



POPE
FRANCIS

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
3-5 FEBRUARY 2019



THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1
year



Volume 2 . Issue 1 . January 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Ani Xavier OFM Cap.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,
It is with joy that we enter the New Year 2019. It is a double fold joy for us in UAE in a special way because of the visit of our Holy Father Francis to Abu Dhabi in the first week of Feb 2019.

The year 2019 is celebrated in UAE as the year of Tolerance. This country has welcomed people from all over the world and embraced them in their own uniqueness. This great nation by the vision of its leaders has given the freedom of worship. We gratefully remember the rulers of this nation for their broad mindedness.

The first day of the year is celebrated by the Catholic Church as the feast of Mary – Mother of God. A child is born in this world from a mother. Similarly the year is born with the feast of celebrating the motherhood of Mary as Mother of God. She carried within her the Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We can be assured that when we hold her hands and walk, we will not waver but walk in the path of the Lord.

The very first act of God was to separate Light from Darkness. We read in Genesis Chapter 1 verses 4 and 5, “God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light ‘day’, and darkness he called ‘night’. Evening came and morning came: the first day”.

In a similar way, we read in the Gospel of John Chapter 1 verses 4 and 5, “What has come into being in him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.”

The revelation of the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament here reveals to us that the new and the real eternal light is Jesus Christ. In our life ,God wants us to have a new creation as well. Just as the first day of the creation of this world saw a distinct separation of light and darkness, Let the beginning of this year, separate us from the darkness of the evil and bring us to the glorious light of our Lord.

How can we do this practically? We all take resolutions during the New Year. Along with your personal resolutions, consider to make this word of God as your New Year resolution in order to experience the new creation of light within you. The word for reflection is psalms 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”. During all 365 days of this year let us make it a regular habit to read one chapter from the Holy Bible and meditate on it through the whole day. Secondly, let us take extra care to listen carefully with no distraction to all the scripture readings during the Holy mass. To make the Holy Mass a more meaningful celebration, it is recommended to read through the day’s scripture readings before we attend the mass. You can do this by making use of various resources available such as Bible Alive Diary, the parish calendar where the readings are indicated. When the Holy Scripture is read, heard, spoken, meditated and lived, it unites our body, mind, spirit with the second person of the Holy Trinity, the word of God. We therefore will shine in our lives with the light that radiates from him.

Let the Peace of Christ be with all of you. Let us fervently pray for peace to reign within ourselves, our family, our communities, our nation, in our region and through the world. Let us be instruments of peace.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

Church Events

Jan 1 : Mary, Mother of God
 Jan 1 : New Year 2019
 Jan 3 : Holy Name of Jesus
 Jan 6 : Epiphany of the Lord
 Jan 11 : Feast of Blessed Devasahayam – Tamil Community

Jan 13 : Baptism of the Lord
 Jan 16 : Feast of St. Joseph Vaz
 Jan 19 : Our Lady of Arabia
 Jan 25 : Family Fest 2019
 Jan 25 : Conversion of St. Paul - Feast

Planting New Seeds

A new year is around
 no past mistakes to surround.
 We feel so sorry
 for the fury
 that led us to sin
 letting evil to win.
 If pain burns you
 God turns you
 to his glory.
 This year will hold sorrows
 along with the glee of morrows.
 There will be tests
 that holds the bests
 of what we choose to be
 but not what we are taught to be.
 The last but
 not the least
 a new year notifies
 the changes that beautifies
 the world around us.
 So be not weary
 that oh dearie
 our deeds are counted
 not by days that we panted
 but by the seeds we planted
 to offer hope,
 to ones at stop!



- Merlin

Christmas Tree 2018 by
 Filipino community



DID YOU KNOW?

The Pope is protected by the Swiss Papal Guard. Wearing uniforms designed by Michelangelo and commonly armed with halberds, they are capable of using heavier weapons if needed. Each member is Catholic, male, and Swiss, and must complete military training in Switzerland. They must demonstrate good conduct and be at least five-foot-eight in height. Those who are chosen are granted a private audience with the pope along with their families. In extreme circumstances, they are expected to guard the Holy Father with their lives. The Swiss Papal Guard is the oldest active military unit in continual existence since 1506.



PHOTO CORNER

Konkani Retreat by Fr. Manuel Fernandes



St. Francis Xavier Feast by Konkani Community 7 Dec 2018



Calendar 2019 Release by Bishop Varghese Chakkalakkal



Fr. Paul's Birthday 12 Dec '18



Simbangabi Dec 2018 by Fr.Jade Licuanan



St. Paul's Crib 2018 by Jesus Youth



CCRS Malayalam 15th Inter Parish Biblical Quiz Competition Overall Runner-up (St. Paul's Team)



Fr. Wilson Rumao - Ordination Anniversary 26 Dec '18



Christmas Celebration 2018 Catechism Students



Family Fest 2019 Ticket Release



QUIZ JANUARY 2019

1. Who are the religious leaders who continually tried to trap Jesus with their questions?
2. What is the last book of the New Testament?
3. What did Jesus do for Lazarus?
4. Who was the blind man healed by Jesus?
5. How many wise and foolish girls were in Jesus story?
6. Whom did Jesus call the "Comforter"?

Please submit your answers with your name, age and contact details clearly mentioned at the parish office before 20 Jan 2019.

Editorial Team : Fr. Ani Xavier OFM Cap., Jerry Gomez, Jean Zibbin, Shital Mohan, Shibu Thomas, Suresh Saldanha

A Monthly Newsletter Published by St. Paul's Catholic Church, Musaffah, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com