

DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 3	SS. PHILIP AND JAMES	1 Cor 15, 1-8; Jn 14, 6-14.	No Mass
Tue 4	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Ac 14, 19-28; Jn 14, 27-31a.	5:30 PM
Wed 5	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Ac 15, 1-6; Jn 15, 1-8.	5:30 PM
Thu 6	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Ac 15, 7-21; Jn 15, 9-11.	6:00 PM
Fri 7	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Ac 15, 22-31; Jn 15, 12-17.	Mass: 12:15 PM Holy Hour: 7:30 PM
Sat 8	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Ac 16, 1-10; Jn 15, 18-21.	Novena: 5:00 PM Mass: 5:30 PM
Sun 9	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Psalter Week II	Ac 10, 25-26. 34-35. 44-48; 1 Jn 4, 7-10. Jn 15, 9-17.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

2021-2022 RCIA Classes

If you know of friends or family members who are interested in becoming a Catholic please invite and accompany them to the RCIA classes.

Iban RCIA classes every Monday, from 7:30—9:30 PM.

Bahasa RCIA classes every Thursday, from 6:00 PM.

English RCIA classes every Monday, starting 10th May from 7:30—9:30 PM.

Chinese RCIA classes every Tuesday, starting 4th May, from 7:30—9:30 PM.



Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception

Newsletter

Vicariate website: rvbd.com



Issue 2021/18

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2nd May 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B

Reading I: Acts 9, 26-31;

Responsorial Psalm: 21, 26b-27. 28. 30ab. 30c-32.

Reading: 1 John 3, 18-24.

Gospel: John 15, 1-8.

Revised Roman Missal: 674; Bahasa: 597.



Reflection

The deep meaning of the allegory of the vine and the branches is the mystical union between Christ and believers. The trunk, branches, and fruit suggest many things to those who listened to Jesus. The stability of the trunk evokes the certainty of faith. Fruitfulness opens horizons for Christian hope.

1. The Paschal cycle ends and the risen Christ has left key messages today and the previous Sundays: He is the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep, is the master who teaches us the commandment of love, in which we are the branches that receive life and produce fruit if we are united to the vine. We cannot ignore the invitation to remain in the fold of Christ, and still less, become united to the vine which gives much fruit. The allegory is clearly a life of communion with Christ. Grace is communicated to us through the sacraments and gives fruits of holiness and apostolate if we remain united to God. In contrast the separation from Christ produces fruitlessness and death. "Without me you can do nothing."

2. The disease most prevalent in our day is loneliness, say psychologists. This is found mainly in countries of higher living standards. Many children suffer from loneliness because their parents are too busy doing other things. Many young people feel misunderstood. They are married living in solitude. Those living in communities of consecrated life can also live solitary lives, if they have not found friendship with Christ and vegetate unenthusiastically amid the turmoil of their occupations. The elderly especially suffer from loneliness, neglect, abandonment, and are considered a burden. These people have done much in their lives and now may be surrounded by everything but love.

3. The loneliness is unbearable for anyone who is surrounded by thousands of people who are unrelated and unknown. Our cities are home to multitudes of people we do not know. Among those that are known, few are real friends. The relationships are superficial and can be short-lived. The interior pain is externalized in depression and anxiety, which can bring more than one to suicide. Our sophisticated and technical world does not favor the deep relationships between people as such. When John says, "you remain in Christ!" he is asking us not only to live "as" or follow "behind", or that we live "as" or walk "with" him, but live "in" Him. Our program of life should be in communion with God. Certainly to "remain in" is not interpreted passively, but is a dynamic and compromising program. Sisters and brothers: God is the answer to the problem of loneliness. His knowledge of us is intimate, personal, and profound. He knows our weaknesses, needs and wishes, even before being displayed. I invite you to begin to live like the branch, together with the true vine which is Christ the Lord.

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Second Collection

The Second Collection today will be for the Emergency Relief Fund.

Sunday School and COM Classes (2nd May)

There is Sunday School and COM Classes today. Parents are reminded to drop their child at the Parish Hall gate so that they can register themselves in the Parish Hall before going to their class.

Breakfast Sales

There will be Breakfast Sales this morning in the Parish Hall after Mass. We hope to see you there.

Mass Cancellation (3rd May)

Please take note that the daily Mass tomorrow, Monday 3rd May is cancelled due to unavailability of Fr Robert. He has a Vicariate meeting in COLA.

RCIA Classes

The Bahasa and Iban RCIA classes has started. If you know of any adults who is interested to join the Catholic Church or is baptized but not yet receive the sacrament of Confirmation, please invite them to the RCIA classes. The English RCIA classes will start on 10th May while the Chinese RCIA will start on 3rd May.

Rosary during the month of May

Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it. Let us continue to implore God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear. The weekly Holy Hour during the month of May will include the Rosary prayer for the end to the covid-19 pandemic.

Adu Gayoh Mass (6th May)

The daily Mass on Thursday, 6th May at 6:00pm will be a special Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate Adu Gayoh.

Infant Baptism (8th May)

The next Infant Baptism is schedule for Saturday, 8th May at 2:00 PM. Parents are requested to register their child with the Parish Office as soon as possible. Parents and godparents are also to attend the pre-baptism instruction class on Wednesday, 5th May at 7:30 PM. There is a registration fee of \$20 per child.

Ascension of the Lord (13th May)

This Holy day of Obligation, commemorates Christ's Ascension into Heaven from Mount Olive 40 days after He rose from the dead (Mark 16:14-20). The Mass on this day is moved to 6:00 PM.

Novena to the Holy Spirit (14th May onward)

The 9-days Novena to the Holy Spirit will start on Friday, 14th May. The weekday Masses is at 5:30 PM, except on Friday, it is at 12:15 PM. Novena prayer will begin immediately after the Mass. The Novena prayer on Sunday 16th May will also start after the 5:30 PM Mass. Please note that there will be no Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on May 15th and 22nd.

Week 4

Not Just Personal

Last week, we saw that salvation is not without cost. We were "bought with a price" and made for communion with the Most Holy Trinity through Christ's Body, the Church. This week, we will explore the relationship between Christ and his Church and what it means for us and our salvation.



This week, go to FORMED and watch *Lectio: Salvation* Session 4

FORMED

formed.org/signup

The Bible Study is held every Thursday, 7:30—9:30 PM in the Conference Room (Fr McClorey). All are welcomed.

Prayer for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic

The prayer of the Holy Rosary may begin with the lighting of a few candles before the image of Our Lady.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in communion with the Holy Father following the example of the first Christian communities in this time of great trial, we lift up to the Lord through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, unceasing supplications for the end of the pandemic. Today, in particular, we wish to pray for May these candles, lit from the candle that burns before the image of Our Lady, may illuminate and transform this moment of darkness into an aurora of new light.

Recite the Rosary. At the end of the Rosary, after the singing of the Salve Regina and the recitation of the Litanies, address the following prayer to Our Lady:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.