



Volume 6

# THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Issue 9

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## Parish Priest Message



### The Heart of Mary is Immaculate and filled with Perfect Love & Joy

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

**Every child comes into this world brings joy. Every human birth is a call for new hope in the world.** In every child's birth, the love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. **The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.**

**This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love.** If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

According to the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* (though this work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety), Anna and Joachim were infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. This story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

The **feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated each year on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.** Usually it is the custom of the church to celebrate the feast day of a saint on the date of their death as this is truly their "*die natalis*", the day remembered as their birth into everlasting happiness. Mary, however, entered this world sinless through the privilege of the Immaculate Conception and is the firstborn of the redeemed. Her nativity is a cause for great joy as it is considered the "*dawn of our salvation*." (Pope Paul VI wrote in the document, *Marialis Cultus* in 1972).

St. Augustine rightly connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "*She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed.*" The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

A secondary theme of joy also appears throughout the liturgical celebration. The entrance antiphon on the feast of Nativity of B.V. Mary at Mass states: "***Let us celebrate with joyful hearts the birth of the Virgin Mary, of whom was born the Sun of Justice, Christ our Lord.***" It is with such joy we approach Mary to bring us joy that we as faithful sense the great happiness and festive nature on this beautiful feast of Mary's birthday.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

**Mary is the model of faith and virtue**, because she always precedes us on the pilgrimage of life and of faith. We as faithful need to go to look at Mary and her inspiring life in order to sustain in our faith and remain faithful.

In bringing Christ to the world, Mary also provides the joy and grace of her Son, which not only sustain us in difficulty, but are primarily intended for the weak and humble. As Pope Francis tells us: "***Carrying Jesus, Mary also brings us a new joy, full of meaning; she brings us a new ability to pass with faith through the most painful and difficult moments; she brings us the capacity for mercy, forgiveness, understanding and supporting one another.***" Life's crosses become lighter for us when Mary joins us on the way as she did with Jesus and accompanied His way of the cross.

When Mary arrived to her cousin, Elizabeth having gone "in haste," Elizabeth was able to see and experience what others may not have seen or experienced. With such an experience she immediately proclaimed, "*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*" In that moment, the greatest gift that Mary brought not just to Elizabeth, but to the whole world, is Jesus, who was already in her.

Many of us had our well-deserved vacation in our home countries or elsewhere. Refreshed we are back to our daily routines and children are back to school. Let us invite Mother Mary to come to us with Jesus to accompany us in our daily work and life and to bring us joy, graces and blessings.

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap  
Parish Priest-Musaffah



**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](mailto:voiceofstpauls@gmail.com)**

## Long Awaited Birth of Mary



Month of September has some attraction about it for us Catholics because of the birth of our beloved mother Mary. All over the world the birth of Mary is celebrated with pomp and glory, often coupled with some cultural reason, so much so that it cannot easily be bypassed. We have in our parish Konkani community celebrating the day as Monte fest and Tamil people in every parish in UAE celebrate her birth as feast of Our Lady of Good health. Probably, other communities too have some special reason to commemorate her birth. Mary ranks second among the three whose birthday is celebrated in our Catholic calendar. Why is that her birthday takes on such an importance and prominence?

Every birth is willed by God as St. Paul claims, '*he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world...*' (Eph 1:4) and are chosen even while in mother's womb (Jer 1:5). No doubt Mary too was foreknown by God and was chosen before the foundation of the world. Yet as one chosen to be the mother of Christ Jesus, Mary's birth must have something unique about it. Her birth was not only willed and foreknown by God from eternity, but also was waited for centuries by those praised for their faith. We have a long list of such persons known for their praiseworthy faith in Hebrews chapter 11. But they had not received what was promised, but they had looked ahead and had rejoiced in it from afar (Hb 11:13). What they had looked ahead and rejoiced from afar became real when Christ was born of Mary as subject to the law (Gal 4:5). Therefore, it is only fitting that her birth should be celebrated with every possible grandeur.

Even in the beginning of protestant reform some of the outstanding persons had acknowledged the greatness of Mary and hailed her inevitable role in the History of Salvation. Luther himself seemed to have acclaimed that Mary is the greatest among women, who cannot be adequately honoured and praised, and the devotion to Mary is deeply engraved in the depths of our heart. Therefore, we should desire that everyone will know her and love her. So too, John Calvin is said to have proclaimed that no one can deny that the Father who chose Mary to be the mother of His son has conferred a great honour upon Mary. How mistaken are those who try to distract us from our devotion to Mary our Mother!

Mary is hailed high because she gave birth to our beloved Saviour. No one can take her place. Yet spiritually we too have bounden duty to make Christ born amidst us. St. Francis of Assisi in his letter to the faithful says, that we are mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through love and a pure

conscience and that we give birth to Him through His holy manner of working, which should shine before other as an example. Thus, the celebration of the birthday of Mary should make us conscious of our obligation to make Christ born in our midst through our action done in love and pure conscience. May our Holy Mother intercede for us!

Fr. Divakar, OFM. Cap  
Asst.Parish Priest-Musaffah



From the book of 'Acts of the Apostles'- Chapters 13 to 16

- 1) How many nations were destroyed in the land of Canaan before Israelites could inherit?
- 2) After the miracle at Lystra, what name did the people call Barnabas and Paul?
- 3) During the council of Jerusalem, which Apostle (after Peter) spoke in length on the dietary law?
- 4) After Barnabas separated from Paul on the missionary journey, whom did Paul choose to accompany him?
- 5) What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas after they were miraculously freed from prison?

**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 2023.**

OR

Email: [voiceofstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofstpauls@gmail.com)

**Winners of Bible Quiz August-2023**

S.Stefano & S. Stenaff

Sep 7: Baptism Seminar  
Sep 8: Nativity of the B.V. Mary  
Sep 8: Montis Feast- Feast mass at 12.00 noon  
Sep 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross-Feast  
Sep 15: Our Lady of Sorrows  
Sep 17: 1st day of Catechism  
Sep 21: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist  
Sep 29: St. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels  
Sep 29: Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving mass.

### Church Events



### Photo Corner



Wedding Anniversary Mass during the month of August-2023





# The Vacation

