



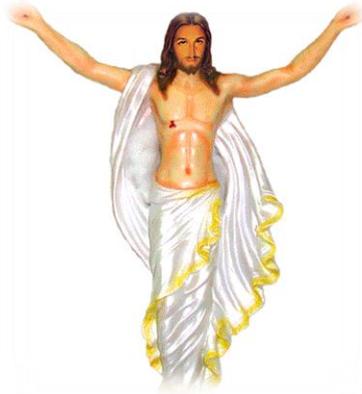
## Parish Priest Message

### Easter, the Feast of Love, Hope & Joy

Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

#### Greetings of Love, Joy and Peace in the Risen Lord.

I am reminded of last year's Easter, with most of the countries on lockdown, most Catholics were unable to attend Mass or come together in person for Easter. Yet we can say that we had a remarkable Easter for the global Church.



Easter with the message of Hope did not disappoint us. We could conclude that an isolated Easter like that of last year (2020) doesn't mean a hopeless Easter. Instead we found different ways to reach out to each other, with prayers and other kinds of support around the world.

The Church used social media, live streaming and other non-traditional methods to bring people together. Such online gatherings brought messages of hope and good news and we celebrated a joyous Easter.

This year we have another situation. We are able to attend the church Masses and services physically. We are happy and joyous because our hope has brought fruits and Risen Christ has brought us together, though we have several restrictions. Such difficulties, struggles in the form of restrictions are only a sign of partaking in the sufferings of the Risen Lord, who suffered on the cross for our love. **Ultimately we celebrate in Easter, 'God's boundless love'.** Easter is the celebration of the total unending love of God the Father for the sake of Humanity. We too are ready to respond fittingly to that love, which we can sum up as St Paul puts it "*In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Rom 8:37-39).

Jesus' death was not a defeat but a triumph over sin and death. His death in reality was a passage to new life and has no end in itself. **Easter is a celebration of Christ's victory over death and our hope for eternal life** - surely if ever there was anything this gives us hope it is this - the Resurrection. It is not just life eternal but also in the present life, renewal of life-giving Spirit as we renew our baptismal commitment.

To the Disciples the Resurrection of Jesus was something totally new and unexpected and even unbelievable. **The Resurrection totally transformed disciples and gave them a new vision of life itself, real meaning and hope for the future, hope in a world where there was no hope, a future where there was no future and above all a purpose to life itself.** They had been witnesses to the suffering and death of Jesus and during that time they had remained hidden behind locked doors out of fear. They were afraid that their fate was coming and that they would suffer the same suffering and death as Jesus - their hope in Jesus had been shattered. What give them hope is the resurrection of Jesus.

*As Pope Francis said, "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... It is a hope: hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope..."*

**The resurrection built up Apostles' hope as well as faith** particularly because of their experience of the presence of the risen Jesus and made them courageous and ready to face any eventuality for their master. Jesus stood among them, talked to them, ate with them just like one of them and He taught them just as they were called upon to build the faith of others. The disciples once they knew that Jesus was the Messiah and that he had been resurrected from the dead they became totally transformed persons. They were ready to face suffering and even death in His name – so strong was their faith in Him.

The irony of electricity is that however hard we might try with the most powerful microscope we cannot see electricity but we know it exists. Its effects give us light and heat, energy to move things and do the most wonderful things so that our lives are comfortable and interesting. Electricity is the power source behind so many things.



In the same way the **Resurrection of Jesus is the power source behind life and death**, we cannot prove it, we cannot prove there is life after death and there is no historical proof that Jesus rose from the dead just as there is no proof that He didn't. We can see the effect of the Resurrection and how it changed the lives of men and women to the extent that they were prepared to die a painful death. The Apostle Paul says: "*He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again*" (2 Cor 5:15).

All those who experienced the **encounter with the Risen Jesus were filled with joy.** Though they did not understand this Paschal Mystery, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James,

Salome and the Apostles were overjoyed seeing the Risen Lord. This **Easter Joy is something that has to be shared**, it is contagious, just like laughter and it is a gift from God, the Holy Spirit working within us to inspire us and to teach us the mysteries of the faith. **This mystery that every death has life in it fills us with joy!** It is therefore not sufficient for us to just sit back to experience and enjoy the joy of our Risen Lord, we need to share that experience and joy with as many people as possible. It is our commission as the Risen Lord said *"Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation"* (Mk 16:15).

All Baptized being the children of the Easter – baptized in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - we experience, love, Joy and Hope of the Risen Jesus. We still go through this pandemic time and sometimes, this situation might have led us to distress leading us to hopeless situation but the Resurrection of Jesus Christ renews in us new hope and new light. Let us try to make the best use of this time: let us remain close to the Risen Lord to experience Him as did the Apostles. Let us be generous to share the joy and blessings we receive with those in need - in our families, extending it to our neighbourhood and to our parish community.

On behalf of all the Priests and my own behalf I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Let us to open our eyes and our hearts in order to recognize the many signs of life and resurrection all around us.

**Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap**  
Parish Priest



All throughout my life, I've strived hard to be the best at whatever it is that I do, be it studying, reading, writing and well...you get the idea. On the surface, this doesn't seem to be a bad thing. In fact, being intrinsically motivated meant that my parents didn't necessarily have to nag me to study or promise me rewards if I did well in school because I did that work myself. I was the one spending sleepless nights for my finals even when they asked me to 'chill out'. I was the one shutting myself in my room for hours at a stretch to complete 18 chapters in a day. I was the one doing all the work in group projects because I wanted to control the outcome and direct it to my liking. In short, I was a worrier. I was also a perfectionist. I couldn't stand getting a B in any of my classes. I couldn't stand the thought of doing poorly in my first attempt at anything, who cares if it was something as basic as learning a new instrument. If it was something that I couldn't do perfectly, I wouldn't try at all. There was always the teensy voice at the back of my head telling me it could all go wrong persisting as a suffocating warning of the happenings that I would never be brave enough to encounter.

Recently, I was listening to a podcast (for all you curious folk, the podcast was 'The Fr. Mike Schmitz Catholic Podcast') when I heard the speaker say the words 'Just because I can't influence everything doesn't mean I can't influence anything'. That really struck a chord within me. Many a time, even in spiritual matters, perfectionism can be dangerous. It often arrives in the guise of a virtue but ends up serving a great deal of trouble. When I was younger, I struggled with the thought that in order for God to be pleased with me, I must have the right words during prayer. In my mind, God's grace and love had to be earned. There was no way we who were so broken and imperfect could be given such unconditional love. However, God surely recognized our imperfection as humans. He knew us as his creation who was prone to sinning. He knew we would never be flawless. But He chose to love us anyway. He didn't need us to be whole. He needed us to submit our brokenness to his will so that he could use us to project His glory. This revelation succeeded in finally freeing me from the relentless pursuit of perfectionism. We do not have to keep worrying about the next chapter in our lives when we know who the author is and how much He cares for us. Perhaps, it is time for us to realize that even if we falter, just like St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, we can also be reassured, "nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."



**Evangeline Jose**

**Individual Confession Available**

Please contact Parish Office for Booking

*Do You Know . . . .*

**PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

The Easter Triduum—which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, reaching its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, is the summit of the Liturgical Year. It commemorates **Christ's Paschal Mystery**, i.e., the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



**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")

**Church Events**

- Apr-1 Maundy Thursday
- Apr-2 Good Friday
- Apr-3 Holy Saturday
- Apr-4 Easter Sunday
- Apr-8 Baptism Seminar (Zoom)
- Apr-11 Divine Mercy Sunday
- Apr-22 Bishop Paul's Birthday
- Apr-30 Fr. Divakar - Priestly Ordination

**BIBLE QUIZ APRIL-2021**

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
2. What are people saying when inescapable destruction comes upon them?
3. Who was Jezebel's husband?
4. Where was Jesus when he rose into heaven?
5. At what age did Jesus begin his ministry?

Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st May 2021.  
 OR Email: [voiceofstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofstpauls@gmail.com)

**Bible Quiz Winners March-2021**

1. Ann Sebastian - Grade 7
2. Tesia Lawrance - Grade 5



26, 27 & 28-March,  
 Palm Sunday  
 Celebration



25-March, The Annunciation of the Lord & Pro-Life Celebration By Jesus Youth



**Photo Corner**



19-March,  
 St. Joseph's Feast  
 Celebration



**KID'S CORNER**



Parineetha Grade 4



Aleena Martin KG 2