



Volume 6

# THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Issue 4

April-2023



## Parish Priest Message

# JESUS

Life. Death. Resurrection.

Dear brothers and sisters in Risen Christ,

Easter brings back our Baptismal themes and invites us to **reflect on the themes of life, death, and resurrection.**

St. Paul's words with the expression of our faith in the Paschal Mystery has meaning in the greatest Christian feast we celebrate this month, EASTER. *"We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."* (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18)

*"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."* (John 1:14), but this made Jesus no less divine. Jesus was still fully divine, God (John 1:1). Jesus came to experience life as we do, as fully human. Out of love for each one of us, He chose to be stripped of His glory (Philippians 2:6-8) and was given no advantage over us when it came to living a life without sinning (Isaiah 53:2).

If Jesus had any advantage through His divinity, His life, death, and resurrection would not have served its purpose! Christ came to prove the love and fairness of God the Father. His death in our place would mean nothing if He used His divinity to overcome sin. He faced every temptation and hardship known to man (Hebrews 4:15) and relied solely on the Holy Spirit for His strength. —And we have access to this same power (Romans 8:26-27).

The substitutional death of Jesus Christ is the ultimate sacrifice—the most loving, selfless act conceivable toward humanity. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:13).

What does your belief in the resurrection and eternal life mean to you personally?

We are invited here to hold two truths in tension: the reality of death and the hope of resurrection. We are called to embrace the reality of our own mortality, but also to *hold fast to the hope of new life and transformation through Christ*. In doing so, we can find comfort and strength in the knowledge that, *no matter what we may face in this life, we are never alone, and that Christ is with us always.*

### DEATH DEFEATED:

*Jesus' resurrection is proof that God won't let death win.* Though others, like Jesus' friend Lazarus, were made alive only to die again, in Jesus, death was defeated forever. Because He was the Son of God, His resurrection embodied the promise that everyone who accepts Him can live forever. *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:22).

In what ways can you share the hope and promise of resurrection with others who may be struggling with grief, despair, or hopelessness?

We all believe as it happened once in Jesus Christ, it can happen again. If even one time God brought a man who was completely dead back to full, robust and perfect life, then He can do it again. If He did that for Jesus, He can do it for you and for me, for our children, parents and grandparents, not to mention millions upon millions whose names the world has forgotten.



The Paschal mystery has resonance in our daily lives. In the letter to the Colossians, Saint Paul says: *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth"* (Col 3:1-2). Such

assurance and hope in the resurrection and the things of above can keep us alive to live in that same hope and faith rather than lingering in grief, despair, or hopelessness.

Have you ever experienced a moment of despair or hopelessness, only to be surprised by a new opportunity or a fresh start? Isn't it true that a little hope, we have bring us to this result? I am sure, our firm hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ will bring us to joyful transformation and resurrected and renewed life in Christ. We firmly believe that *Christ's Resurrection has renewed us without taking us from the world in which we build our history. We Christians must be luminous witnesses of this new life that Easter has brought.* The light of Christ's Resurrection must penetrate this world of ours; as a message of truth and life it must reach all human beings through our daily witness.

The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The bodily resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and final victory over sin and death.

Let us live as people of Faith, which is based on the death and resurrection of Christ, the Paschal Mystery, in which we all have been baptized.

**Wish you all A Very Happy Feast of Easter. May the Risen Lord Bless you and your families with His Love, Peace and Joy.**

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



# GOD RESTORES

The resurrection of Jesus brings restoration. Easter Sunday restores what was lost. The real celebration of the Lord's resurrection is to experience the restoration that was gained by the Lord himself through his death. We may have lost our life's glow or we may be slowly losing it. Let us retrospect – Am I experiencing some darkness within me? Am I getting suffocated in various areas of my life? Have I lost the road or the way to walk further?

Probably, we are in a grave. But that is no reason to worry. It's fine to acknowledge our current condition as it is instead of trying to cover it. It brings merit to understand what we lost so that we gain senses to seek those that we lost.

Jesus was in a grave too. He was buried in a grave after his crucifixion and death. He knows the darkness, the suffocation of being in a grave. The burial of the Christ in the tomb by itself was not an end. He rose again and the power of resurrection brings life even today to all who are buried by failures, sins, weakness etc. We were called Christians when we received our baptism. During the sacrament of Baptism, we first experienced the power of resurrection. 'We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life' (Romans 6: 4).

During Easter Vigil, we renew our baptism vows in the new light that proclaims the power and glory of the resurrected Lord, with the new water that flows from the right side of the temple. Water signifies the cleansing and restoring nature. Water can purify those that are unclean. It can restore life to lifeless situations. The Holy Spirit does this restoration in our lives and when we acknowledge and take the good counsel of the Spirit of God in our everyday life, our lives will no longer be dead and dull, but it will be alive and glowing. True Easter celebration lies in this restored life in the Spirit.



**APRIL-2023**

From the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew chapters 21 to 24

- 1) With what words did the crowd welcome Jesus into Jerusalem?
- 2) Which is the greatest and first commandment?
- 3) Like a hen that gathers its young under its wing, which city did God gather under his protection?
- 4) After the days of tribulation, what will be shaken?
- 5) The stone that the builders rejected has become the \_\_\_\_.

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

**OR**

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

**Winners of Bible Quiz March-2023**

1. Deron Lawrance      2. Tesia Lawrance      3. Ashlyn Theresa Bijoy

April 2: Palm Sunday

April 6: Maundy Thursday

April 7: Good Friday

April 8: Holy Saturday

April 9: Easter Sunday

April 13: Baptism Seminar @ 8 pm

April 16: Divine Mercy Sunday

April 25: St. Mark the Evangelist – Feast

April 30: Fr. Divakar - Priestly ordination day

**Church Events**

**Photo Corner**



Family Fest Thanksgiving 05.03.2023



Fr. Mathews Birthday 30.03.2023



New Communion Ministers Installation 31.03.2023





# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MUSAFFAH



## Holy Week Liturgical Programme - 2023

### Palm (Passion) Sunday (April 1 & 2 April, 2023)

#### 1st -Apr (Saturday)

06.30 PM – English

08.00 PM – Malayalam

#### 2nd -Apr (Sunday)

07.00 am – English

08.30 am – English

10.00 am – Malayalam

#### 2nd -Apr (Sunday)

12.00 Noon – Arabic (Church)

12.00 Noon – Konkani (Hall)

03.30 pm – Malankara (Hall)

04.00 pm – Tamil

06.00 pm - English

07.30 pm – Tagalog (Church)



### Maundy Thursday (6th April, 2023)

06.30 pm – English

08.30 pm – Malayalam



### Good Friday (7th April, 2023)

07.00 am – Malayalam

09.30 am – Malankara (Hall)

12.00 Noon- Arabic

02.00 pm – Malayalam

04.00 pm – Konkani (Hall)

04.00 pm – Tamil (Church)

06.00 pm – English

07.30 pm – Sinhala (Hall)

07.30 pm – Tagalog (Church)



### Easter Vigil (8th April, 2023)

06.00 pm - Malankara

08.30 pm - Malayalam

11.00 pm – English



### Easter Sunday (9th April, 2023)

06.30 am – Malayalam

08.30 am – English

10.30 am – Konkani

12.00 Noon – Arabic

04.00 pm – Tamil

06.00 pm - English

07.30 pm – Tagalog



Parish Priest, Assistant Priests, Parish Council Members & Editorial Team wish you and your family.

**“Happy Easter”**