



Parish Priest Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Greetings of love, joy, and peace.



No entry without mask!! This is the present-day phenomena if you want to go to any shopping Mall or a shopping centre. The same is equally true for all religious places (Same is true with our church, when we reopen). Some finding it difficult to breathe with mask are asking whether they can make holes in the mask. No..No... Absolute No. It is equal to wearing a torn mask.

Do we like to wear a torn mask? I am sure, we answer in negative. What is the reason? Because we know it does not protect us from virus, the reason as to why we are wearing it at present.

Someone said: 'I want to smile, and mask hides my smile!!' What a beautiful reason to take away the mask. The person was asked which is more important - your health or your smile. You want to show your smile and lose your health by not wearing a mask or protect yourself from ill health by wearing a mask. You can show (I mean the person wants to show smile, since no one stops one from smiling even with the mask) your smile for long time to come.

We are very much concerned with protection from virus. Very quickly we began to listen to the guidelines for protection from Virus. Jesus invites and tells us: "**Come to me, all who weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**" (Mt 11:28). Are we listening to Him? First of all, let us listen to Jesus' invitation, "**come to Me.**" Do we listen and respond to His invitation?

We are in strange times with our church. These days we have been struggling to find our faith - when our plans fail, stress increases, anxiety follows... We have work stress, fear of losing job, financial difficulties, care of the family... or in a more unfortunate situation with stress developing in relationship... While we are struggling with our relationship with God and with one another, instead of looking up to Jesus, we try to find solace in human solutions and human answers. Quite often this can lead us away from God as well as from our faith.

This is because we are missing the subtle signs and visuals of our faith expressions like Eucharist, adoration, community gatherings and prayer meetings. . .so on. Though we have them in virtual expressions, often this is not enough and can lead to dry spells in our own faith, and eventually can make us move away from God.

We may approach life with the mindset, that it's up to us to control affairs of things in our life, disregarding the fact that we

can do nothing without God's aid. **Life will be void and empty and without results, until GOD steps in!!**

Many of us have been struggling with worries (virus) about the future, the worry (virus) of job, income, family and health, we tend to slowly push the faith to a corner. We may not recognize the symptoms and therefore we do not use protection from all these negativities or evils. Psalmist rightly recognized God's strength, protection and deliverance: "**Lord, is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. For he will deliver...**" (Ps 91:2-3). Let us acknowledge the weariness we experience with this sudden change of schedule and systems. Let us remain close to Jesus, who protects, delivers from all illness and evil. Let us meditatively read and ponder the Word of God in the scripture. Pray together with the family for deliverance from all evil and negativities.

One thing many of us will say from experience is we have learnt to appreciate and glorify God through different ways and other methods, when the usual familiar way had changed during these times of pandemic. God works in us through the support and love we get from our parents, brothers and sisters, friends and even from unknown persons, which shows God's constant love and strength. Though there are dry spells in our faith, yet there is amazing thing that has happened due to the pandemic as we have learnt to come to Him and put forth our worries at His feet, responding to His call and realizing that we can do nothing without Him.

When we start looking out the good things and positive vibes in our lives, we see God's hand and His presence. In all our ups and downs of lives, we feel His blessings. If we are alive and healthy in this current situation, we are blessed indeed. Therefore, we have nothing but to pray '*help me Lord to love you more.*'

Stay positive in life, be thankful to all the good things in life, with an incessant prayer "**Lord, destroy and wipe away this Corona Virus from the earth and heal the world.**"

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap

N.B.: Many are asking why our Church is not opened. Please have patience. We are still waiting for approval from the Authorities to open the Church. Since we are in an Industrial Area, it is delayed. Our faithful are requested to await the relevant communication from us which will be posted on the parish website and parish social channels. THANKS

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 .



"PATIENCE IS WORTH THE WAIT."

"For the vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late." (Habakkuk 2:3)

The world that we live today always craves for instant solution. We love to have instant coffee and instant food. We have no time to wait. We prefer all to happen almost now. We prefer instant answer to our instant prayers. But the Scripture provides us a different direction. 'Be Patient' - a fruit that the Lord's spirit gives us. When we ask the Lord for something, we need to be patient to understand the will of God before we receive what we ask for. The gift that we receive from God needs to be obtained, understanding the intention as to why the Lord gives us. In the course of time, He reveals to us in His divine wisdom and then He lets our heart accept His gift in His will.

When we try to be impatient in waiting for answer from the Lord, we try to build a Babel in all its height and then see it crashing down in a split second. Instead, when we listen to what the Lord wants us to do, we would build a temple for the Lord to reside in our heart rather than building a tower for our pride and earthly desires. Patience is a virtue through which we can get to

know the heartbeat of the Lord. Job waited for the Lord to answer his life's struggles and tribulations. He was full of patience even when his friends and relatives were abandoning him. He knew that the Lord he trusted was good - at all times. So he went through the struggles of his life just trusting the Lord. The book of Job from the Holy Bible is a must read for each of us during this pandemic situation. The wait of Job was not an empty wait, but the wait was in His presence. An active Wait and not a passive wait. The wait was not of despair, but it was with trust. When we plant a seed, we do not expect a fruit within days. It takes months and even years. But till the time it produces fruit, it grows from within, it strengthens its root, the root sucks the water and makes the branches to spread, the leaves to flourish and the flowers to bloom. Finally, the fruit that was expected of the tree is obtained. Similarly, in the time of our wait, we grow with strength to finally produce the fruit that the planter intended us to have.

In the first book of Samuel, Chapter 13, we read about King Saul waiting for seven days for Prophet Samuel. The prophet did not come at the appointed time but came a little later. But before he could come, Saul made a burnt offering to the Lord. When the prophet questioned him, Saul said that since he did not come at the set time and looking at the situation at hand, he felt compelled to go by his own way without waiting anymore and

hence offered the burnt offering all by himself. Samuel was not pleased with this. He rebukes Saul saying since he had not kept the command the Lord gave, but rather acted on his own will, his kingdom would not endure but another man would rule the nation. What a disappointment was that to Saul. Had he waited with patience for some more time, he could have ensured the legacy of his rule. But alas, just because of his impatience, he lost the blessing of the Lord.

Let us Pray with a serene mind: Dear Lord, help me to wait on you, that I may renew my strength and mount up with wings like eagle at your appointed time. Amen.

Vijayan .A

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

Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Church Events

Aug 10 : St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr Feast

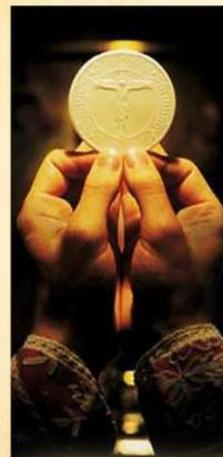
Aug 15 : Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity

Aug 24 : St. Bartholomew, Apostle Feast

Aug 30 : Fr. Varghese Kozhippadan's Birthday

Do You Know . . .

TRANSUBSTANTIATION



The Transubstantiation is the sacramental act by which the substance of the bread and wine is changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ.

This great miracle, which happens in every Mass, cannot be rationally demonstrated, but is accepted by faith.

Bible Quiz Winners July 2020

1. Henrietta Antony Prince - Grade 3
2. Sergious Antony - Grade 4

Congratulations!

BIBLE QUIZ AUGUST-2020



1. What did the Two blind men call out to Jesus?
2. According to Paul, where is our citizenship?
3. Which prophet of the Old testament said that the day of the Lord would be like a launderer's soap or fuller's lye?
4. In the first vision of Zechariah of the Old testament, on which horse and among which tree was a man seen?
5. Which Apostle wrote that scoffers would come in the last days?

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

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