu 20 May and Fri 21 May, from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm** nightly at Main Church. We will have a half hour of prayer at the start of each night followed by Mass. To attend, please login to mycatholic.sg and book the mass slot that you wish to attend. Bookings open from Tue, 27 April 2021 3 pm onwards.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Times

Weekdays:

6.30 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

9.00 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 & 11.30am & 5.30 pm

Columbarium Mon—Fri: 9.30am to 5.30pm and Sat: 9.30am to 4.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Online booking minimum 48 hours in advance via <http://calendly.com/holyfamilysg/columbarium>.

Infant Baptism 30th May, 25th July, 26th Sep and 28th Nov 2021, subject to change
Weddings Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance

~~ All other activities and events remain suspended ~~

A FUTURE UNKNOWN

Times past lead us toward a future unknown. By our baptism and confirmation into the risen Jesus, our future is with the Good Shepherd. We are God's children. We know this, but we do not know exactly what it means. "Now we see only in a foggy mirror." We do know that "we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is." We do know that only in Christ Jesus can we be saved. We know he sends the Holy Spirit to give us his grace. Maranatha! Come, Lord; come quickly!



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

April 25, 2021 – Year B
Sunday Missal Page No: 670

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 2 May

Ac 9:26-31 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8

MESSAGE FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY, 25TH APRIL, YEAR B, 2021

TODAY IS KNOWN AS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY because, in each year of the liturgical cycle on this 4th Sunday, the Gospel is always taken from the 10th chapter of John where Jesus speaks of himself as the "good shepherd".

In today's passage Jesus emphasises the self-sacrificing element in his own life: "The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." He contrasts the good shepherd who owns the sheep to someone who is simply hired to look after them. The hired man thinks primarily of his own welfare and, if he sees a wolf coming, he takes off, leaving the sheep to be attacked and scattered in fear and terror. Jesus, on the other hand, will not be like a hired person: "I lay down my life for my sheep." Perhaps he contrasts himself with those mercenary religious leaders among his own people – and to be found in every religious grouping – who do just what is expected of them but have no real commitment or sense of responsibility to those in their charge.

He knows his sheep

Secondly, the good shepherd knows his sheep and they know him. There is a mutual bond of love and intimacy. That love is compared to the deep mutual relationship that exists between Jesus and his Father. "My own know me just as the Father knows me." Again the hired man or the self-interested leader will not have such a relationship with his charges. The Second Reading speaks in similar terms when the author says, "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children, and that is what we are."

One shepherd and one flock

Thirdly, the good shepherd deeply desires that many other sheep should come to identify themselves with him. "There are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well." The ultimate goal is that "there will be only one flock, and one shepherd", that the whole world will be united together with its God and Lord. This is the meaning of the Kingdom which is at the heart of the Gospel message.

This is a goal which preoccupies us still today. There are still so many millions of people who have not yet heard the message of a loving God, a God who sent his only Son to die for them. They seek meaning and happiness in their lives by pursuing all kinds of other goals which inevitably turn to ashes: material abundance, status in the eyes of others, power over others, mistaking pleasure and hedonism for happiness...

In so doing, they reject Jesus the Good Shepherd. "Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us." This is something we must learn to accept as a fact, even if it is hard to understand and even harder to take.

No matter how closely we follow in the footsteps of our Shepherd, in fact, the more closely we follow him, the more likely it is that we will be rejected and even attacked. More tragic still, however, there are so many people who claim Christ as Lord, many of them very good and sincere people, who are often divided, even bitterly divided among themselves.

Here, more than anywhere is there a need for all to follow one Shepherd and form one flock. Otherwise how can we give witness to the love of Christ if that love is lacking among the servants of Jesus?

Lastly, there are those who, though incorporated through baptism into the Body of Christ, consistently behave in a way which totally distorts people's understanding of Christ and his call to discipleship, fulfilment and happiness. Probably, most of us have at one time or another failed in our call to give witness to the truth and love that is to be found in Christ.

Giving life willingly

Jesus emphasises that, in giving his life for his sheep, he is doing so of his own will. It is not just by force of circumstances. His death is to be the living proof that "the greatest love a person can show is to give one's life for one's friends". This is the proof that Jesus truly is a Good Shepherd. On the face of it and looked at with purely secular eyes, the life and mission of Jesus seemed an utter failure. Even Jesus' friends and admirers must have shaken their heads in sorrow as they saw him die on the cross. Jesus himself said "It is finished." But, for him, the words had a completely different meaning.

As Peter tells the assembled Jews in the Temple in today's First Reading, "This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved."

As Jesus himself says in the Gospel today, "I lay down my life of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again." And so it was. The Second Reading contains part of an address Peter gave in the Temple after he and John had cured a crippled beggar at the Temple's Beautiful Gate. The healing of the man in the name of the crucified Jesus through the agency of Peter and John is the proof that Jesus is risen and working among us.

Vocation

Lastly, all of this is intimately linked with the second theme of this Sunday. Not only is it Good Shepherd Sunday, it is also "**Vocations Sunday**". On this day we are especially asked first of all to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work of spreading the Gospel.

We know that at the present time there is a critical shortage of such leaders, at least in the traditional sense – priests and religious. But, while we may earnestly pray that our Church be supplied with the leaders it needs, there can be a tendency among us to pray that OTHERS may answer that call. We do not see ourselves as included. We may pray earnestly for more young people to offer themselves as priests and religious but clearly exclude our own children. But the problem is a wider one. We have for too long given a much too narrow meaning to the word 'vocation'. We tend to limit it to a calling to be a priest or a member of a religious institute. But, in fact, every single one of us has a vocation. For most of us, probably, it is what we are now doing be it as spouses, parents, teachers, doctors, civil servants, running a business, salespersons... or whatever.

Nevertheless, each one of us should be asking ourselves today:

Is what I am spending my energies on every day my real vocation?

Is this what God wants me to be doing with my life?

How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith?

What contribution am I offering to making this world a better place for people to live in?

To what extent am I a spreader of truth, of love, of justice, of freedom, of tolerance and acceptance...?

And, if I am in a position which would be difficult to change (as a spouse or parent or holding a particular job), how, within that situation, is God calling me to greater service of my Church and my community? Am I giving something through my life or am I just using society (and even the Church) to get what I want?

Where is God calling me to make my own unique contribution based on the particular talents God has given me?

~ Living Space