

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASSES

Wednesday 12th May at 6.30 pm

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

Please visit mycatholic.sg to make your mass bookings.



## 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. There will be 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.



## MASS RE-BOOKING EXERCISE ON 6 MAY 2021 FOR MASSES IN MAY AFFECTED BY STRICTER COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

Due to the stricter safety measures imposed by the Covid-19 Multi-ministry Taskforce, all Masses from 8-31 May 2021 will be limited to only 100 persons per Mass.

**Parishioners will be required to re-book their second weekend Mass, and any existing weekday Masses for the period of 8-31 May 2021, if they wish to do so.**

## 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](mailto:chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg).

## MAY SUNDAY ROSARY DEVOTION IN THE MONTH OF MARY

This May, to commemorate the month of Mary, the Legion of Mary will be organising Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament; ending with Benediction on Sundays. We invite you to join us to pray the Rosary and adore Our Lord! Additionally, you may place intentions into our boxes at the Church entrances/exits which will be placed in front of Our Lady during the Rosary.

Date/Time: **May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / 4pm to 4.45pm**

Register via <https://calendly.com/holyfamilysg/may-sunday-rosary> !



## GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS

Next weekend is the collection for the GIFT (Giving in Faith and Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Sign up for a monthly pledge, the most sustainable source of funding for the archdiocese, to support its organisations and projects. Or give regularly via PayNow to 201231391K (include name and mobile no. or email).



## 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:

3.45pm & 5.30pm (English)

#### Mandarin Mass

8.00 pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays)

#### Sunday Masses:

7.45am, 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 ~~



### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The assumption we can solve problems by violence can easily ruin us. Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and I remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (John 15:10-11). Violence and fear come from hate, but peace and joy come from love; they are fruits of God's spirit. We do not fear even disease because of Christ. After all, what would we have to lose?

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021 – Year B

Sunday Missal Page No: 677

### Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 16 May

Ac 1:15-17, 20-26    1 Jn 4:11-16    Jn 17:11-19

## **MESSAGE FOR SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 9TH MAY, YEAR B, 2021**

According to today's Second Reading the centre of all living is love. It is not only the centre of Christian living but needs to be at the centre of any kind of life.

Our Christian faith should not be just seen as a religion, something tacked on to an otherwise secular life which in most respects is the same as everyone else's. Our Christian faith is a vision of how a human life should be lived in fullness. It teaches us how to be a real person. And a person is only fully alive when full of love. Because such a person then reflects best the God who IS love.

### ***What is love?***

It would be well at this point to say what we mean here by the term "love". The Greek word that John uses in his gospel and in the three letters attributed to him is *agape*. C.S. Lewis once wrote in "The Four Loves" which he discusses four different ways of loving. The first of these is *eros*, which is physical love, the love of young lovers, the love of Romeo and Juliet. The second is *philia*, which in a way is the highest form of love. To experience such a relationship is one of the great blessings of life. The third love mentioned by Lewis is *prautes*, sometimes translated as 'gentleness' and, less happily' as 'meekness' (as in "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"). It suggests someone who is unassuming, undemanding and totally submissive to what God wants but also warm and caring.

Finally, *agape* describes a love which reaches out to others without expecting anything in return. Such is the love of God for his creation. God's loves is poured out in abundance on every single creature and it continues to flow out whether there is a response or not. This is the love which the father in the story of the Prodigal Son shows to the wayward son who has gone far away and wasted all his father's gifts on a debauched life. It may come as a shock to some to be told that the love of God for the Mother of Jesus and for the most immoral person you can think of is exactly the same! God is love; it is his very nature; he cannot not love. What then is the difference between Mary and some depraved person? It is in the response. Mary listened to Jesus. She said an unconditional 'Yes' to God at her annunciation and opened her heart to the *agape* of God.

It is that love of *agape* which we, too, are supposed to have. It is this love that enables us to love our enemies and want to be reconciled with them. To love them with *agape* is to want the very best for them, to want them to reform, to be changed, to be healed of hate and negativity.

### ***Where there is God, there is love***

Therefore, John says today, "Wherever there is love, there is God". He does not say, "Wherever there are Christians, there is God" or "Wherever there is a Christian church, there is God". But, wherever there is a person filled with real *agape*-love for others, God is there. That is the meaning of the parable of the Good Samaritan. He was called "good" not because he was a religious person but because he reached out in compassionate love for someone who was supposed to be his enemy. So we can find *agape*, and therefore God at work, in a Protestant, a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Muslim. Maybe that person has no religious faith at all. He or she may be an agnostic, an atheist, a communist.

Wherever in the world there is truth, compassion, justice, true freedom and peace, God is certainly there.

### ***What gives value to my life?***

Perhaps I have been baptised, perhaps my family is Catholic for a long time, perhaps I fervently go to Mass every Sunday, perhaps I carefully keep all the Ten Commandments, yet if I do not really love and reach out in solidarity to brothers and sisters, whoever they are and wherever they are, I do not have God's life in me. Paul put it well when writing to the Christians of Corinth: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Cor 13:1-3).

God loves me unconditionally but that love is not in me if I am not passing it on to others.

### ***One commandment***

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us just one commandment. He does not say, "Love Jesus or love God as I have loved you". No, he says, "If you want to be my disciple, then you must love one another, as I have loved you." If we do not love everyone unconditionally, then there is no other way I can claim to love Jesus. I need to love those God loves (with *agape*) and God loves every single person without exception, even the most wicked.

In one way, to be a Christian is terribly simple. I do not need to study in a university or an institute of theology. If I really love people as Jesus loves me, I will definitely graduate – with honours!

In practice, of course, it is not always so easy. We need to learn slowly how to love people unconditionally. It is more human to be loving than hating. Deep down, we all want to love people. We do not like to hate people and hating does terrible things to our minds and our bodies.

Yet, because of our past experiences, the influence of parents and other people around us, the pressures of our society and our traditions, we often do not know how to love, do not know how to forgive, do not know how to be reconciled.

### ***Love and commandments***

The love that Jesus speaks about is very different from the love in the songs, or the love on TV and the movies. Sometimes when we love, we will be very happy. But sometimes loving the poor, the sick, the criminal will not be very easy. If we have to look after a relative who is close to dying, it can be a very painful experience. But that is love.

Love is not a question of keeping rules and commandments. Love is a way of life. It is an internal attitude which influences every single thing we do and say and think.

The love of a Christian needs to be unconditional. Sometimes people will love us back; sometimes they will not. Sometimes, even though we want to love people, they may reject us. If they do reject us, we need not necessarily think that we have done wrong. When people cannot return genuine love, it is they who have the problem. Sad to say, not everyone is capable of loving. All the more reason why we need to reach out to them. People often learn to love by being loved.

The most important thing is that I am someone who really loves. When I genuinely love others, there will always be some who cannot love me back but there will be others who will really respond in love. And it may be that my love has empowered them to be loving too.

To be able to reach out in love and to experience being loved is God's greatest grace.