



## Parish Priest Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings of love, joy, and peace.

We are going through an unprecedented time. We all might have had plans, at least some sketches, for March, for April, for May, for June, for summer holidays.... All our plans are changed, we are disappointed. What keeps us going is our **hope**.



What HOPE tells us as we reflect our present situation? What is the basis of our hope? It is the word of God which fills us with the hope we require to face our daily challenges, especially present-day challenges. Bible gives us hope in the words of Prophet Jeremiah: *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."* (Jer. 17:7-8).

We have heard well-meaning words from our dear ones or from our friends counselling us during difficult times. 'It's OK, things will get better soon, **this too shall pass...**' Such and similar words can give us encouragement, assurances & hope. God does tell us & gives us hope through His Word in our sufferings and hard times. We all face them at one point or another in life, and many of us may even find ourselves there right now.

Though we may lose faith, but God is always faithful. Often in difficult times we fail to recognize His hand or presence, but God never leaves us to fend for ourselves in difficult times. He promises to be with us in all our ups and downs, all our challenges that we face, and His whole heart embraces our pain, surrounds us in peace, and gives us incredible hope and grace to keep pressing through.

The Word in the letter to St. Paul tells us that: *"we glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope"* (Rom. 5:3-4). This Good News surely help us to persevere in our not so good times, with the hope that all 'this will pass...'

Trust that God has the best plan for your life. Do not look at your circumstances, rather look to the God of hope. He Never Fails. We may fail to understand his ways, but he has a bigger plan for us. Though often our pilgrim way seems rough and long, yet we shall stand firm in Him. Because we hope that *"He will command his angels concerning us to guard us in all our ways."* (Ps. 91:11)

Our churches may be closed, but Christ is not quarantined and his Gospel is not in chains. During these days we certainly found solace in the Word of God, live streamed Masses and devotions. We experienced that He loves us, and because His love can never change, we should not be afraid, even in this time of trial and testing.

All such trials, testing and period of suffering we encounter in life, God will use them for our & others betterment. The troubles we walk through can bring glory to Him. He will use our lives, our joy and our faith, in spite of our problems, to draw others to Himself, and to help us to remember that what we see around us is always under his care and protection. For He has more in store for us and it is greater than we can ever imagine. God's Presence surround us in the hard places we might be facing right now. He leads our way and keeps us secure, guiding our steps forward, and covering us from every side. He assures us that He will see us through, as He works on our behalf, even behind the scenes where we cannot fully see Him. Know beyond a doubt, that He will turn our suffering around for good somehow and bring us forth as victorious. He knows our way and He fill us with His hope.



May all of you be blessed as the Good News assures us: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope"* (Rom. 15:13).

As I write this message, we are getting a lot of calls regarding opening the Churches. Please note that our church will open only after the operating policies and procedures for worship places are finalized, and the necessary safety mechanisms are approved by the concerned authorities. Our priority remains to ensure a safe environment for our faithful.

Hence our faithful are requested to await the communication from us which will be posted on the parish website and parish social channels. Be sure your waiting will also pass...

God bless you all.

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**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 .



## The 'Unnamed' Good Samaritan

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) is a parable close to every Christian's heart. We have all probably received multiple interpretations of this parable from various perspectives and many of us can give our take on the parable as well. This beloved tale goes a little like this: A man on his way to Jerusalem is robbed and left to die. Seeing him in this state, two highly respected men willfully chooses to pass him by. He is eventually helped by an unnamed Samaritan, whom we now refer to as the 'Good Samaritan'. Here are a few lessons that we can all learn from this parable:



*The lesson on time:* Sometimes we would need to give up our time and get our schedule altered, in order to help someone in need. However, God does see all the good we do in His name and 'our reward will be great in heaven.' Nothing should change our ultimate responsibility: show mercy to those in need with a little time spent for them, like the Samaritan did to the beaten man.



*Religion is not just to be practiced inside the walls of a temple or a church but on the roadside as well.* The Priest and the Levite seemed to be well versed in the Scriptures and experts in the Law, but when encountered with a man lying half-dead on the road, they failed to show any compassion and passed

right by him. This is not what Jesus teaches us. He tells us to help anyone in need, no matter what 'labels' we may fit them into.

*The Samaritan didn't care about money:* It is shown that the Samaritan treats the wounds of the injured man with wine and oil, mounts him onto his donkey and takes him to an inn where he pays for the man's stay. He even agrees to pay for any extra expenses that would incur during his stay. In today's world, we spend a lot of money on things that don't last very long: fast fashion, gourmet food, latest trends, etc. are all things we easily fall prey to. We must however realize that the money can instead go to a charity, to sponsor a child's education and many such good causes that would prove beneficial to society and even the world.

*We don't have to be named:* The man is referred to as the Good Samaritan and nothing more about his identity is mentioned. He was unnamed, yet his actions continue to be an example to all of us today. In today's terms, Good Samaritan is synonymous with anyone who helps one in need, be it in terms of cash, or food, etc. Many of us want to be famous and try to make a name for ourselves. This Samaritan was a nobody - literally, according to the perspectives of that time - but his act of love will always be remembered throughout the world - for as long as the word of God exists.

**Evangeline Jose**

## INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS



Miracles are deeds which are above all natural laws and powers and only God can perform. At times, we say that saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary perform miracles. What we really mean is that they pray to God, and in answer to their prayers, God performs a miracle. We Catholics believe that NO SAINT ever claimed to do a miracle by his own power.

### Church Events

July 22 St Mary Magdalene Feast

July 25 St James, Apostle Feast

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

## BIBLE QUIZ JULY-2020



1. What does the name "Eve" mean?
2. Ruth's sister-in-law .....
3. Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was when she first saw Him after He had risen?
4. What type of wood did Noah use to build the ark?
5. What did the father bring for the prodigal son upon his return?

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