



5 Love Languages on Mother's Day

In his book "The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate", Dr Gary Chapman lists the five love languages – words of affirmation, physical touch, acts of service, receiving gifts and spending quality time together.

One wonders how Dr Chapman arrived at his five love languages. Did he observe how couples interacted, or interviewed them? Did he base it on his own personal experiences? Or perhaps it was a combination of all of the above. Whatever methodology Dr Chapman used in deriving these five love languages, I believe this valuable and practical knowledge has helped countless couples, parents, family members, as well as friends to better appreciate and improve their interpersonal relationships. What is worth remembering is that the way you would like to receive the love language will be the way you express or show your love to another, according to Dr Chapman.

For example, if you feel that love should manifest more in deeds than in words, you will probably express love through your deeds, like doing household chores for your wife, as an expression of your love for her. On the other hand,

your wife may prefer kind words of affirmation from you rather than you doing household chores. Words of affirmation being her love language will be much more meaningful and memorable to her than acts of loving service.

In today's Gospel, Jesus expresses the love of the Father through these words of affirmation, **"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love."** More importantly, Jesus showed the depth of the Father's love by offering his life for us on the Cross, while we were still sinners. This act of love is beautifully captured in Jesus' commandment, **"Love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends."** And he concretely lived this one commandment of love by dying on the Cross for us, his friends.

This act of love can also be seen when family members offer their own vital organs, like liver, kidney, or bone marrow to another family member who is in need of a transplant. The self-giving of one to another is one of the highest acts of kindness and love shown to

another person. Parents, especially mothers, will never hesitate to do that for their children. Take a moment and reflect on this act of love given freely from one person to another. Will you do the same for a loved one in need? I believe you will, without any hesitation!

Turn your attention now to what happens at the Eucharistic celebration, where ordinary bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit, nothing more and nothing less. The Eucharist is the greatest of all the love languages, where the Son of God, Jesus Christ gives himself completely to us in the form of the consecrated host at Holy Communion, so that we who receive Him may have life and have it to the fullest. Jesus is offering not only words of affirmation in John's gospel today. He continues to give himself to us at every Eucharistic celebration, so that we may have eternal life.

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, I trust the five love languages may be helpful as you deliberate what to say, do or give to your beloved mother and grandmother. Do you know what the love language of your mother or grandmother is? If you don't,

now is the time to find out what really makes them happy, and what can bring smiles to their faces and joy to their hearts.

Last Sunday, when I went home in the late morning after Sunday Mass, I brought some lovely purple orchids for the home altar. When my mom, who is in her 80s saw them, she was so happy. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, she would regularly buy beautiful fresh flowers for the home after Sunday Mass. But due to the pandemic, she had to stay at home on Sunday instead of going to the market for her fresh flowers. Thus, for my mother, her love language is doing acts of service, besides words of affirmation and physical touch. Who says you can only have one love language? I think each one of us may have one primary love language, and perhaps one or even two secondary ones.

Finally, I would like to highlight these beautiful words of Jesus in today's gospel, **"You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last."** It is very reassuring to know that our faith is not only what we have chosen and committed ourselves to, since faith is also a free gift from God to us. God chose us through the grace of our baptism and confirmation. We in turn may express our gratitude to God for all the graces received by bearing spiritual fruits in our lives.

What are these spiritual fruits that we are expected to bring forth? They are acts of kindness, generosity and charity, words of loving affirmation, a gentle touch of love for those who need it most, and perhaps spending quality time with our loved ones, especially on this Mother's Day. So, let us express our sincere love and gratitude for our mothers and grandmothers through our loving words and actions towards them, for kindness to one's parents will never be forgotten by God!

FR CHARLES SIM, SJ

Covid-19 Updated Measures

Effective 8th - 31st May 2021 (unless otherwise stated)



Mass Capacity

Mass capacity for all weekend and weekday Masses will be reduced to **100 pax**.



Group Size

Reduced group size in pew seatings and groups (e.g. Columbarium visits) from **8 to 5 people** at any one time.



Compulsory TraceTogether

From **17 May**, all parishioners may **ONLY** use the **TraceTogether Token or App** to perform SafeEntry Check-ins.



Weddings

Capacity for Wedding Masses/ Services will be capped at **50 pax without pre-event testing (PET)** and at **100 pax with PET (for the couple, if not vaccinated)**.



Funerals

Capacity for funeral Masses will be reduced to **30 pax**. Columbarium visits remains capped at **30 pax** per session.



Religious Activities

Apart from Sacramental Events (e.g. Infant Baptism and Confessions), **all face-to-face meetings and sessions are to be moved online or suspended (if not possible) until further notice.**

For more details on the updated measures, please visit bit.ly/stigsCovid19measures

STAGE 3 MAY MASS BOOKINGS opens on **11 May at 3pm** via myCatholic.sg. Parishioners will be able to book **ONE additional weekend Mass** and up to **FIVE weekday Masses**, subject to availability.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASS TIMINGS

Wednesday 12 May, 7.00pm (Vigil Mass)
Thursday 13 May, 8.15am, 10.15am and 6.00pm

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will be **closed** on **Thursday, 13 May** as it is a public holiday (Hari Raya Puasa).

LIVESTREAM MASSES are available on the following days: Mondays - Fridays, 7.00pm.

Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm and 6.00pm. Please go to bit.ly/stigslivestream

AV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help operate the live streaming of the weekday evening Masses. Kindly contact David at davidrobertsaw39@gmail.com if you are interested in learning and are able to help.

SAFEENTRY GATEWAY

Parishioners are encouraged to check-in via the SafeEntry Gateway and have their **TraceTogether tokens** ready or have the **TraceTogether App** open on their mobile phones when they approach the registration desks. *Please continue to bring your NRIC/ Work Permit to verify your Mass booking.*

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMUNITY

Come join us as Fr Stanley Goh SJ leads us in a reflection on the importance of "stories"; how sharing stories of our experience of God in our lives, can be a gift to help others in their faith journeys. This Wednesday, 12 May at 8pm via Zoom. Email us at cpg.cosi@gmail.com for details.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available every **Wednesday, 6.00pm-6.30pm** and **Friday, 5.00pm-6.30pm**. Kindly call the parish office (Pauline/ Suzie) to make an appointment before coming down.

VISITING THE COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium is open for visits on Saturdays, 5.00pm-5.45pm; and Sundays, 9.00am-9.45am, 11.00am-11.45am, 1.00pm-1.45pm, and 5.00pm-5.45pm.

For May bookings, please book at bit.ly/stigscolumbariumMay2021

If you need help in booking, please call the church office at 6466 0625 (Pauline/Suzie). After office hours, WhatsApp/Telegram/SMS 9675 6621.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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

Fr Colin Tan, SJ Parish Priest * Fr Jerome Leon, SJ Assistant Parish Priest * Fr Ravi Michael Louis, SJ Assistant Parish Priest
Pauline Khoo Parish Administrator * Suzie Wee Parish Accountant * Gerard Robert Youth Coordinator * Natalie Ang Youth Coordinator * Susan Thian Catechetical Coordinator
David Saw Operations Manager * Steven Leong Facilities Manager * Therese Gian Sacristan * Chrestella Setiyadi Communications Manager

PayNow to 201231391K (include name and mobile no. or email). GIFT envelopes can be dropped into the Mass offering box. More info at catholicfoundation.sg

CATHOLIC200SG: PENTECOST 2021

Join us online as we prepare for Pentecost with a series of reflections by different speakers and Novena to the Holy Spirit from **14 to 22 May** culminating in our Pentecost celebration on **Sunday, 23 May**. All talks and prayers will be broadcast LIVE via Saccre's YouTube channel, Facebook and Instagram.

Visit catholic200.sg/event/pentecost-2021 for more details.

PENTECOST 2021
IGNITE THE FIRE IN OUR CHURCH
9 DAYS NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT // 14-22 MAY, 9AM
Praise & Worship, Talk and Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit
PENTECOST SUNDAY // 23 MAY, 10.30AM-2.30PM
Eucharistic Celebration: Archbishop William Goh
Praise & Worship
Talk & Prayers: Fr. Gino Henriques, CSsR

Fr. Henry Siew Day 1: Ignite Faith	Fr. Simon Pereira, CSsR Day 2: Ignite Love	Fr. Terence Kesavan Day 3: Ignite Zeal
Fr. Charlie Oasan, CICM Day 4: Fire to Transform	Fr. Colin Tan, SJ Day 5: Fire to Witness	Fr. Aiden Peter, OFM Day 6: Fire to Empower
Fr. Christopher Soh, SJ Day 7: Our Vibrant Church	Fr. Valerian Cheong Day 8: Our Evangelizing Church	Fr. Michael Arro, MEP Day 9: Our Missionary Church

Fr. Gino Henriques, CSsR
Pentecost Day: Ignite the Fire in Our Church
Archbishop William Goh
Eucharistic Celebration

CATHOLIC200SG IGNITE AND SHINE WITH FAITH
saccre ONE
LIVE Broadcast via: saccre.sg

PARISH NEWS

MAY MASS REBOOKING EXERCISE

Due to the reduced Mass capacity to 100 pax, **all previous weekday and weekend Mass bookings made before Thursday 6 May, for the 8th - 31st May will be voided.** Parishioners will need to re-book their Masses via myCatholic.sg if you haven't done so.

Mass timings remain the same as follows:

Weekday Morning Mass (50 pax):

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30am

Weekday Evening Mass (100 pax):

Mondays - Fridays, 7.00pm

Weekend Mass(100 pax): Saturday 4.30pm and 6.00pm
Sunday 8.15am, 10.15am, 12.15pm, 4.30pm and 6.00pm