



THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Volume 5

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2022

Parish Priest Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

We are already in the season of Advent. Mood of advent is always a preparation or getting ready. And we end the month with the joy of Christmas, birth of Jesus, coming of Jesus, the *Emmanuel*. The way we prepare, so we can find the joy.

The term *Advent* is derived from the Latin word 'Adventus' which means 'coming'. This season has its main focus as the preparation for the two comings of Christ; firstly, His coming at the end of time "in glory to judge the living and the dead" (From the First Sunday of Advent to the

16th of December) and secondly, the first coming of Christ over two thousand years ago in the town of Bethlehem in Judaea which will be commemorated at Christmas, "for us humankind and for our Salvation He came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." Jesus comes to our lives through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, through the Word of God, through the worshipping community...and so on.

The Salvation History marks the Birth of Christ over two thousand years ago as a decisive moment. What was never known or heard before happened, God assumed the nature of human being that we may receive the grace to share in His divinity. This moment of grace in the history of our relationship with God unblocked and opened widest the path that leads us back to our ultimate origin and made available to us, superabundantly, graces that would sustain us on this path until that final hour when He will come to repay each person according to his or her deeds.

Message for advent can be the message for our daily living. "**Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man**" (Lk 21:36). To meet this day of days in a happy surprise involves a constant and steady form of preparation. A preparation that involves deepening of and stability in holiness of life.

St. Paul tells us that as we prepare ourselves for Christmas we allow ourselves and our hearts to be "confirmed in holiness that we may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints." (1 Thess 3:11-13) It means simply, as Christians we should conduct ourselves as we wait for "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones." We are advised to "**strengthen our hearts in holiness**"

(1 Thess 3:13) and "*abound in love for one another*" (1 Thess 3:12). Being confirmed in holiness and being blameless is not something abstract and unattainable. Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and be glad), on the call to holiness in today's world, helps us to understand and practice St. Paul's words: "**the holiness to which the Lord calls us grows through small gestures**" (No. 16).

Such gestures could be of love, compassion, forgiveness, attention, understanding, patience, tolerance and above all of humility. The One who came and Who is to come, the reason for this season, came in the simplest and humblest

of ways. The simplicity of His appearance in our midst tells us of how simple God wants us to be and it is in this simplicity that we can best prepare to meet Him at the end of time.

In our daily living, we meet different peoples, circumstances and even challenges. We all have the opportunities to bring colours to our life adding such gestures to our day-to-day living! These days some of you may be travelling to your home town, to your family, to your relatives. What a lovely opportunity to practice our life of holiness with such gestures!

In our ups and downs of life, Advent season encourages us above all to be expectant, optimistic, vigilant and well-prepared: "*When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand*" (Luke 21:28). Jesus wants us to face the future with confidence in God's providence. May God bless our hope and preparations this Advent Season and grant us all encompassing joy as we approach Christmas with due preparations.

Our prayer is: Lord of true greatness, we give ourselves to You and to Your service this day and every day. May we do all we are called to do with great love. Please continue to show us our daily duty and help us to embrace that duty in accordance with Your holy will. Thus bring us to the joys of your holy and loving presence as we approach the celebration of your coming, Christmas.

Wish you all and your families a blessed season of Advent and a joyous Christmas in advance.



Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap
Parish Priest



Ready to take Christ for Christmas

Christmas – We call it as season of joy. It brings happiness to everyone. But not everyone was happy in the land of Judea, where Jesus was born two millennium ago. One person could not be happy on hearing the good news of the birth of the Saviour. This man was extremely sad and troubled. He was afraid and could not accept this baby. He was a ruler and king of Judea (Mathew 2:3)

Why was this king afraid of a child's birth? He was filled with anxiety because he believed and thought that the child would overthrow his kingdom. Herod, the king had such misconception on the kingship of the new born that fear overtook him. He could not sleep properly, couldn't relax, couldn't be happy, was tensed and he finally went to the extent of killing innocent babies.

Herod may be set aside as a bad character in this whole episode of Christmas. But he is here to teach us a lesson, how NOT to 'understand God' in a false way. God's thoughts are always higher and beyond our thinking (Isaiah 55:8,9). When we try to compress our thoughts about God and His ways in our small minds, our minds become corrupt, and we tend to become fearful of God's way in our day-to-day life. But our minds ought to become wider and bigger to accept the magnanimity of God.

The birth of Jesus calls us to accept the kingship of God in our lives like the Magi from east who were men of wisdom. They were open to God's way and His path. After their long journey, they found the treasure in the stable. They recognized that God was among them as Immanuel.

Let us not be afraid to take Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Let us accept that he is our king, a King who leads us to truth and to the eternal kingdom (John 18:37). Let Christ be the center of our lives this Christmas and always.

Vijayan .A

We invite your Spiritual Messages, Testimonies, Articles & Special Activity Photos of Prayer Groups & Communities. Please Contact Editorial Team, Parish Office OR Email : voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Bible QUIZ DECEMBER-2022

From the gospel of St. Matthew chapters 5 to 8

- 1) As per the beatitudes , Who are called 'Children of God'?
- 2) If someone strikes you on right cheek , what should you do ?
- 3) Which is called the lamp of the body?
- 4) What is called 'the golden rule'?
- 5) Who bore our diseases ?

Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st January 2023.

OR

Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Winners of Bible Quiz November -2022

- 1.Melinda D' Souza
- 2.Ashlyn Theresa Bijoy
- 3.Daniel Ranju
4. Tesia Lawrance
5. Deron Lawrance

Dec 1 Baptism Seminar @ 8 pm

Dec 3 St. Francis Xavier

Dec 8 Immaculate conception of B.V. Mary

Dec 24 Nativity of Our Lord

Dec 26 St Stephen, The First Martyr - Feast

Dec 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist - Feast

Dec 28 Holy Innocents - Feast

Dec 29 Priestly Ordination - Fr. Peter,

Fr. Mathews and Fr. Tom

Dec 30. Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Dec 30 Wedding anniversary Mass

Church Events

CHARIS NSC-UAE

INTER PARISH BIBLE QUIZ-2022

COUPLES CATEGORY –TAGALOG -1ST PRIZE



**JOEL CUSTODIO JESUSA & MAYLANE VINA JESUSA
ST. PAUL'S PARISH**



Fr Divakar Birthday 15-Nov -2022



Wedding Anniversary Mass During the month of November-2022



Advent First Sunday 26-Nov-2022



Children's day Celebration Held on 19-Nov-2022



2023 Church Calendar Released on 26-Nov-2022



Christ The King Celebration Held on 20-Nov-2022



Family Fest-2023 Ticket Released on 26-Nov-2022



Altar Servers Installation Held on 30-Nov-2022

Christmas & New Year Holy Masses

CHRISTMAS 2022 MASSES

24-Dec-2022

06.00 PM ENGLISH MASS - CHURCH

07.30 PM ENGLISH MASS - CHURCH

09.00 PM MALAYALAM MASS - CHURCH

11.00 PM Carol Singing

11.30 PM ENGLISH MASS - CHURCH

25-Dec-2022

07.00 AM MALAYALAM MASS- CHURCH

09.00 AM ENGLISH MASS - CHURCH

09.00 AM MALANAKARA MASS - Hall

10.30 AM KONKANI MASS - CHURCH

12.00 PM TAGALOG MASS - CHURCH

05.00 PM TAMIL MASS - CHURCH

07.00 PM ENGLISH MASS - CHURCH

N.B. 15 minutes before every Christmas Mass the choir can start the Carol Singing.

NEW YEAR 2023 MASSES

31-Dec-2022

06.00 PM ENGLISH - CHURCH

07.30 PM ENGLISH - CHURCH

09.00 PM MALAYALAM - CHURCH

11.00 PM Thanksgiving Adoration

11.30 PM ENGLISH - CHURCH

01-Jan-2023

07.00 AM MALAYALAM - CHURCH

09.00 AM ENGLISH - CHURCH

09.00 AM MALANAKARA - Hall

10.30 AM KONKANI - CHURCH

12.00 PM TAGALOG - CHURCH

05.00 PM TAMIL - CHURCH

07.00 PM ENGLISH - CHURCH

**Parish Priest, Co Priests,
Parish Council Members & Editorial Team
Wish You All**

**Merry
Christmas
and Happy New Year !**

