



THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Volume 3

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May 2020

Parish Priest Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Peace and joy to you in the Risen Lord!

Referring to Covid-19, Many people are questioning, when will all this end? When will we go back to *normal*?

The answer might be that we won't and we really can't. This tough time and historical moment which we go through at present will change us in ways we can't control or even predict. How we act now, can and will shape and even determine who "we" will be when this current pandemic crisis begins to pass.



This is the time to learn about our ways, attitudes, and relationships. To make new all that is wrong, evil, and unjustifiable. This newness would prompt a resurrection in our hearts, minds, and life, reminding us that we will not go back to "normal". In a Post-COVID world, we must come together to choose decisions and actions that make things "new."

Easter was never meant to go back to normal; but was, and still is, intended **to make all things new**. It means the proclamation of release over suffering, hope over despair, and life over death.

We celebrated Holy Week in a truly unusual way. We heard **Crucified Christ on the cross on Good Friday** with outstretched hands saying to a world of coronavirus suffering, **"I am with you in your suffering."**

On Easter we saw in the Risen Jesus, life conquered death. This Paschal faith nourishes our hope. It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from evil and from this pandemic. It is a hope, which does not disappoint, rather instills in us newness for a new life in Christ.

The celebration of the Resurrection in this **Easter season** might say to us in this COVID-19 moment, "I can, and we can make these things that have been revealed — new". Two women rushed early that morning to the tomb and came back from the graveyard with the happy news that everything can be different now. The two Apostles ran wide-eyed into the empty tomb and ran out with joy and courage in their hearts. Two disciples walking in utter despair bumped into a stranger and as they realized it was Risen Christ, hope instilled again. The Easter Movement is with the message that all things are and can be made new.

During past few days as I spoke to several people about their Holy Week and Easter experiences, they were quite positive about the opportunity to participate in the live streamed Masses. Due to easy access to the internet, most people, including religious communities, relied on the Masses live-streamed on YouTube or television.

If we reflect this experience, it places us in a position to rely on the promise of Jesus - *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them"* (Mt 18:20). Every family or small community that came together to celebrate Paschal mystery or for family prayer called out to Him in faith, had the privileged experience of the Lord's presence in their midst. It was a unique way of experiencing the Paschal Mystery of Christ. This proved that the presence of the Lord is not confined within the premises of a church building. All through these days, we experienced that He makes Himself present to the faithful who seek Him anywhere.

Thus, as we continue to experience the coronavirus pandemic, **we must rely ever more on our faith to guide us. We reflect on God's word and prayer to help us navigate in these uncertain times. We need much hope and guidance these days.**

Our response to the coronavirus pandemic reveals who we truly are. I mean our response demonstrates **who we are, what we believe and what kind of society we are becoming**. As it is said, bad or dreadful times reveal our true values, priorities, and character as individuals and as a society. It can also deepen our faith as we may reflect on this line about Easter:

First, it is through the eyes of our faith that we can see reality as it is: God's faithfulness to his people. We may not be faithful, but He is always faithful to protect and guard us.

Second, it is our faith in the Risen Jesus that illuminates our path in these times of darkness and uncertainty. We know in our Catholic belief; faith is made possible in and through the Resurrection of Christ at Easter. Resurrection of Christ is a pinnacle moment, whereby uncertainty turns into certainty. "He is risen indeed." Because he is *"the resurrection and the life."* Jesus further said: *"whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* The question for us is: Do we really put our faith and trust in Jesus when facing the anxiety, stress, uncertainty, and

even fearful possibility of death in our lives? Do we really believe in the Resurrection? Or has our fearful human instinct taken hold of us?

In one of the homilies of Pope Francis at Santa Marta, he speaks about the fear in all of us during this pandemic: *"The fear of the elderly who are alone in nursing homes, or hospitals, or in their own homes, and don't know what will happen. The fear of those who do not have regular jobs... Each one knows what their own fears are. We pray to the Lord that He might help us to trust, and to tolerate and conquer these fears."*

Thirdly, it is with the eyes of faith in the Risen Jesus, that we are moved to action like Jesus when he sees the pain and suffering of others. Terrible times reveal our true values, priorities, and character as individuals and as a society. Our Catholic faith helps us to act to ensure the protection of human life and dignity of all and not to discriminate against anyone.

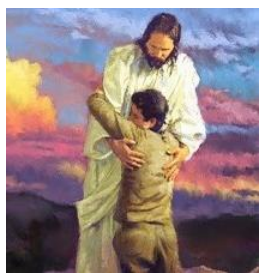
I encourage you to pray as a family using the liturgical readings, prayers, and hymns. We come together as a believing family to encounter the Lord present to us, His people wherever we are. As we are in the month of May dedicated to Mother Mary, let us have recourse to her through our family rosary and Mother Mary, we are sure, intercedes for us her children to Jesus, who will make all things new and raise us up.

I was deeply touched by this message I received, which we can ponder: *"When fishermen cannot go to sea, they repair their nets. Are you repairing yourself in this lockdown?"*

Wish you a Grace filled Easter Season and a Blessed Marian month.

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap.

WE *"An amazing creation of God"*



God, the almighty father has been described as very compassionate and loving God. His love and care for mankind is immeasurable, and this can be noted when we look at Genesis 1:27, "He created us in His own image and likeness. He took utmost care when He made Man".

Mankind was His best and most beloved creation; He gave us dominion over the whole earth and blessed us immensely as we read in Genesis 1:26. If we stop for a moment, and analyze about our own unique nature, we realize that - we are too late to praise and worship the Lord our creator. The above stated truth becomes more convincing, when we go through the words in Psalms 139:13 "You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb".

In God's infinite creativity there are no duplicates; 'you are the *only* you'. Each one of us has the potential to express all godlike capacities in unique way.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, it is impossible to fully understand the mystery behind our creation. It is not only the immortal body God created, He has given us His undying spirit and soul too. In John 4:24 we read "God is Spirit", and His Spirit in our human body makes us a perfect creation.

"The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1:2). Every human possesses spiritual aptitudes and capacities. We are more than the sum of our physical parts. Our spiritual nature, though unseen, is as real as our physical nature. Nurturing our spirit is as important as eating, drinking, and exercising are to our physical body. It is a fact that we, human beings are relational because God is relational. "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, it is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 2:18). The very essence of God is relational, and that essential quality has been imprinted on humans. This capacity for a relationship with God extends to humans, and that is why Genesis says that God created Eve for Adam because "it is not good for man to be alone." So, being in a fellowship is even more beautiful in the eyes of the Lord.

Jesus Christ, the son of God, God in human form, is the real example of God's love and affection. John 3:16. In short, the life of Jesus, from his birth till resurrection gives us the energy and power to encounter this challenging world. As we go on, we need to believe that, enough grace is entrusted in each one of us to remain faithful and powerful like Jesus [Luke 2:40]. Jesus says, the one who sees me, sees my father. The one who believes in me will do more things than I did.

Science teaches us that, there is no such thing called darkness, it is the absence of light and there is nothing called 'cold', it is the absence of heat. Likewise, we can say that death is, the absence of life.

John 17:3 tells us, "And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent" in God's image, likeness, spirit, and grace. Truly, Jesus is the eternal life. Let us therefore trust deeply in Jesus, His only son, the only true living God and understand our uniqueness in the identity of Jesus.



Sibi Augustine



Holy Mass Live Stream

We are live streaming on YouTube (to get the site please type on YouTube search: "St Paul's Catholic Church

Musaffah live streaming")

Please participate in live streaming as much as possible so that we can really devote our time for God .



Why A Woman Needs To Be Prayerful

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 7, Jesus looked at a huge funeral procession in Nain. The entire town seemed to be present. He observed the young men and women weeping. He observed the elders lamenting. He observed the fathers in tears. He observed the children crying. He observed the sadness on people's faces.



The Bible says that Jesus had compassion when He saw the mother and immediately raised her boy from death. (Luke 7:12-15). It was the cry of a mother that moved the Heart of God.

Even today, Mothers who cry before the Lord for their families, for their marriages, for their homes, move the Heart of God. When Mothers stop praying, their families and especially their children start to live a perishable life. Satan gets a foothold and starts to destroy the home, yet when a Mother returns to her rightful place as the anchor of the home, demonic stronghold gets demolished.

Reading Psalms 17, 36, 57, 63, and 91, we see God's role is like that of a Mother. As a Mother protects, upholds, and defends her children, so does God protect us under the shadow of His Wings. We find refuge there and can hide in His presence until the danger is over. A mother's role is so vital that a father cannot get his prayers answered if he dishonours / disrespects her (1 Peter 3:7). Because of this favour over mothers, they are also the most attacked persons in the home. The devil is terrified of Mothers. Yet the Lord has put inside a Mother, grace, and resilience to overcome any situation.

Today, as woman of the home, consider yourself blessed. Consider yourself highly favoured and consider yourself powerful in the Lord when you pray.

I invite all mothers to let other mothers also know about the special grace which God has bestowed them with and encourage them to keep praying for their families.

Jennifer Joe Adaikalam

Did you know?



God came down on Mt Sinai in **fire and cloud** (Ex 24: 15-17). This happened **50 days** after the **Paschal Lambs** in Egypt were slain. After the worship of the golden calf, **3,000 Israelites** were put to death by **Moses, the leader** of the people and the **12 tribes**.



Fifty days after the true **Lamb of God**, (Christ) was sacrificed, the **Holy Spirit** came down to the disciples in **tongues of fire** and a **mighty wind** (Acts 2:1-4). **Peter** led the **12 apostles**, and **3,000 converts** were baptised that day. (Acts 2:41).

Bible Quiz Winners April 2020

1. Tesia Lawrence - Grade 4 **Congratulations!**
2. Deron Lawrence - Grade 6



BIBLE QUIZ MAY-2020

1. Zion shall be redeemed by _____ and those in herself repent by _____.
2. Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it will no longer be called _____ or the valley of the son of Hinnom but the valley of Slaughter.
3. Name the son of Isaiah whom God told to accompany him when he visits King Ahaz?
4. The son of Hilkiah was called by the Lord as 'my servant'. What was his name?
5. Which is the last of the names in this prophecy about Messiah (three words): 'And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

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

voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

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

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

- May 1: St Joseph the Worker
- May 3: World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- May 10: Fr. Maxim - Priestly Ordination
- May 14: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
- May 15: Fr. Maxim's Birthday
- May 24: Ascension of the Lord
- May 29: Fr. Abraham's Birthday
- May 31: Pentecost

Church Events



10-May-2020

Rev.Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM Cap

Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary of your Priestly Ordination.
St. Paul's family celebrate with you and shall continue to pray to God for you.
Enjoy the day in a unique way.