



Parish Priest Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

May the Lord be with us as we reflect and re-live more deeply the Paschal Mystery of Christ during this season of Lent.

We are in the season of Lent. We go through the pandemic challenges. We can say, pandemic has enhanced, in fact, the real meaning of Lent in our lives. It is



interesting to learn similarity between the Lent and Quarantine, of which we have become quite familiar since last year from the time Pandemic struck us. "Forty days" in Italian is "quaranta giorni," which gave rise to quarantine in English. The word "quarantine" was coined originally for the 40-day period a ship was kept in isolation at port. This happened during the Black Death of the late 14th Century, when bubonic plague killed around half of the population in Europe. Ships stayed in dock until the locals could ascertain that there were no cases of the disease on board.

Lent, like quarantine, is also a 40-day period. In some languages, roots of lent is very close to the word quarantine. The Lent is called "Quaresima" in Italian, "Cuaresma" in Spanish, "Carême" in French. Hence we observe that the Lent and quarantine are obviously close cousins, each resembles the other. We can also see that the purposes of both are similar. Both Lent and quarantine are designed to test us and improve our health — quarantine, our physical health; and Lent, our spiritual health. Christian tradition defines spiritual health as the virtuous life, holy life, and preference for God over all created things. It's not that the things of the world are bad. They are, in fact, very good, precisely because God created them. He created them, moreover, to serve us and delight us. It is the preference or the priority that we give to these things can defile our virtuous life. Now we are into our second pandemic Lent. Last year we had total lockdown and we saw height of Pandemic and it really brought fears and anxieties. This year we have adjusted to the restrictions, at least somewhat, and in some places conditions have improved enough to allow greater freedom. In comparison to the last year, the biggest gift that we have is that we can come to church to participate in the celebration of the Mass.

Most years we had faced simpler choices of what to give up. May be meat or fish, cigarettes or alcohol, sweets or television... In 2020, however, we learned to fast from unaccustomed things,

like social contact, restaurants, outings and travels... And we had no choice in the matter. It was looking like yearlong Lent. We should nonetheless lean into the season, in all its 2021 peculiarity. Knowing what we learned from last year, we should be intentional about living a better Lent this year.

Our early Christian traditions designed the Lenten observance in order to retrain our souls and our bodies, our thoughts, and our senses. By small hardships, freely endured, we strive to improve the integrity that God intended for us. At the beginning of Lent, we pledge to conform to the graces God gives us by means of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our Lenten observance should include some resolution for improvement in each of these area.

Prayer: Prayer brings us closer to God. Prayer helps us to have a holy life. It is the strength to carry our daily crosses following Jesus on the way to Calvary. Jesus himself said "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk 8:34). We often find difficult to carry our personal, family, work-place and other crosses. With prayer from our part and with God on our side, we can carry our crosses with greater strength and courage. Season of Lent is the holy season for regaining this strength through prayer.

Fasting: There are many ways to fast. Some people eliminate meat for the season or stop eating between meals, others limit their media consumption during Lent... All of these practices are valid and effective choices. But we must not forget the reason why we are fasting. It is in order to make our lives more like the life of Jesus, who fasted in the desert, resisted temptations and who freely accepted suffering for our sake.



Almsgiving: It's good for us to give money to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and house the homeless. We should not stop doing that. But we should also make personal plans to relieve the forms of poverty that are peculiar to present times. So

many people today are experiencing painful loneliness and isolation. The situation is especially acute for elderly and sick people who are living far from family — or who have no family — or who have outlived their friends. In these days, helping these people can be heroic and sacrificial acts of charity that genuinely make a difference. They fulfil a need that Pope Francis has identified as urgent: the need for us to "look into the eyes of the poor."

Lent remains what it has always been. A time to get in touch better with God's love for us and do our best to 'clean up' our souls in preparation for the glory of Easter. This is a time of purification, to bring a better version of ourselves. This year lent

has become a time to think about how we live as a community, protect each other from illness, and be part of the solution to a global health crisis. As we meet these challenges and find a better or best ways to tackle, we may even bring about new and better ways of taking care of each other in the years to come. It is our prayer and our hope that this Lent will make us better persons, more humble, more generous, more kind, more joyful, and more trusting in God.

Lent is not an ordinary time of the year, and this year it is made more extraordinary by the pandemic. Make it extraordinary in its effects by doing it differently this year.

Wish you all a blessed season of Lent.

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap
Parish Priest

Church Events

- Mar 11 Baptism Seminar (Zoom)
- Mar 15-20: Marriage Preparation Course (**Malayalam**)-Zoom
- Mar 19 : St. Joseph, Solemnity
- Mar 19-20: Lenten Retreat-**AVOSA** Young Adult Ministry-Zoom
- Mar 22-27: Lenten Retreat (**Malayalam**)-Zoom
- Mar 25: The Annunciation of the Lord
- Mar 26: Lenten Retreat (**Tamil**)-Zoom
- Mar 28: Palm Sunday
- Mar 29-31: Lenten Reflection in **English** During Holy Mass



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 MARCH-2021

1. How much did Judas Iscariot receive for betraying Jesus Christ?
2. Which Gospel is written by a doctor?
3. Who takes Jesus's body off the cross?
4. Who was the woman judge who led Israel to victory?
5. Whose dream did Daniel interpret in Babylon?

Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st April 2021.

OR Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Bible Quiz Winners February -2021

1. Leo Biju D - Grade 5
2. Parineetha Ullas - Grade 4



Being Religious

is not a choice, because if it was, atheists would not exist. Believe me when I say, it is more difficult to live without believing in God, than it is to live in faith. Ironically enough though, it is more difficult to have faith than to not. I look at the adults around me in church and wonder what it is that gave them the strength to stay for so long. I would like to confess that my faith is not exactly the strongest. As a person who questions everything, at the moment I am pretty confused. The world, in my eyes, seems too realistic for something as fantastical as God, but at the same time, too fantastical to exist without the intervention of a God. I want to have a strong, unwavering faith. The kind of faith I believe the priests in my church have. But I don't. And recently, I realized that that is okay. I told a priest once, that my faith isn't as strong as I would like it to be. He said that everyone goes through that from time to time, even him! Of course that did not help in any way in the matter of strengthening my faith, but it helped me realize something. Faith is not a choice. Being religious is not a choice. No matter how hard you try, or how much you want it, you will never be able to find faith. Only faith can find you. There is something I would like to write for all those struggling to find faith in their lives. Do not be ashamed, and don't stop hoping. It is not a sin to be disbelieving, because it is unintentional and out of your control. Faith is not a lifelong thing. It comes, and it goes as it pleases. The real test is not how much faith we have, but how long we are willing to wait for it. Not wait idly, but wait with hope and passion. I would also like to write for all those who despise those lacking in faith (including those who despise atheists). We are all only human. We are not supernatural beings with the capability to understand everything that constitutes what is and what will be. Some people may struggle, but that does not mean they are weak. The fact that they struggle and still hold on proves their dedication and devotion to God. And some people give up. But the fact that they give up does not make them any less human. It does not make them any less sacred. They are still God's children, regardless of whether they believe. It is wrong to belittle someone for what they do or do not believe. Being religious is not a choice, as much as I wish it could be. But treating each other with respect regardless of belief is. I urge you all to wait for faith with hope, but if you cannot go on, I will not judge, and I hope no one else will.



Alicia Mary Jaison

Individual Confession Available

Please contact Parish Office for Booking





Photo Corner

CHARIS-NATIONAL SERVICES OF COMMUNION (NSC) Organized Inter Parish Biblical Quiz Competition 2020-2021 Held On 05-February 2021

Adult Category-Malayalam 2nd Prize (Musaffah)



Neethu Jomy



Delma Maria Shijo

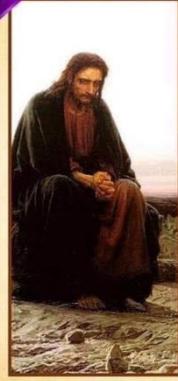


Meble Thomas

Do You Know ...

LENT

Lent is the penitential season of 40 days (excluding Sundays) set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Death and the celebration of His Resurrection. Lent begins at midnight of Ash Wednesday and officially ends at the start of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.




Parish Council

Farewell

Dear Fr. Abraham Thyparambil

Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish



MCC



Holy Week Liturgical Programme

TIME	LANGUAGE
<u>Palm (Passion) Friday (26-Mar-2021)</u>	
05:00 am	Malayalam
07:00 am	English
08:45 am	Malayalam
10:30 am	Konkani
12:15 pm	Arabic
02:00 pm	Tagalog
03:45 pm	Malankara
05:30 pm	English
07:30 pm	Tamil
<u>Palm Saturday 27-Mar-2021</u>	
06:15 am	English
06:00 pm	English
<u>Palm Sunday 28-Mar-2021</u>	
06:15 am	English
06:00 pm	English
<u>MAUNDY THURSDAY 01-Apr-2021</u>	
08:30 pm	Malankara (on 31-Mar-2021)
06:30 pm	English
08:30 pm	Malayalam



TIME	LANGUAGE
<u>GOOD FRIDAY 02-Apr-2021</u>	
05:00 am	Malayalam
07:00 am	Malayalam
08:45 am	Malankara
10:30 am	Konkani
12:15 pm	Arabic
02:00 pm	Tagalog
03:45 pm	Tamil
05:30 pm	English
<u>Easter Vigil 03-Apr-2021</u>	
07:00 pm	Malankara
09:00 pm	Malayalam
11:00 pm	English
<u>EASTER SUNDAY 04-Apr-2021</u>	
05:00 am	Malayalam
06:30 am	English
12:00 pm	Arabic
04:00 pm	Tamil
06:00 pm	English
07:30 pm	English



Our Bishop Paul, All Priests & Parish Council wish you All A Very Happy Easter.

Fr. Maxim Cardoza OFM. Cap.