

A family fiesta for all at St Mary's

Inspired by Pope Francis' call to family love as a vocation and a path to holiness at the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) in June 2022, the Church of St Mary of the Angels (St Mary's) decided to do something different for its feast day celebrations this year. Instead of its usual Triduum and day-long fun fair, the parish team opted for a month-long celebration to encourage family bonding and community interaction.

From July 30 to Aug 27, the Family Fiesta: An Invitation to the Table of Plenty, saw more than 40 individual events organised by the various parish

offices and ministries. Thousands of parishioners and their friends of all ages and families came together to participate. The focus for each week's talks and activities centred around four themes: Let's Play, Let's Pray, Let's Learn and Let's Celebrate, culminating with the well-loved and electrifying parish *Kampung Night*.

During the parish feast day Mass of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula on Aug 2, assistant parish priest, Friar Esmond Chua, OFM explained that God's great generosity in grace and mercy is given freely to

all, regardless of our status or how much we do. "Learning from Mary, we are called to respond, live out and participate in God's will for our lives by growing in wisdom, humility and obedience," he said.

Parish priest, Friar Michael D'Cruz OFM, highlighted at the Family Fiesta closing Mass on Aug 27 that it was not about celebrating the end, but rather, the beginning of parish life, as it gradually returns to normalcy after the Covid-19 pandemic. Referring to Luke 14:12-14, where Jesus told the host of banquet to invite the poor and other

needy guests who would never be able to repay him, Friar Michael called on parishioners to remember that they are similarly invited to a heavenly banquet as guests who can never repay the grace and mercy given by God the host.

Thus, having received the love of God from the table of plenty, let us break away from our cliques and prejudices and work together as a family, concerned about and praying for one another.

Here are some highlights of St Mary's Family Fiesta. □



A St Mary's altar server crowns Our Lady with a floral wreath at the feast day Mass.



Inspired by Psalm 91:11 "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways", an Angel Mural was placed at the piazza for parishioners to hand-draw their Guardian Angels around Mary, Queen of Angels.



Parishioners went on guided walking tours to learn about World War II historical sites in the vicinity of St Mary's, including a visit to the former Ford factory site.

Photos: Luminaire Ministry.



To encourage community interaction, parishioners were treated to snacks and games at the piazza after Sunday Masses.



Undeterred by wet weather, parishioners remained in high spirits and enjoyed an evening of music, entertainment and food during *Kampung Night* on Aug 27.

Contributed by St Mary's Digital & Communications Office. Visit stmary.sg/familyfiesta for more snapshots of the month-long celebration.