

GREETINGS FOR PENTECOST 2021

Fr Adrian, Fr Stanislaus, Dn Clement and Bro Bernard wish everyone a Blessed Pentecost. May you be filled with the Love, Peace and Joy of the Holy Spirit.



COVID-19 PHASE II (HEIGHTENED ALERT) 16TH MAY TO 13TH JUNE 2021

All Mass bookings for the month of June 2021 will begin on **Tuesday, 25 May 21 at 3pm**. The maximum capacity is 50 persons per Mass.

All bookings must be done via MyCatholic.sg and no walk-ins are allowed. All check-ins must strictly be done only via TraceTogether App /Token. Physical IDs must also be brought for verification

Also take note:

All physical ministry meetings are suspended. Please conduct your meetings online.

Catechism sessions (including Home Cat) will be conducted by Zoom only.

Private prayer time and rosary devotions are suspended.

Columbarium will be closed.

Infant Baptism sessions are also cancelled.

Wedding services are capped at 50 persons.

Funeral services are capped at 20 persons.

MASS OFFERINGS—3 WAYS

Cash—drop your envelopes in the donation boxes in Church or at 2nd Level Pastoral Centre.

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).

For those who wish to have your Mass Offerings printed for the upcoming masses from Saturday to Friday, please submit them by dropping it into Mass Offering Box at the Office, Pastoral Centre Level 2 latest by Friday 12 noon.

Mass Offerings placed into the black boxes at the Exit of the Church during the week will only be updated once a week on the following Monday for upcoming masses from Saturday to Friday.

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.



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

Weddings: Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance

~~ **All activities and events remain suspended** ~~



PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021 – Year B

Sunday Missal Page No:

690

HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit is coming! The Spirit is coming! "It's not new wine. We're drunk on God's presence" (cf. Acts 2:13). God is so overwhelming that we can only drop our jaws and marvel when we receive the Spirit. Christ Jesus "tuned down his Godness" (kenosis) so he could deal with us as equals (cf. Philippians 2:7). Today, the fiftieth part of Easter - Pentecost - all three persons of the Holy Trinity burst forth with love, rolling like fiery lava over creation and filling the faithful with the divine Spirit of life.

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 30 May

Deut 4:32-34, 39-40 Rom 8:14-17 Mt 28:16-20

MESSAGE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY , 23RD MAY, YEAR B, 2021

Today we celebrate what is often called the birthday of the Church. We also bring to completion our celebration of the Paschal Mystery – the suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and coming of the Spirit on Jesus' disciples. Although this 'mystery' is really one single reality, we have stretched its celebration over a period of more than seven weeks. That such a time frame is not to be too excessively emphasised as historical fact is indicated by the two very different accounts of the giving of the Spirit we have in the readings of today's Mass.

Full of symbols

Most of us are more familiar with the account given in the Acts of the Apostles which is the First Reading of today's Mass where the apostles are all gathered in one room at the time of the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which in the Jewish calendar traditionally falls 50 days after the Passover (or Easter in our Christian calendar).

What follows is a scene filled with scriptural symbols. First, there is the sound of a mighty wind from heaven filling the whole house. The word in Greek for 'spirit' and 'wind' is the same, so the wind clearly indicates the Spirit of God.

Then there appeared tongues of fire which rested on the head of each one present. Again we have a symbol of God's presence. We remember Moses speaking to God out of the bush which was on fire. We remember that, as the Israelites wandered through the desert, they were accompanied during the night by a pillar of fire – God was with them. All present are then filled with the Spirit. The sign of this presence is their ability to speak in different languages.

A message for all

Immediately, the apostles go out and begin to speak to the crowds of people. These people are amazed to hear men, who are clearly relatively unlettered people from the province of Galilee, speaking to them in so many languages.

The meaning is clear. What the apostles are preaching is a message destined for the whole world and not just for one people.

Full of fear

The Gospel today has a quite different account of the coming of the Spirit on the disciples. It is the evening of Easter Sunday and the disciples are in a room, with the doors firmly locked. As accomplices in the work of the executed criminal, Jesus, they are afraid they are next to be arrested. The authorities would surely want to nip this subversive group in the bud before it gets out of control. Fear and anxiety is the prevailing mood among them.

All of a sudden, Jesus is there in their midst. "Shalom, Peace with you" is his greeting. It is the normal Jewish greeting but it has a fuller significance here. Earlier, at the Last Supper, Jesus had promised that he would bring peace, a very special kind of peace, to his disciples. A peace they could not get anywhere else and a peace that no one and nothing could take away from them.

Now, he brings that peace to this highly fearful group: "Peace with you". Jesus then shows them the wounds in his hands and side. There can be no doubt: it is the crucified Jesus himself, risen from the dead. As their fear changes to an unspeakable joy, Jesus again wishes them peace.

Receiving a mission

And then he gives their mission: "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." Their mission is the same as his; they are to continue doing what he did.

Then he breathes on them. Breath symbolises life. In the creation story, God breathed over the waters. He also breathed on to the clay of the ground and formed the first human being. Today he breathes on his disciples and gives them a new life, making them a new creation, giving them the life of his Spirit, saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit." Then he goes on to say, "Those whose sins you forgive are forgiven..." This is no mere juridical authority in which people are declared free of guilt. It is much more than that. The disciples are being given the authority to bring people back to God, to reconcile those who have become separated from their God to renew their unity with the Beginning and the End of their lives. They also have the authority to decide which people are not yet ready for reconciliation.

Ultimate mission

This is ultimately the mission of the Church, to bring people to God. It is not primarily to make converts to Christianity or to build up the Church but to work with God in building the Kingdom. The Kingdom realised is the whole world acknowledging the lordship of God our Creator and people directing their lives to be one with him. This was the mission given by Jesus to his disciples and the same mission has been given to each one of us. So, as soon as a person becomes reconciled with God as Lord and Jesus as Saviour, that person in turn accepts the obligation to become in turn a reconciler of others.

Special gifts

So, today's Second Reading speaks of the gifts that the Spirit of God and Jesus gives to each one for this work. We are not all called to the same thing in the same way. "There are all sorts of service to be done but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them." On this feast of Pentecost, as we celebrate the formation and the mission of the whole Christian community, we also need to reflect on the particular role that God has for me, to reflect on the particular contribution that I can make to the corporate mission of the Church and of the particular group with which I am involved. ~ Living Space

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**.