



# THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



2024

## Parish Priest Message

*Happy New Year*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Christmas season is still here and New Year is a new gift to us. On this occasion, I've just gone through some of the resolutions people take at the beginning of a new year. I just list three of them. It may be inspiration or guidance or it can prick our conscience to do something on these aspects or to work-out on these lines.

Stop biting my nails, learn a new language, get up early, work-out daily, are the resolution that returns year in, year out. Some may have positive effect and others may be forgotten after some time or as the days go by. Below are three resolutions that may be helpful for us to shape our New Year and something to do in the New Year.

**1. Reduce my screen time:** My main focus this year is to spend less time glued to the screen that's rarely out of my left palm, and more time being present in the real-life things going on around me.

**2. Positivity:** I'm aiming to adopt more of a 'glass-half-full mindset'. We're living at a go-go-go pace and sometimes, we forget what we have and how fortunate we are to have it. In 2024, I aim to be more mindful of this and be grateful for what I have, and also give back to the less fortunate.

**3. Work-life balance:** Striking a work-life balance for me is always a struggle. I want more time for me – to read, to exercise, to meet friends, to chill and even get enough sleep. So, this year, I aim to consciously figure out the right balance for me. It may take me some time, and I may fail (a lot) at first, but I am hoping I will get there in the end.

Resolutions are good, especially if there are changes we need to make in our lives. People go to any extent, if they want or desire something by all means. In the same way resolutions or changes can work in our life, if only we want or desire them by all means to bring positivity in our life.

I heard about one poor guy who dialled his girlfriend and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

It's good to make changes, for the most part. As we are often reminded by our critics, our spouses or our children, none of us

is perfect. In fact, some of us might have some deep regrets about the way we've lived our lives.

We begin with the Word of God, which says, '*the God who makes all things new in Christ*' (cf. Rev. 21:5) enables us to make this year truly a New Year for each one of us -- a time for renewal and re-creation in the love of God, a time for making this year a year of peace in our lives and homes, a time for making this new year truly a "year of our Lord," a year of loving service, with God's abundant blessings & sanctification.

We learn a lot about "NEW" in the New Testament. New Testament being NEW brings newness. There, we read about - new birth, new teaching, new wine, new wineskins, new commandment, new covenant, new creation, new self, new heaven and new earth, new name, new Jerusalem, newness of life; and then what we just read: all things new. Newness is also seen in His creation:

There is the daily newness of night turning into day – a daily newness of darkness to light. There is the annual turning of winter into spring, spring to summer, summer to fall, fall to winter...endlessly repeating throughout time.

There's a clear cycle of newness and renewal in creation. And there's a cycle of newness and renewal in life. God is a God of renewal, restoration, redemption, refreshing. I think we inherently recognize that renewal and refreshing and restoration are an important part of our human experience.

There is a place for persevering through old things in our life and faith life, as well as our relationship with the Lord as individuals, and our relationships with each other.

In many cases, where things are tough and we want something new, God will give us something new.... He'll give us new strength, new determination, new attitudes, rather than new circumstances. As the Word of God tells us: "*He will wipe every tear from their eyes.*"

*There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*" (Rev. 21:4)

A new heart.... a new spirit is necessary to begin the New Year with newness. God does new things because we need newness. We need refreshing. We need this new heart and new spirit. God is a God of new things, and renewal is part of His working in us and in creation.

We begin the New Year with the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. May Mother Mary accompany us with her Son Jesus in this New Year, in all that we do and plan to bring blessings, graces and sanctification to us personally and to our families and our Parish.

Wish you all a very Happy New Year 2024.



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





**JANUARY-2024**

From the book of 'Revelation', Chapters 1 to 2

1. I am the Alpha and the \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which island did John find himself in ?
3. To the church in Smyrna , what crown did Jesus promise ?
4. To which church did Christ promise to give the Morning star?
5. What is inscribed in the white amulet promised to church in Pergamum ?

**Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.**

**OR**

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

**Winner of Bible Quiz December-2023**

- 1) Ashlyn Theresa Bijoy



**Catechism Christmas held on 10-Dec-2023**



**Blessing of The Crib  
25-Dec-2023**



**Christmas Crib**



- Jan 1 Mary, Mother of God  
Jan 4 Baptism Seminar @ 7.45 pm – Our Lady of Arabia Hall  
Jan 7 Epiphany of the Lord  
Jan 8 Baptism of the Lord  
Jan 13 Our Lady of Arabia  
Jan 14 St. Devasahayam – Feast Mass @ 12.15 pm (Tamil Community)  
  
Jan 21 Sunday of the Word of God  
Jan 25 Conversion of St. Paul  
Jan 26 Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass @ 7 pm

### Church Events



**Christmas Vigil 25-Dec-2023**



### Photo Corner



**Feast of St Francis Xavier Held on 03 Dec-2023 (Konkani Community)**



**Ordination Anniversary of Fr. Mathews & Fr. Tom 29-Dec-2023**



**Wedding Anniversary Mass during the month of December-2023**