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How Art Thee O Trinity

Solemnity of the
Most Holy Trinity
7 Jun 2020

Ex 34: 4b-6, 8-9
2 Cor 13: 11-13
Jn 3: 16-18

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is different from other feasts of Christianity. We are not just commemorating an event or something of God that was revealed. We are in fact rejoicing in God himself — who he is, the way he is, and the fact that we can know and love him. Just as we celebrate the life and being of a person on their birthday, today we celebrate the mystery of God the Trinity.

The word mystery sometimes misleads us to think of the Trinity as so profound that we should not try to grasp the concept of “three persons, one God” (cf CCC 253). Indeed, this teaching is particularly difficult to appreciate with our limited intellect. Since it is the foundation of all Christianity, we must at least ponder upon it in order to sincerely celebrate what it means for us as Christians. St Thomas Aquinas says that the Trinity cannot be known by reason alone; it must be accompanied by faith. It is the gift of faith which will ultimately help us to cross the chasm into genuine conviction. Yet, what reason can do is to show that it is not an inconceivable concept.

There are a great many complex terms and phrases that explain the Trinity, the unity of one God and the interrelationship between the three persons: consubstantial, *perichoresis*, “begotten not made” (cf Jn 1:18),

hypostases etc. Learning the concepts of these words can deepen our profession of the Creed at every Mass, as well as help us to better contemplate the Trinity. In a 2004 homily, then-Cardinal Ratzinger commented on Andrei Rublev’s icon, The Trinity: “the mystery of this event is made visible, presented as an event that can be contemplated in its many dimensions, thus the mystery as such is respected.” We may not be able to capture everything, but in the way that art is used to present a visual image for reflection, the teachings of the Magisterium similarly allow us to ruminate upon this mystery through ideas and description of what God is like.

In today’s Gospel, we read that “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes... might have eternal life.” (Jn 3:16). In one sentence alone, the relational and missional nature of God is declared. It is not enough for God to be self-absorbed in his own goodness and love. The intrinsic nature of love is always to go out of itself. Yet, it is not out of self-abandonment but rather a firm rootedness in complete self-knowledge. Bishop Robert Barron explains, “God is able to generate a perfect reproduction of his own being, possessing the mind, will, personality, freedom, power, love, simplicity of the Father.” When both the Father and the Son sees the utter perfection of goodness, beauty and truth in each other, the love that is necessarily breathed out is the Holy Spirit. Through the sacrifice of the Son, and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, humanity is drawn into divine communion with the Trinity. All of this is so that the world might be saved.” (Jn 3:17)

What then is the implication of this abstract understanding on our lives? The answer lies in the way we love. We manifest a sliver of God’s abounding love when we take the initiative to reach out

to others. This love must flow from a deep knowledge of our self-identity and the ability to see ourselves as God sees us. We join Jesus in his mission to show the Father’s love to the world when we embody his care, concern, worries, and desires for his people. The Trinity was first revealed at the baptism of Jesus at the River Jordan, where he was sent on his mission. It is no coincidence that we once again honour the Trinity after the fulfillment of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes down to empower us for our mission ahead.

Instead of excusing ourselves from engaging with an intellectually challenging teaching, perhaps it would be more satisfying to ponder on God’s desire for relationship and communion with us. In doing so, we learn to love others just as God loves us.



*To one who has faith, no
explanation is necessary.
To one without faith, no
explanation is possible.*

St Thomas Aquinas,
Summa Theologiae

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs

NEED SOME PRAYERS?

Feeling overwhelmed/stressed or anxious while coping with uncertainty during this period? Fret not! Our SFX Intercessory Prayer Ministry will be standing in the gap to intercede and offer up your prayer petitions at their weekly prayer sessions. You may submit your prayer request to www.sfxchurch.sg/intercessory-prayer. Rest assured that all prayer requests will be treated with the strictest confidence.

TEMPORARY ONLINE MASS OFFERINGS

Please submit your intention **1 WEEK** in advance. Please kindly wait for the Finance Department to contact you and provide you with a "Reference No", MO xxx (eg MO 001) before indicating the given referral number upon making payment via PayNow (T08CC4033J). These will be offered up during our priests' private masses.

SSVP: DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS IN NEED (FINS)

The poor and needy are still in need of financial assistance during this period of Covid-19. Please do give your generous support so that the SSVP can continue to aid their Friends in Need (FINS) with your donations. We thank you for your generosity. To find out more, visit ssvpsingapore.org.

MARKETING AND MEDIA MINISTRY (MMM): GRAPHIC DESIGNERS NEEDED

Do you have an eye for design? Are you creative and proficient in Adobe InDesign? If the answer is YES, we need you! SFX's Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is looking for graphic designers to help with the design of parish collaterals. If you would love to exercise your artistic talents, look no further! Contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg for more information.

MASS COLLECTION

Mass collections can be made via:

- 1. PayNow** - Launch Paynow service on your bank's app or online website. Select "**Send via Unique Entity Number (UEN)**" and enter "**T08CC4033J**". Proceed to check entity Name = **Church of St Francis Xavier**, then key in Amount. Lastly, key in Ref - **Mass Collection**.
- 2. Cheque** - Payable to **Church of St Francis Xavier**. Mail cheques to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.
- 3. Giro** - Download **Mass Collection Giro Form** via sfxchurch.sg/donate. Mail completed form to **63A Chartwell Drive, Singapore 558758**.

For more information, visit www.catholic.sg/offertory/.
Step-by-step guide: www.catholic.sg/transfer-funds-via-paynow/

RCIA AND RCIY 2020/2021: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Do you know of anyone who is interested in embarking on a journey of faith? Or perhaps someone who has felt a stirring in their heart and is seeking answers to questions, or even peace in their struggles? We encourage you to reach out to them and invite them to join us in RCIA and RCIY. Here are some details:

The **RCIA journey** (24 years and above) will begin every **Fri, 26 Jun*** from **7.30pm – 10pm**. Register at tinyurl.com/sfxrciasignup. For enquiries, email Angela at ast_goh@hotmail.com or call 9626 5960.

**RCIA sessions will be conducted every Friday via Zoom for now. Sessions will be moved to Tuesdays, 8pm – 10pm once Circuit Breaker restrictions are formally lifted.*

The **RCIY journey** (13 – 23 years old) will start **Sat 4 Jul^** from **4pm – 6pm**. Register at tinyurl.com/sfxrciysignup. For any enquiries do email rciy@sfxchurch.sg. There will be a "**Come and See**" session on **Sat 27 Jun, 4.30pm – 6pm**. Please contact Angela (9002 9977) or Mark (9751 3448) with your contact number and email for a Zoom invite to be sent.

^RCIY sessions will be conducted every Saturday via Zoom for now. Sessions will be moved to Sundays, 10.30am – 12.30pm once Circuit Breaker restrictions are formally lifted.

CALL FOR RCIA SPONSORS

Sponsors are needed to help, guide, support and encourage our inquirers for their entire RCIA journey. Training will be provided for Sponsors on **Fri 12 Jun** and **Sat 13 Jun**.

If you are a practising Catholic of at least three years, and feel a prompting in wanting to journey alongside someone who is seeking God, please register your interest by **Tue 9 Jun**. Do email secretariat@sfxchurch.sg or contact Angela at 9626 5960 or ast_goh@hotmail.com.

SFX CHARISMATIC (ONLINE): RIDING ON THE CURRENT OF GRACE

The next Charismatic service via Zoom is on **Mon 8 Jun, 8pm**. There will be praise and worship followed by a talk given by Jessica Francisco on 'Riding on the current of Grace'. All are welcome.



ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 885-6221-4241
Password: SFXCPG



ZOOM MEETING DETAILS
Meeting ID: 845-8298-0708
Password: 621310

SFX ONLINE DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY PRAYER

In this Month of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us come together as a parish community to pray the rosary together online via Zoom with our priest, Fr Ben. This online rosary prayer will be held on weekdays from **Mon 1 Jun - Tue 30 Jun** at **3pm** - we encourage you to log in by 2.45pm via <https://tinyurl.com/SFXWeekdayRosary>. Please note that recording of the prayer session is not allowed.

ONE: CHURCH, INTERRUPTED - BECOMING THE CHURCH FOR OUR TIME

An exciting new 6-part online faith formation series "Church, Interrupted - Becoming the Church for our Times" by the Office for the New Evangelisation (ONE). Be part of the conversation to uncover how we can live out our mission as the Body of Christ in this time of crisis for the sake of the Gospel. To get the most out of this experience, join the Church Interrupted Facebook Group [tinyurl.com/churchinterrupted](https://www.facebook.com/churchinterrupted) so that you can watch, reflect and be on a learning journey together with other believers. The first episode will be streamed 'LIVE' on **Sat 6 Jun, at 5pm**.

Together, let us as the Body of Christ take our positions and become the church for our times.



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

UNIVERSAL:

THE WAY OF THE HEART

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Online Retreat for Catechists

This year's catechetical retreat, organised by the Office for Catechesis (OFC), was held online for the first time and was facilitated by our sisters and brothers from the ICPE (Institute for World Evangelisation) mission. The 6-day online retreat centred on being called in the midst of the storm, and we reflected on the scripture passage from Mark 4:35 - 41 (Jesus calms the storm).

The online retreat had the following components:

- Daily morning prayer, taken from the Divine Office.
- Daily reflections, prayer exercise and journaling.
- Large group sessions on Days 1, 4 and 6, with breakout sessions for each parish community.

Some of the catechists who attended this retreat had the following insights.

Nicholas Thomas, L1 Catechist



As always, it was nice to come together as a catechetical community. This time, it was possible for close to 250 catechists from across parishes to come together because there were no space limitations. That said, there were challenges too, and while it took some effort to set aside time for prayer and reflection, it got better with each day.

What struck me most was how the Holy Spirit works, even as we experienced this retreat online. Some key highlights for me were:

Ignatian contemplation/Lectio Divina on the scripture passages from Mark 4:35 - 41 (Jesus calms the storm). This struck me deeply, and through the sharing, we realised that many of us may have different reactions to the storm whereas Jesus, despite the storm raging around him, was calm. Later, Fr Terence shared a quote, from an unknown source, with us - "Sometimes, God calms the storms. Sometimes, God lets the storm rage and calms his child".

Reflection on Jesus' commissioning from John 21:15 - 19 - a) Feed my lambs, b) Tend my sheep and c) Feed my sheep. This reflection spoke to the heart of being called to serve as a catechist, the role(s) that we play, and the aspirations we hoped for the candidates that we serve. As a collective SFX group, we also had deep conversations about this, which reaffirmed our calling to serve as catechists.

Breakout reflections as a parish catechetical community. These intimate smaller group conversations were the highlight of the retreat. The SFX catechetical community coming together, sharing our reflections, hopes/aspirations, and praying for one another. These were incredibly powerful and special moments, and ones when we deeply experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Overall, in spite of the retreat going online, it was a special time to reconnect and centre ourselves on the role of catechesis - "the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways" (GDC 105).



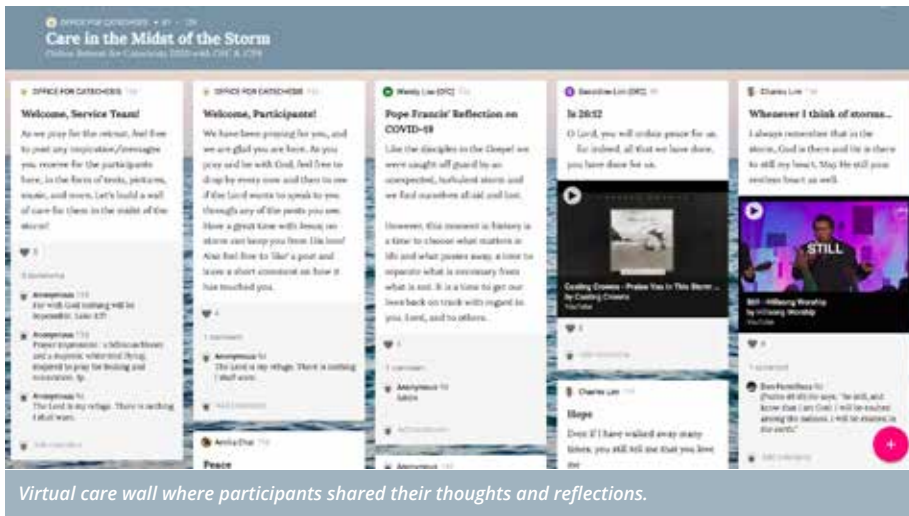


Michael Wong, L8 Catechist

How did I benefit from the online Catechists' Retreat? In the following ways:

The presenters were very knowledgeable in providing detailed insights of the scripture passages used. It gave me a whole new understanding and revelation of these biblical verses.

1. I especially found the **breakout sessions** inspiring as the participants trusted and shared authentically, which moved me. The praying over each other in this small community was both powerful and heartwarming as the Holy Spirit was indeed present and moving among us.
2. **Praise and worship** songs have always moved me spiritually and I was blessed to have experienced some new songs which were amazing prayers in song!
3. I believe such retreats not only help in my faith formation but also helps me **rediscover my mission**. I would urge more to make the time and join if possible.



Mary Gomez, L8 Catechist

I saw this retreat as a way to increase my knowledge and enhance my skills to better contribute towards catechism sessions. My biggest desire was to help the children grow closer to God and to see Him in every step of their journey through life.

The theme of the retreat was so apt, the storms in our lives and how we see Jesus through these storms. What amazed me as I reflected deeper was the sort of storms I was in. I initially thought I had just one storm that was affecting me but as I spent time in prayer and in the reflections provided by OFC, my tears flowed and flowed. I came to realise that all my storms were nothing to be afraid of as I clung onto Jesus, knowing that He will bring me ashore, safe and sound. It was a huge sense of relief that poured over me and I can't wait to share this with the children I catechise. I feel so blessed even though I was struggling with my lack of sleep due to my hectic work schedule. Yet I was able to rely on His strength to help pull me through the entire week. Thank you OFC and ICPE for their commitment and support in making this retreat so meaningful for everyone. My biggest takeaway is that no storm is ever too big for our God. Amen.

**IN THE
MONTH OF
MAY 2020**

CONDOLENCES

We offer our prayers to the families of the following who have returned to the Lord:

- Wong Po Leng, Pauline

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Suspended until further notice

WEEKDAY MASSES

Suspended until further notice

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Suspended until further notice

HOLY HOUR

Suspended until further notice

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Closed until further notice

ADORATION ROOM

Closed until further notice

LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

COLUMBARIUM

Closed until further notice

CANTEEN

Closed until further notice

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

INFANT BAPTISM



For more information, please contact the Parish Office for Baptism of Infants.

FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office and Church. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg