



# THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Volume 3 Issue 9 September 2020

## Parish Priest Message

Greetings of Love, Joy and Peace.

Last six months have been a time of hard work and discipline. This has brought challenge after challenge. It seems like something new every month, even multiple things per month. All of this has tested our strength, our character, and our resolve. And more than all, it has surely tested our faith. It has taken hard work and discipline to remain faithful throughout this time, and continue to do the right thing, to be kind and do the things that need to be done for the good of the community, regardless of our opinion or what we think.



We're putting in the time and effort for our families through remote learning. So many of us, have relied on remote work so we could continue to provide for our families, and be home with them at the same time. And up until now we rely on remote Church, where we participated in stream Mass live online or prayers on zoom to continue to experience God spiritually through community prayer – virtually.

Though all of this is different, yet we all put in the time, and the work, to ensure we still provide for our families, that our kids continue to learn, and that we still **live in Communion with Christ**.

All of us have learned a new routine since restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 were put in place at the end of March. Despite the growing familiarity of this routine, we have had some abnormality of life during these days; funny but true, some allowed ever lengthening hair and some others shaved their head; some had more time to do more exercise and trim their figure and others had extra pounds... The most disappointing and distress we must have felt, because we were not able to come to Church and receive communion, receive body of Christ, though we had the opportunity to live streamed Masses with Spiritual Communion. We already see the things are changing and getting better. But together with the Government, we are concerned with the safety of all. Hence it is time for us to think of "new normal" rule. In this new normal, we are called to change our behavior in accordance with the safety measures suggested.

I am sure, we are excited about returning to worship together but, we should be aware that it will be different. When we talk about the church, we are talking about more than bricks and walls. The church is more than numbers but, a church that is full of parents and grandparents visiting, teens hanging out, kids charging around and babies crying feels alive. I used to feed on that energy and excitement.

However, this time our worship is not going to feel quite the same. As much as we look forward to opening the gates and doors of the church, there is a certain strangeness about it. We will be with mask; No handshakes; No hugs; No meeting people in groups; No children; No senior citizens, nothing passed from one pew to the next.

No matter what restrictions we have but we have the opportunity for which we were longing for. Our hearts are filled with joy and we want to sing with the Psalmist: *"Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!"* (Ps. 47:1) This is not just happiness but joy.



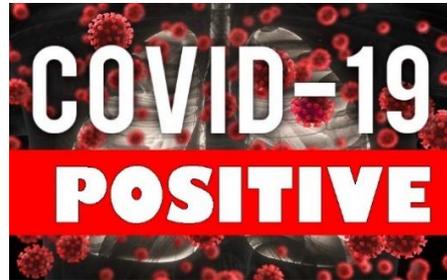
We understand that **joy and happiness are not the same**. Happiness is the feeling we get when things are going well; it's based on our circumstances. Joy, on the other hand, is a deep sense of pleasure, delight, gladness and well-being that is independent of circumstance. **Joy flows from a deeply rooted conviction that not only does God cause all things to work together for the good of those who love Him; but inherent in joy is the sense of delight in God that can cause our heart to smile even if things on the outside seem to be falling apart.** In all of life's circumstances, especially during the recent pandemic situations, it's valuable for us to ask ourselves, "Am I relying on my happiness, or does my strength come from the joy of the Lord?"

**We lived in hope and still we live in hope.** Hope is the anticipation that God will do something good! Now it is the time for us to thank God with grateful hearts for bringing us together once again as a community to worship. Once again, we need to come together as one community, one in mind and heart, which will help us to understand the "new normal" situation better. We are called to join together in love, which surpasses all selfishness and demands sacrifices. Unfortunately, however, we live in a selfish world where people constantly ask, "What's in it for me?" instead of asking, "Whom can I help today?" or "How can I better serve the Lord in my calling?" or "Am I giving my all to the Lord?" All that the Lord seeks is the love behind the action. This fulfills our joy and we can sing together: **"the joy of the Lord is my strength."** (Neh. 8:10; cf. Ps 28:7)

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM, Cap

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

**Email: [Voiceofstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:Voiceofstpauls@gmail.com)**



Pandemic has struck the world big time. From schools being disrupted to millions of people losing jobs, food insecurities in many countries worldwide, family members not able

to meet their loved ones over a prolonged time and literally being just confined in our homes bearing psychological impacts. Most important of all, are the lives lost in this pandemic.

But really what has COVID-19 done that any other disease has never done before? One is Churches getting closed and the emergence of online church services.

For many of us here, being away from our families and home countries is eased by our involvement in the church. We have gotten so used to the fact that church was always there. We could participate in the parish activities and receive communion almost every day. But we could not do it for few months. And now is the time - once again.

These days, we have heard of stories about how people struggle to live in this situation; not everyone is privileged. Some are still finding it very difficult to cope with and may need extra hand to get through.

In this time of crisis, many will find ways of easing one's pain by helping. Any help no matter how big or small goes a long way. It is very important that we share our blessings. Sharing need not equate to just donating. We may give friends a quick catch up or a phone call to see how they are doing. A distant family member would appreciate being checked upon after being out of touch for a long time.



*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind" Hebrews 13:16*

But how exactly do we cope with everything that is happening right now? First, we have to take care of ourselves. We may have discovered things about

ourselves that we wouldn't normally do, a newfound skill perhaps, a new interest, a hobby to pursue. With a little more time to spare, we will possibly discover something new to enrich ourselves and in the process take care of our being.

*"Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you!" 1 Corinthians 3:16*

We need to keep abreast and equip ourselves with necessary precaution to protect us and people around us. We all want to know what happens globally and in our own place, but let us admit, the news sometimes depresses us more than it informs us. Staying informed and choosing our resources will keep the balance.

Let us not fail to be grateful for we have been so blessed. Merely being here and reading this article means the grace of God is upon us – a grace that wakes us up each day for a new day.

*"Do not be afraid-I am with you! I am your God. let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect and save you." Isaiah 41:10.*

**Jene F Alonzo**

**Do You Know . . .**

## MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM



We call Our Lady the Seat (or Throne) of Wisdom because she held in her lap Jesus Christ, the Eternal Wisdom of God.

Artistic portrayals of Mary as the "Seat of Wisdom" depict her seated with the Christ Child on her lap, as though she were His "throne".

This title in no way makes Our Lady the source of all wisdom, as we Catholics know it that God alone is the source of all wisdom. (James 1:5)

**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"). Those who are unable to come to church, please participate through live streaming.



**Church Events**

- Sep 7: Reopening of the Church**
- Sep 8: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sep 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sep 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Sep 21: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Sep 21: Fr. Mathew's Birthday
- Sep 29: Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

**BIBLE QUIZ SEPTEMBER-2020**

1. What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
2. Which animal does Moses compare the people of Israel to when speaking to the Lord?
3. In Luke, the woman cleans Jesus feet with what two things?
4. Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?
5. Whom did Andrew introduce to Jesus?

**Bible Quiz Winners August 2020**

1. Deren Lawrence – Grade-7
2. Tesia Lawrence – Grade-5
3. Shawn Jerrick - Grade- 2



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

*farewell*

*God's blessings on you  
and thank you  
for all you do  
in the service of God.*



**Rev. Fr. Paul Koenig OFM Cap.**  
Former Custos

**Welcome**

**Rev. Fr. Peter P.M. OFM Cap Custos**  
**Ordained Priest :** 29-Dec-1985  
**Native :** Kerala, India



**Ministry after Priestly Ordination**

- **1986** - Assistant Parish Priest at Joseph's Church, Jwala Nagar, Delhi
- **1987** - Director for Capuchin Social Service Centre, Ponnuruni, Cochin, India.
- **1989** - Vice Rector for Minor Seminary at St. Antony's Friary, Quilon, Kerala.
- **1990-1992** - Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Church, Jwala Nagar, Delhi.
- **1992-1997** - Manager at St. Joseph's Academy, Delhi.
- **1997-2002** - Assistant Parish Priest St. Mary's Church Dubai, UAE.
- **2002-2009** - Parish Priest – St. Mary's Church Dubai, UAE
- **2009-2013** - Parish Priest – Our Lady of Rosary Church, Doha-Qatar
- **2013** - P.D. Course in Family Counseling (Cefam), Ateneo De Manila, Philippines.
- **2014** - Rector at Bodhi Institute of Theology, Tillery, Kollam-Kerala
- **November 20, 2015** - Appointment as Parish Priest, St. Daniel Comboni Parish, Abassiya, Kuwait.
- **August 6, 2017** - Appointment as Parish Priest, Holy Family Cathedral Parish, Kuwait City.
- **January 31, 2018** - Appointment as Vicar General of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia.
- **July 3, 2020** - Appointment as Custos of the Capuchin Order of Friars Minor (OFM) in the Arabian Gulf Region.



**Guidelines for Faithful**

- All will enter the Church compound through the basement entry only. You will not be able to use elevators for coming or to go back.
- All those who come to the church will undergo the thermal checking at the entry for fever with the non-contact infrared thermometer.
- Faithful having temperature equal to or more than 37.5 degree centigrade or/and symptoms of cough, cold, throat pain and difficulty in breathing will not be allowed inside the church. They will be advised to seek medical consultation.
- In the event that symptoms of an infection appear on an individual, we are bound to take necessary actions and contact the concerned authorities to ensure the safety of the faithful.
- Cooperate with those who are doing thermal screening and follow the directions of the volunteers/ushers.
- **All those who participate in the services compulsorily should wear a facial mask and hand gloves at the premises and inside the church.** The faithful are requested to bring their own face mask and hand gloves. Entry will be denied if one does not comply.
- **Hands must be sanitized before entering the church.** Sanitizer is provided at the entrance of the Church. You may bring your own sanitizer.
- **Please follow social distancing rules – 2 meter distance from another person.**
- Do not touch statues and images inside/outside the church. Do not touch anything that belongs to someone else.
- Come to the church 30 minutes before the Mass and disperse soon after the service. Do not continue to stay in church campus after the service.
- For your convenience (for the sake of cooling), the main entry will be through the basement (Basement Garage entry). All other gates will remain closed and will be used for exit only.
- No vehicles will be allowed to park in the basement.
- The seating places are marked to facilitate the observance of social distancing norm.
- Once the Church is full, others will be directed to the Hall, where live mass is transmitted.
- Please follow respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue, handkerchief, flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- Tissues used to clean hands, must be disposed in a dustbin.
- **You cannot use washrooms of the church campus.**
- The ministry of Altar Servers at the Mass is suspended until further notice.

**KID'S CORNER**



Jesus  
Aleena Martin-KG2

Anson-1B



Nature Painting  
Angelet Pinto



Nature Painting  
Joel Jiji Grade-5B



Bottle Art  
Parineetha-3A



3D Art  
Liane Rachel O-1C