



Volume 6

THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Issue 5

May-2023



Parish Priest Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Risen Christ,

The month of May is Mary's month. For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasized the month of May as a time of honour and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate this month with special devotions in honour of Mary.

On April 29, 1965, Pope Blessed Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Mense Maio* ("The Month of May"), which promoted May devotions to the Blessed Mother, knowing that, *"the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise."*

In our parish we have 'May Flower' devotion to Mary. Every evening we will be praying Rosary before evening Mass. Even in your families you have a host of options in the month of May to honour the Blessed Mother and deepen your devotion to her. Wherever you are in the journey of parenting, it's good to give your children the precious gift of Marian devotion, to be followed in childhood and unfolding throughout their lives. What might be some ways that we can manifest our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her month, the month of Mary?

1. Imitate Mary: When we truly love somebody, then we want to get to know them better, follow them more closely and finally to imitate their good qualities that we call virtues. St. Louis de Montfort in his classic *True Devotion to Mary* gives us a list of the ten principal virtues of Mary. If we imitate them, we will be on the Highway to holiness.

These ten principal virtues are: Her deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom!

St. Louis teaches us: *"The greatest saints, those richest in grace and virtue will be the most tireless in praying to the most Blessed Virgin, looking up to her as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist them."*

2. Holy Rosary: One of the important Marian devotion is the Rosary. Rosary as Marian prayers call to mind Mary's key presence in the Mysteries of our salvation — The Incarnation, Passion, death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

In Fatima Our Lady appeared six times to the Shepherd children—Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. In each and every apparition Our Lady insisted upon the praying of the most Holy Rosary.



St. John Paul II in his document on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary insisted, pleaded, that the whole world pray the Holy Rosary for the salvation of the family and for world peace. The famous Rosary priest, Father Patrick Peyton put it concisely: *"The family that prays together stays together"... and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."*

3. Apostle of Mary: Another way to show our devotion to Mary by becoming an ardent and fervent and passionate Apostle of Mary. One of the most famous modern Marian saints is Saint Maximilian Kolbe. His love for Mary could not be contained. One of the apostolic methods that Kolbe used was to spread devotion to the *Immaculata* by means of the Miraculous Medal (Medal of the Immaculate Conception).

In any situation or any opportunity that would arise, St Maximilian would give the medal to the person. He called these *"spiritual bullets"*. The medal is called *"Miraculous"* for the simple reason that many miracles have been attributed to those who use it with great faith and love and trust in the intercession of Mary.

We can become a modern Marian apostle today, following in the footsteps of Kolbe. This great Marian saint asserted with conviction: *"The Immaculate alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. She seeks souls that will consecrate themselves entirely to her, that will become in her hands forceful instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spread of God's kingdom."*

4. Our prayer to imitate Mary: Bless us Lord that we may imitate Mary's readiness to provide help to those who are in need. May we learn to love unconditionally our children, family, community and parish. We pray that we learn to love without condition or barriers. Guide us Lord, to become more responsive to the call of those who are in need.

As we celebrate Mother's Day during this month, bless O Lord all mothers. Strengthen women to give unconditional love and care to their children, and to those needing love and attention. We pray for the mothers who continuously struggle to provide for their children and family, and may they find consolation knowing they are not alone.



Mary, Mother of Mercy and Queen of Families, pray for us!

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

EMMAUS XPERIENCE

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We are still in the season of Easter. One of the most heart touching reading during the Easter season is Emmaus Experience. Luke 24:13-35 speaks about the appearance of Jesus before the two apostles on their journey to Emmaus. The disciples were very lucky to have seen the face of Jesus after His resurrection from the dead. This resurrection is the symbol of the repentance and forgiveness of sins of all people. The disciples realized the great mystery of the resurrection of Jesus with joy.

Jesus comes as consoler, with words of peace, to the fearful and doubt-filled disciples. His presence brings them peace, but "in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering". Their world had been turned upside down. They were terrified when confronted with the living presence of him whom they knew to be dead.

Jesus even today uses many means to strengthen our fragile faith. Eucharist is the one of the most important moment of experiencing Gods strength in our weakness. The two disciples recognized Jesus at the breaking of bread. They gained strength to proclaim him. Their hearts were filled with joy and satisfaction.

Pope Francis, in a homily on this passage, said "We are afraid of joy, and Jesus, by his Resurrection, gives us joy: the joy of being Christians, the joy of following him closely, the joy of taking the road of the beatitudes, the joy of being with him". He described the fear of joy as "a Christian illness".

Let us pray with Pope Francis: "that the Lord may open our minds and make us understand that he is a living reality, that he has a body, that he is with us and that he accompanies us, that he has conquered: let us ask the Lord for the grace not to be afraid of joy".

Patience is another virtue that will keep our faith going. Like the song entitled "Seasons" we must like be the seasons, we have to believe that there is a time for everything. Like Jesus who returned from the dead after three days, we too should be patient in waiting for our time. Instead of complaining about what we have and don't have, we have to pray in silence. Pray that patience will always come near us. Patience is a virtue and those who wait in patience receive the gift from above. "Peace be with you all."

Fr. Tom Joseph OFM Cap.
Asst. Parish Priest-Musaffah

Bible QUIZ

MAY-2023

From the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew chapters 25 to 28

- 1) When we feed the hungry and clothe a poor person, whom are we really feeding or clothing?
- 2) How many silver pieces did Judas receive to betray Jesus?
- 3) Who was asked to help Jesus carry his cross on the way to Calvary?
- 4) How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
- 5) What was the last statement of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Mathew?

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

OR

Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Winners of Bible Quiz April 2023

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

May 1: St. Joseph the Worker
May 3 : Ss. Philip & James, Apostles
May 4 : Baptism Seminar
May 8-11 : Capuchin Chapter Meeting
May 10 : Fr. Maxim Priestly Ordination Day
May 15 : Fr. Maxim Birthday
May 13 : Our Lady of Fatima
May 19-20 : Marriage Preparation Course in Malayalam
May 20 : ARISE - Nurses Ministry Program
May 21 : Ascension of the Lord
May 26 : Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass
May 28 : Pentecost
May 31 : Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Church Events



Photo Corner

Palm Sunday – 2023 Celebrations





Palm Sunday – 2023 Celebrations



Maundy Thursday Celebrations – 2023



**Washing of Feet's
English Service**



**Washing of Feet's
Malayalam Service**



Good Friday Services – 2023



Easter Vigil Services – 2023



**Ordination Anniversary of Fr.Divakar
held on 29.04.2023**



Catechism children dressed as Saints 30-April-2023



Wedding Anniversary Mass during the month of April-2023