

Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist

What is so special about John the Baptist that the Church designates this Sunday as a "Solemnity" in honour of his birth? All other saints have their feast day on the day of their "death" - which marks their birth into eternal life. But, John is special.

After some research I realised that he is one of two persons whose birth was announced by the angel, Gabriel (the other being Jesus). His birth into this world was for him to carry out his unique role and mission to herald the arrival of Jesus. If it was not for him, the coming of the Messiah would not have been so eagerly anticipated by the Jewish people.

If it was not for him, we would be totally unprepared to meet our Saviour. John preached prophetically and powerfully, calling the people to repent and turn away from sin. He paved the way in the hearts of the people to welcome the Messiah and to return to God.

John's conception and birth brought great joy to his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, who were both getting on in years. Elizabeth in particular was looked down upon by others because she was barren. Both of them, however, were righteous before God and lived blamelessly according to the commandments.

God blessed them and granted them a son who in turn sacrificed his life for God and humanity.

We have much to learn from John. His would not have been an easy childhood. Both his parents were elderly and he may have had to take on the responsibility of caring for them. I once encountered a teenager who was so shy of her own parents because they were "so old" in her eyes (they married late while in their 40s.) and were very protective over her. Even as he may have had to look after his aging parents, John knew his mission in life and steadfastly sought God by praying and fasting in the desert. The image we have of him is that of a wild man living in the wilderness. The wilderness became the place for his formation and preparation. There he was able to discern and discover his mission in life.

Through this celebration of the birth of John the Baptist, the Church shows us that:

- all things are possible with God who gives new life where none was ever expected;
- great blessings await those who remain faithful and live blameless lives;
- and, like John, we all need to go through a period of formation and preparation to learn what God is calling us to do in life.

Reflection by Ms Janet Lim

Novena notes

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Year B

24 June 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 24 June Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Is 49:1-6; Ac 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66,80 I thank you for the wonder of my being.
Mon, 25 June	2 Kgs 17:5-8,13-15,18; Mt 7:1-5 Hear us, O Lord, and help us.
Tue, 26 June	2 Kgs 19:9-11,14-21,31-35,36; Mt 7:6,12-14 God upholds his city for ever.
Wed, 27 June Our Mother of Perpetual Help	Is 7:10-17; Rev 12:1-6, 10; Jn 19:25-27 Help me, O Lord, in my distress.
Thu, 28 June Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky & Companions, Martyrs	Tim 2:8-13, 3:10-12; Mt 10:17-22 Those who lay down their life for the Lord's sake, will rise with the Lord.
Fri, 29 June SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles	Ac 12:1-11; 2 Tim 4:6-8,17-18; Mt 16:13-19 From all my terrors the Lord set me free.
Sat, 30 June Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli, Priest	Is 52:7-10; Jn 15:1-8 Come, let us sing to the Lord; it is he who saves us.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)
Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
Mandarin: 2.30pm
Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help – 27th June



Pope Pius IX commissioned the Redemptorists to spread the devotion to the icon, by saying: “Make her known throughout the world.”

Our Mother of Perpetual Help was brought in solemn procession to the church of Sant’Alfonso. That was the beginning of the devotion, not only in Rome, but throughout the whole world, where Redemptorists never cease to preach the goodness and inspiration of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Till this present day, the miraculous icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help stands in the centre of the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome.

Novena Annual Procession

We will be having our Annual Novena Procession this year on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 at 6.00pm.

In preparation for the celebration, we will begin our special Saturday Novena on 7th July for nine weeks.

The Theme is CALLED TO LOVE.

We invite you to join us and help promote this celebration in Thanksgiving to God for the gift of Mary and to also thank and honour Mary as Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Confessionals For The Elderly And Wheelchair Bound

Two Confessionals are now available for the elderly and wheelchair bound. These are located on the left side of the Reconciliation Chapel. These are also available for all penitents, but PRIORITY is to be given to the elderly and those in wheelchairs.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Per side \$20,000
Full pew \$40,000

Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

Safety Checks

For our peace of mind and the safety of all, our Ministers of Hospitality will be carrying out a simple check of bags and bulky items being brought into the Church.

Please give them your full cooperation. Thank you.

Safety and Security in the Church

When the Church is full, please do not enter. For safety and security no standing along the aisles on Sundays and Days of Obligations. Thank you.

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

RCIA Chinese Programme

We are starting our new Chinese RCIA Programme on 7th July 2018 every Saturday from 3.15pm to 5.15pm. The application form can be obtained at the Church Office or you can download from www.novenachurch.com

Church Canteen

Please take note the canteen will be closed on 30th June 2018.