



## Parish Priest Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of Love, Peace And Joy.

**SAINTS ARE MADE, NOT BORN!** As we begin this month with the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>), it is fitting to reflect on **life of holiness as a universal call to all Christians**. This feast calls us to respond to the vocation of holiness in this challenging world. Saints were ordinary people who lived in this corrupt world, they saw, passed through and conquered. They did not succumb to the sinful alloy situation of the world, rather they distinguished themselves solely for the sake of the kingdom of God and they made it. We too can be saints.



November 1st

Saints are not angels who have fallen from heaven, rather they are human beings made of flesh and blood, exposed to struggles and sufferings, weaknesses and failures like any one of us. They found a way to overcome these things, not by their own strength – no, they found a way to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, God's ways. It is a synergy, the co-working of the divine and the human, that the fullness of human life and salvation is found. They were outstanding in living a holy life of virtues which has merited them this honour. We don't have to do great things to become saints. When we live according to Gospel teachings, we become saints. St. Catherine of Siena rightly says: *"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."*

The saints are not born holy, they are made holy. To be more precise, they are self-made, with the help of God, or made by God in a way that involves long and intense individual efforts - a personal participation that makes the process a true self-transformation. We are called to live a good Christian and godly life.

What does it mean to be a good Christian and live a godly life? Being godly and balanced, challenges us to the right choice at every moment of decision. It challenges us to make intelligent and responsible decisions. Saints developed a second nature, a Christ like nature. A nature that begins when we are born anew and then mature as we grow up by using well practiced 'kingdom-behaviors'.

Our modern-day world is filled with temptation. It is filled with many influences that can steer us in the wrong direction and create pressures or desires that are not in line with living a godly and holy life. A saintly and godly life incorporates principles found in God's word with simple basic principles that act as a reminder of what we should focus on at any moment of decision

to lead a holy life.

### 7 steps to Holiness:

**Put God first:** God promises that when you put him first, you can accomplish everything you need to do. When you think about your plans, goals, desires and decisions you need to make, turn your thoughts toward God. What does He want for you? Think before saying or doing.

**Be humble:** If we seek praise and honors, we may find ourselves feeling empty and dissatisfied. We need to focus on being unselfish and thinking of others before ourselves. Greed, pride, jealousy, lust and hate all fight against us to be a better person and live in a more godly way. Be more focused on self-improvement, combined with a desire to love and lift others up. We don't need to compare ourselves to others and their successes.

The more you are attached to the world—and to defending your own pride—the heavier any cross will feel; the more you are detached from the world, through genuine humility, the lighter any cross will feel.

**Live modestly:** Lead a life that reflects a true connection and understanding of what we can and cannot afford. It's easy to get caught up in the material world we live in. We want more, the best version and the latest of everything. We spend money we don't have and wonder why we are still unhappy. It's better to live within your means and focus less on physical things and more on your spiritual happiness.



The famous Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, said, *"When ambition ends, happiness begins."* There is a noble ambition that works to achieve some great purpose. And there is the ambition which eats or breaks a person's heart - they want prestige, they want to be the centre of the world and they never will be.

**Clear out distractions:** When aspects of your life are out of balance, it can be more difficult to focus on living a godly life. You need to "clear out the clutter" in your life – so to speak – in order to strengthen your relationship with God. Make it a priority to eat a healthy, balanced diet, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep. God only gave you one body, and it's important to treat it with the respect it deserves.

**Avoid temptation:** God calls us to make the right choices and avoid temptations that are bad for our mind, body and spirit. Temptations come from all directions, some even disguised as good, so it is important to ask yourself frequently "would God approve of this". God is always there and listening and sees everything so there is no hiding things from Him. Someone told me, 'holiness is so simple. But until the mind has been cleansed

of all the filth of its anger and hostility and resentment, it can't see how simple everything is.

**Lean on friends and family:** Gather with family and friends for support and to share your values and faith. When you are struggling, you can use the strength of your relationships to help lift you up. Be there for others in your life when they need a shoulder to lean on or a helping hand. Having strong, healthy relationships with those around you is a key part of living a godly life.

**Help others:** Are you unsure about what God wants you to do? Volunteering is a great place to start. Helping others through kind and selfless acts can contribute to a more balanced and fulfilling life. It's not up to us to judge someone else's situation, but we can lend a hand to help them make it better. Even simple acts of kindness, like holding a door open or carrying a heavy load for someone, are great acts in the sight of God.

May Jesus' words strengthen us and fill us with courage to journey ahead on the road of holiness, *"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."* (Mt. 14:27).

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

## Church Events

1. Nov 1 All Saints Day
2. Nov 2 All Souls Day
3. Nov 4 First Holy Communion
4. Nov 5 First Holy Communion
5. Nov 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
6. Nov 15 Fr. Divakar Birthday
7. Nov 23 Fr. Varghese Priestly Ordination Day
8. Nov 22 Feast of Christ The King



### Holy Mass Registration Link

<https://massregistration.spc.sanjog.tech/>

### Holy Mass Live Stream



Holy Mass live streaming will be available on YouTube :  
Please type on YouTube search:  
("St Paul's Catholic Church Musaffah live streaming")

## BIBLE QUIZ NOVEMBER-2020

1. Who asked God to bless him and enlarge his territory?
2. What was the name of Samuel's father?
3. Who was chosen by the other eleven to replace Judas?
4. Who lied to the Holy Spirit and an apostle and died with her husband?
5. Whom did Jesus call the "generation of vipers"?

### Bible Quiz Winners October 2020

1. Deron Lawrence - Grade 6
2. Tesia Lawrence - 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> December 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.**



Mathews Davies.N



Moses Oscar -3B

### Do You Know ...

## Ringling the Bells: Why?



Sanctus bells derive their name from being rung first during the *Sanctus* ("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..."). They have been rung as part of the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Church for more than 800 years. The reason for ringing bells is to create a joyful noise to the Lord and signal those unable to attend Mass that something supernatural was taking place.

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

# St. Paul's Church, Musaffah

## Confirmation 2020

Confirmation 2020, was held in our Church on the 29<sup>th</sup> October during the 7:00 p.m. Holy Mass. Our beloved Bishop H.E. Paul Hinder came to our parish and confirmed 37 numbers of our young candidates. The Confirmation Ritual Consists of : Renewal of Baptismal Vows by the candidates, Laying of Hands by the Bishop and Anointing and Sealing the Candidates with the Chrism Oil. The Chrism Oil is specially prepared and blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass, which was held in the Holy Week. We grandly celebrated the Confirmation Day as our local Pentecost. Yes, friends, Confirmation Day is sometimes known as the Local Pentecost and it is not only a proud moment for the candidates and their families, but it is a celebrating moment for all of us in Parish Community, Vicariate and the Universal Church. It is the day the candidates after intense preparation for two years says "Yes" to the Holy Spirit, fully aware what it means to be followers of Christ. It is the day they make commitment to bring the reign of God not only in their lives but also in the world. As a result the full power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed on them. Thus what we celebrate in this sacrament is the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The effect of this Sacrament is the completion of the Baptismal grace and a call to be witness and defend our faith that is, call to be "Soldiers of Christ".

