



THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Volume 7

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Parish Priest Message

PARISH FAMILY FEST: A CHANCE FOR ENCOUNTER AND EVANGELIZATION

There are a few days in the Parish calendar that evoke more energetic memories of a vibrant community and parish family. The Family Fest is one of these. The **Family Fest is a Feast of instinctive encounter and evangelization that engages all parishioners and brings people together—close together.**

Fest can even be “a pilgrimage,” a holy journey, because, to be part of it, you’ve got to join together, work together and walk together...

Family Fest can be an occasion for us to bring those who are not coming to the Church and Sacraments. It is quite possible that some of them have lost touch or lost interest with the church and church activities and devotions. This Family Fest tells these rare visitors, “You’re a part of our



ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

MUSAFFAH - ABU DHABI

PARISH Family Fest 2024

Joy of Walking Together our Ongoing Journey

4TH FEBRUARY 2024 FROM 8.30 AM ONWARDS

1. The importance of the Family Fest for the Parish Community:

Family Fest is a time to partake in the festival of foods with delicious and mouthwatering dishes, numerous booths with games, with diverse musical performances, dances from diverse cultures. In this way this Fest gives opportunities to use our gifts and talents a chance.

The planning and workload is an organizational “headache” sometimes. But **enthusiasm and cooperation from all with the zeal with which long-time parishioners and newcomers teamed up to express their support and helping one another brings more joy with lots of fun.**

2. The Family Fest as a moment of evangelization:

It's a sign of unity, strength, faith, and openness, of not being ashamed of who we are, and of evangelization. I can vouch for the joy, when we see so many people, who are part of this parish in fact come from different parts of the world, with different language, culture, food habits, join together, work together and walk together... This is really a great feeling, in a real sense a celebration, which is an occasion of evangelization. The **whole event of Family**

lives, too. You are always welcome.”

3. The Family Fest is a time of encounter: This kind of event can offer lessons to us, an opportunity to encounter different people. There are so many things we can do or what we do during such Family Fest can be an inspiration to others, who are not really involved actively in parish activities. Such Festival will show that all people with multi-culture, multi-language and multi-national background can be a rich heritage. The path toward any variation of Family Fest begins with a multi-dimensional sense of evangelization. A parish family reaches out with the power of God that goes beyond four walls, not only to serve and listen to others, but to express things at the core of its own solidarity—incarnated in sights, sounds, tastes, and activities. The **encounter is also a two-way path, inviting people inside the parish's strong culture in a complementary and not confrontational, way.** It reminds us where we came from and helps us to focus on where we're going. Once we see what attracts other people, then we can work on



making our parish more welcoming without watering down the essence of who we are.

4. The International Day of Human Fraternity: It is a coincidence that this year our **Family Fest falls on The International Day of Human Fraternity**, which highlights the principles and values of the Document on Human Fraternity, while exploring good practices towards its implementation as a pathway to building a more peaceful world. The International Day of Human Fraternity commemorates the historic signing of the Document on Human Fraternity by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmed Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on February 4, 2019.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said “As we commemorate the International Day of Human Fraternity, let us commit to do more to promote cultural and religious tolerance, understanding and dialogue.”

The International Day of Human Fraternity recognizes the importance of compassion, religious tolerance, and respect for one another. These values promote peace and bring the human community together.

The UN Secretary-General gave a message on the occasion of International Day of Human Fraternity in 2023. He said: "The International Day of Human Fraternity celebrates the values of compassion, religious understanding, and mutual respect. These values guarantee peace and are the glue that hold our human family together." Such values are very necessary to hold our Parish family together.

Further the message stressed to take inspiration and renew our commitment to stand together as one human family. Together, let us build an alliance of peace. Rich in diversity, equal in dignity and rights, united in solidarity. The declaration “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” – co-authored by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb – is a model for interfaith harmony and human solidarity.

Such declaration as well as our Family Fest celebrations can guide and inspire our walking together in one Spirit of the Lord, i.e. Synod of Synodality.

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

Feb 1 : Baptism Seminar
Feb 2 : Presentation of the Lord
Feb 4: Parish Family Fest
Feb 8-10 : Malayalam Retreat
Feb 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
Feb 14 : Ash Wednesday
Feb 22: Chair of St. Peter
Feb 23 : Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass

Church Events



FEBRUARY-2024

From the book of 'Revelation', Chapters 3 to 4

1. What coloured dress will the victors be clothed with ?
2. Which church was neither cold nor hot?
3. In the heavenly worship vision, what did the four living creatures resemble ?
4. How many elders were seen in the heavenly worship ?
5. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who __ , and who __ , and who is to __

Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st March 2024.
OR

Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Winners of Bible Quiz January-2024

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1.Ashlyn Theresa Bijoy | 3.Jason Fergus |
| 2.Tesia Lawrance | 4.Ria Beatriz |



Photo Corner



New Year Holy Mass Concelebrated by Parish Priest



St. Devasahayam Feast held on 14-Jan-2024 (Tamil Community)



Bishops Conference Held on 27-Jan-2024



Wedding Anniversary Holy Mass during the month of January-2024