



## Parish Priest Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of love, joy, and peace.

We opened our church for our faithful from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. It is already three weeks into new normal way of our church functioning for the Masses. We planned to meet and celebrate Masses with all precautions in place. All the precautions and safety measures are the main parts of the transition as the Church opened into a new normal. In the present situations as in most cases, it is personal responsibility, which is more important to prove that together we can overcome this situation/pandemic. Hence I request all the faithful to adhere to guidelines which are given. Often we hear a lot of resistance (as experts say it is due to Pandemic Fatigue), but since we know the circumstances well, we do understand, that all these guidelines are given for our safety and good health. After we come out of a crisis (or really not come out fully), there's a sense in us that wants to go back to normal. However, it is recommended to follow all the guidelines, for our own safety and the safety of others.



We came back with a resolve of faith and a spiritual resilience. ... My hope is that in the days to come, the Church is actually going to come back stronger. It is quite often proved that when a human person goes through tough time and situations, one knows that tough times do not last but they come to an end. However such times make us stronger to believe in an unseen power (of the Holy Spirit) which sustains our trust in God, who strengthens us. That is why I believe that Church is going to come back stronger.

In order to open the church we had to do a lot of work and even now we have to do a lot of work. There are certain things, which we were not doing earlier but now we do it. Take for example, registering for Mass. It is a very small work, we have tried to make it easy as much as possible but some take it as big burden and do not register. When you do it, you are helping us. There are some ushers who are working most of the days. They are playing a great role. Do you want to support us and support to make usher's work easy? Similarly there are some simple things when you do it, you make our work lighter. I am telling this because there are different ways we see and perceive a situation. There were some who knew our situation in this

pandemic and showed their concern and even supported us in various ways. We are very grateful to all for such tremendous concern and support.

You might have heard this old anecdote illustrating the difference between positive and negative thinking:

Two salesmen were sent by a British shoe manufacturer to Africa to survey and report back on market potential. The first salesman reported back, "There is no potential here - nobody wears shoes." The second salesman reported back, "There is massive potential here - nobody wears shoes."

We could explain this story in terms of seeing a situation's problems and disadvantages, instead of its opportunities and benefits. This simple story provides one of the best examples of how a single situation may be viewed in two quite different ways - negatively or positively. This emphasizes that two quite different interpretations are made of a single situation.

The Word of God tells us that, *"since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."* (Hebrews 12:1-2). It is necessary to

fix our eyes on Jesus as we journey on our way. He is the one who strengthens our faith.

During this pandemic we were able to live and practice our faith in different ways. However, we learnt a great truth that our strong faith in Jesus kept us safe and healthy. The more we fixed our eyes on Jesus, we felt stronger. We know now that we can develop ways of expressing our love for God which are not hindered by the traditions and rules found in established Church, e.g online/live streamed Masses, family prayers, Bible reading... Our witness to others will be free of these traditions and, therefore, will be simpler, clearer and more effective.



However, it is also very important that we should remain in touch with other members of our community. It is important that those who cannot come to church also should stay in touch with those who are coming to the church. It is not just to know

what and how about the church but to build our confidence and our spiritual strength from others and to prove that we are one. We must continue to be in touch with one another, learn from one another, encourage one another and build one another as one Body of Christ.

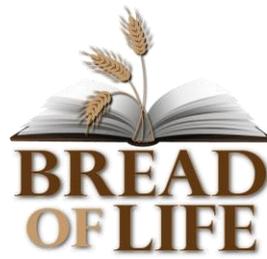
In order to be united strongly in Jesus we not only act as Body of Christ but as strong believers, we need that strength, which comes from Christ's Body, which we are privileged now to receive in the Eucharist. For a long time there were enquiries, when the church will reopen and people will be allowed to come for Mass. Now we have this opportunity and let us take time within our possibility to come and receive Body of Christ in the Eucharist.

As we have been observing for the last 3 weeks, the response from the faithful for Mass is increasing steadily. Let us come out of our shells/online practices of Mass to experience fullness of God's life by communing not only spiritually but in reality.

We planned online catechism classes due to the present situation. Of course by the time you have this message, we would have already begun the classes. I am thankful to all catechists, parents and children for your cooperation and support.

We are in October, the Marian month. Let us cultivate regular devotion and rosary of Mother Mary, especially during this month. Mother Mary will come to us and stay in our homes and protect & bless us with her Son Jesus.

**Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap**



**BREAD OF LIFE ISAIAH 55:1-3 / ROMANS 8:33, 37-39 / MATHEW 14: 13-21** We are constantly reminded that Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. That means that Jesus Christ is the only One who truly satisfies and strengthens us, and He does so forever. A meal

or a banquet in the Bible is frequently used as figure of deliverance or salvation by God. For instance, deliverance from slavery in Egypt, God instructed the Israelites to have the 'Passover Meal' (Exodus 12:1-48). Secondly, to strengthen them for the journey of salvation into the Promised Land, God gave them manna from Heaven (Exodus 16: 13-31). Many centuries later Prophet Isaiah would explain to the people of the imaginary joy of God's salvation with an sumptuous banquet (Isaiah 25:6). Much later, the Jews realized that it was not the physical food and drinks in the banquet but Isaiah was talking about God's deliverance and salvation for the people from Babylon returning to the Promised Land. Similarly, in the gospel reading of Jesus feeding the thousands was not of physical satisfaction but that of spiritual salvation. In the gospel of John 6:26-35, where Jesus tells the crowd that they have not understood the miraculous signs, he tells them that they should not work towards the food that spoils but food that endures eternal life, which the Son of man will give them, The Bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world, I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes will never be thirst (John 6: 26-35) In other words, physical food (bread) satisfies our hunger and gives us strength and joy, so Jesus Christ is our spiritual satisfaction, strength and joy. Moreover, Jesus gives us far more than we obtain from physical food. In the first place, physical food perishes, Jesus the Bread of Life lives forever. As physical food nourishes our bodies (which are short-lived). Jesus nourishes our souls (which is eternal). Moreover, physical food is no longer useful at our death, unlike Jesus who can feed us beyond the death. Jesus wants us to understand and believe that nothing else can truly satisfy us and give us everlasting joy except, He, Himself. Prayer: O God you have made us for yourself, and our souls are restless until they rest in you. Amen



**Bindu George**

## 5 Spiritual Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation

from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1303

**CHILD OF GOD**  
It roots us more deeply as children of God which makes us cry, "Abba, Father!"

**EFFECT 1**

**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
It unites us more firmly to our Savior Jesus Christ.

**EFFECT 2**

**CLOSER TO CHRIST**

**FULLY CATHOLIC**  
It renders our bond with the Catholic Church more perfect.

**EFFECT 3**

**DEFEND THE FAITH**  
It gives us a special strength to spread and defend the Faith as true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

**EFFECT 4**

**EFFECT 5**

**Do You Know ...**

### Holy Mass Live Stream

We are also live streaming on YouTube (to get the site please type on YouTube search:



("St Paul's Catholic Church Musaffah live streaming")

**We invite your Spiritual Messages, Articles & Special Activity Photos of Prayer Groups & Communities Please Contact Editorial Team OR Parish Office.**



Catechism Mandate  
2020-2021

### Church Events

1. Oct 1 St. Therese of Child Jesus
2. Oct 4 St. Francis of Assisi
3. Oct 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
4. Oct 18 Mission Sunday
5. Oct 25 Dedication of the Churches of the Vicariate
6. Oct 28 Ss. Simon & Jude, Apostles
7. Oct 29 Confirmation

## BIBLE QUIZ OCTOBER-2020

1. The Lord spoke to the Hebrews from the midst of what?
2. Why does the Lord chastise Israel as per Isaiah Chapter 1?
3. How many loaves of bread did the disciples have at Galilee?
4. Which tree did Jesus curse when he came from Bethany?
5. Who was the treasurer of King Cyrus?

### Bible Quiz Winners September 2020

1. Deron Lawrence - Grade 6
2. Tesia Lawrence - Grade 4
3. Alan Jinto-Grade 3
4. Vianna Albina Pinto-Grade 7
5. Joshua Aaron Rodrigues-Grade 4



Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before **1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**. OR Email:

[voiceofstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofstpauls@gmail.com)

**Parents, Encourage your children to participate in Voice of St. Paul's Monthly Bible Quiz.**

### KID'S CORNER

