

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

All mass 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 23rd June 2021. Registration forms for sponsors and inquirers are available in the parish office, or by request at chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg.

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE A PRIORITY!

Marriage is a project to be worked on together and a process of growth. Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia, no. 218, 221). Good marriages can always be made better! To deepen your couple relationship, do register your interest for a Marriage Encounter Weekend by contacting David & Clara @ 96705390 or email at mewkend@gmail.com



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** ~~



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 13, 2021 - Year B
Sunday Missal Page No:

737

HIDDEN POTENTIAL

The Kingdom of God may start small but, like the mighty oak hidden in an acorn, its potential is enormous. Christ plants the seed of the kingdom – God’s word – in our hearts. There, while we sleep and rise, day and night, it sprouts and grows, we know not how. “The Christian’s life is a life of faith, founded on the word of God and nourished by it.” Pope Benedict XVI tells us (General Audience, March 1 2006). Let us read and hear God’s word prayerfully each day and find nourishment in it, that his kingdom may grow within and among us.

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 20 June

Job 38:1, 8-11 2 Cor 5:14-17 Mk 4:35-41

MESSAGE FOR 11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, 13TH JUNE, YEAR B, 2021

TODAY'S MASS readings are about how God works — with us and without us. In another sense, we could say they remind us that God's work will be carried out whether we cooperate or not. If we choose not to cooperate, God's plans will not be frustrated but we ourselves will be the losers.

The Gospel consists of two parables which are quite different in meaning but which have a common theme in being connected with the growth of plants.

What is the Kingdom?

In the first parable Jesus tell us what the kingdom of God is like.

First of all, it is not a place. The Greek word *basileia* is an abstract word which means 'kingship' or 'reign' rather than 'kingdom'. 'Kingship' or 'reign' suggests power.

To belong to the kingdom or kingship of God, then, is to put oneself fully, consciously and deliberately under the power of God, to experience that power and be empowered by it. That power is above all the power of love. It is a creating, enfolding or embracing power, an encouraging power, a power that lifts up and enables us to be what we are called to be. It is not a coercive power which achieves its ends by threats, still less by violence.

Lord's Prayer

When we say in the Lord's Prayer, "Your Kingdom come", we are praying that people everywhere put themselves under this loving power of God.

And our first call as Christians is to belong to, to enter that Kingdom and not just to be a member of the Church. The Church is, in so far as it is faithful to the call of Christ, part of the Kingdom but the Kingdom extends far beyond the membership of the Church. The Church is, when it is being what it should be, the sacrament or visible sign of the Kingdom.

God works when we don't

In today's Gospel, Jesus is giving an image of that kingship or power of God at work. He compares it to the situation of a farmer planting seed on his land. "Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how he does not know." And Jesus goes on: "Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come."

The picture is clear: the building of the kingdom is God's work. It goes on whether we are working with it or not; whether we are aware of it or not. It will not be frustrated by any opposition or passivity on our part.

Failure

We can see evidence of that in the way that the Christian faith has survived over the past 2,000 years. Some people, some governments and other powerful agencies have done their utmost to obliterate Christianity from the area under their control. They have inevitably failed.

The reason is that the values that the Kingdom stands for (which are also the same

values that the Church stands for) are so totally in harmony with the nature of things and the deepest aspirations of the human person that no intervening force can neutralise them for any length of time. And this nature and these aspirations come, of course, from their origin and creator — God.

So, while the outcome of the kingdom is inevitable, it is important that each one of us identify fully with it. It is possible for the kingdom to be realised and for me to have chosen to stay outside, to adopt an anti-Kingdom position. This is basically to take both an anti-God and, which is ultimately the same thing, an anti-human position.

Tiny beginnings; big future

Jesus gives another image of the Kingdom. This time he compares it to a mustard seed. Here the image is not on the inevitability of growth but of how the Kingdom emerges from tiny beginnings. The tiny mustard seed grows into a very large shrub, so big that it can provide shelter for birds in its branches.

This is clearly a parable of encouragement. We need to remember that when these words were written the Church was still relatively small. It consisted of tiny communities scattered in cities, towns and villages all over the Mediterranean area. Without the communications media which we take for granted today they were to a large extent cut off from each other much of the time.

Persecution

In addition to that, they were often subject to savage persecution. It would be perfectly natural for them to wonder if they could survive into the future. They were like tiny mustards seeds. Yet, given time, this tiny seed will grow into a plant so large that birds can nest in it. That vision, given the adverse circumstances in which the Gospel was written, was an enormous vote of confidence in the Church and the future of the Kingdom. A similar image in the First Reading speaks of the seed growing into a mighty cedar.

Today's parable assures the readers of the Gospel that, like the mustard seed, they can grow. How surprised those early Christians would be to see the Church today! How the mustard seed has grown! Christians number well over one billion people today, a figure not even conceivable in olden times. The Gospel's confidence was not misplaced.

Apprehensive

It is important for us to remember all this when we feel somewhat apprehensive or pessimistic about the future of Christianity in certain parts of the world. There are a few things we need to remember:

- a. the Church thrives on persecution**
- b. the Church will never embrace the whole world; it is not the Kingdom but only a sign of the Kingdom.**
- c. Let us concentrate on cultivating our own little field and see the mustard grow there and God will take care of the rest.**

~ Living Space