



THE Voice

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Volume 7

Issue 3

March-2024

Parish Priest Message



the Church leaves the Lenten practice of penance to the good will and generosity of individual Christians. However, **Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word, and deed.** It is also a time to assess our relationships with our family, friends, working colleagues, and other people with whom

we come in contact, especially those of our parish. We should examine whether we are able to make any positive contribution to other people's lives.

2) Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by: a) participating in the Mass regularly; b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading Bible, alone or, better still, with others; d) setting aside some money that we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment or clothes and giving it to the less fortunate; e) abstaining from smoking or alcohol; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays g) doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy every day in the Lent.

3) Let us use Lent as a time to fight daily against the evil within us and around us: Repenting and fighting against temptations and evil is a lifetime's task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; he achieved that only in his death. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us, so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.



The **glamour**, the **pomp**, and **allurements** of the devil or our world is what we are called to resist. The **media**, especially **social networks allure and attract us to the**

Lenten time is a time of special grace. Though we have a themes like Repent, conversion, Transformation, yet the mood of the church is not gloomy but grace filled, in other words walking with Jesus carrying our crosses following the example of Jesus, yet we do it joyfully, with the grace of God, i.e. divine strength. **"Repent and believe in the Good News of God's Kingdom,"** is the message for lent as we receive the ashes on our forehead.

According to Mark's Gospel, the first public words of Jesus, His Messianic mission's basic keynote speech, which has four specific messages: 1) **"The time is fulfilled."** 2) **"The Kingdom of God is at hand."** 3) **"Repent."** 4) **"Believe in the Gospel."** (Mk 1:15) This message summarizes the **purpose of Jesus' ministry and mission.** In this statement Jesus is not asking his audience to do or **not to do something to shape their future in Heaven.** He is **concerned with the here and now.** **"Metanoia,"** repentance, is a change of mind and heart; which is a lifelong process of transformation. The **Good News Jesus announces is that God is already working here among us, so close to us that we can reach out and touch Him in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Man.**

In order to be able to experience Jesus as Son of God, **we need to undergo a complete change in our way of living, our value system and priorities by means of true repentance.** As Jesus announces, **"the time has come,"** in order to bring about Metanoia, a transformation, in order to strongly believe Kingdom of God, which is present amidst us, as Jesus himself promised **"I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age"** (Mt.28:20).

A few tips for Lenten season:

1) Lent is a time of renewal of life by penance and prayer: Formerly the six weeks of Lent meant a time of severe penance as a way of purifying ourselves from our sinful habits and getting ready to celebrate the *Paschal Mystery* (the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), with a renewed commitment to follow Christ. Now

things we wouldn't need, in ways we wouldn't have and the actions we wouldn't have dared otherwise.

4) **Often, we blame the community and “the system” for the evils of society and for the sins we commit:** This shrugging off of responsibility is a timeless device of escape, to pass on the responsibility to others due to self-righteous attitude. **The truth is that we are personally responsible for our sins and we must repent.** Let us not be like Scribes and Pharisees, who had in many cases a self-righteous anger towards Jesus and followers of Jesus. Hence they criticized Jesus and His followers. We must know **Self-righteous anger is toxic.** Like any sin, it can blind us to goodness, truth, and love. Humility, which is an outflow from holiness is an antidote to this attitude.

5) We can **let our homes be places full of the holy – things that help raise our minds and hearts to God:** Our world is full of so many images that lure our minds and hearts elsewhere. This Lent we can make a difference. Some symbols will carry the ongoing meaning we give them, for us and for our families and loved ones. Placing a Bible in a central place in our home reminds us of the central place of God's Word in our lives on this Lenten journey.

6) **Let us be open to God's grace with a deep desire to receive what is being offered us:** A few age old practices, which Jesus recommends (Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18), like fasting prayer and almsgiving, can help us stay focused throughout the season. If we do these things, God's desire for our hearts and our desire for greater union with God will meet. In this way, Lent will no longer feel like a burden, but rather a blessing.

'The time has come, the Lord is close at hand,' to love us, forgive us and accompany us in all circumstances. Let this Lent be a time of grace to put aside all our self-righteous attitude, ego and pride to humble ourselves and come to the Lord with complete surrender. Let us follow Jesus our Master, who humbled himself and surrendered to Father's will in complete obedience.

Wish you a graceful season of Lent and a Blessed EASTER.

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

March 1 : Fr. Tom Birthday

March 7 : Baptism Seminar @ 7.45 pm

March 12,13, & 14 : Lenten Retreat

March 19 : St. Joseph – Solemnity

March 23 & 24 : Palm Sunday

March 28 : Holy Thursday

March 29 : Good Friday

March 30 : Holy Saturday

March 30 : Fr. Mathews Birthday

March 31 : Easter Sunday

Church Events



Experiencing God's Unconditional Love: A Personal Reflection

As Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, it serves as a poignant reminder of God's unconditional love. This year is truly special as it falls on 14th February in celebration of the Valentine's Day. In a world often characterized by turmoil and uncertainty, the notion of divine love offers hope to those who seek it. (Cf. Romans 15:3) Reflecting on my own journey, I am compelled to share the impact of God's love in my life. It has been remarkable as He showers His overflowing grace and mercy, despite my unworthiness. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9–10). As I ponder on my experiences, I am humbled by the unfathomable depths of God's love that has sustained me through every trial and triumph.

At the core of our human existence, lies imperfection—a reality that often leaves us feeling undeserving of divine love. Yet, it is precisely in our moments of weakness and vulnerability that God's understanding love shines most brightly. My journey with God's love began with an encounter during a period of personal struggle. Amidst feelings of inadequacy and despair, I found peace in my heart in the knowledge that God's love knew no bounds. (Cf.1 Corinthians 13:7) Despite my flaws and shortcomings, He embraces me with open arms, offering forgiveness and redemption beyond measure. It was a transformative moment, as I realized that I was unconditionally accepted as I am and reminded of the sacrifice made on the cross—a testament to the depth of His affection for humanity. (Cf. John 3:16)

Central to the message of God's love is the call to extend compassion and mercy to others. As recipients of His grace, we are called to emulate His love in our interactions with those around us. Through acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity, we are tasked with spreading the



transformative power of God's love to all whom we encounter.

My journey with God's love is ongoing, characterized by moments of growth, reflection, of humility and gratitude, as I continually strive to deepen my understanding of His affection. His love serves as hope in a world often overshadowed by darkness. It is a love that transcends time and space, offering salvation to all who embrace it. As we go through the Lenten season and beyond, let us be mindful of the depth of God's love and its transformative power in our lives and continue to grow in faith.

Maria Rina



Photo Corner

Capturing moments that become memories, as we celebrate the beauty of Family Fest-2024

Bible QUIZ MARCH-2024

From the book of 'Revelation', Chapters 5 and 6

1. How many horns and eyes did the slain lamb have?
 2. Who was worthy to open the scroll?
 3. On opening of the third seal, what coloured horse came out?
 4. At the opening of which seal, did the moon turn red?
 5. What was the name of the rider of the pale green horse?
- Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st April 2024.**

OR

Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Winners of Bible Quiz February-2024

1.Ashlyn Theresa Bijoy





Wedding Anniversary Holy Mass during the month of February-2024



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MUSAFFAH

Holy Week Masses & Liturgical Services-2024



TIMING	LANGUAGE		
23 & 24-Mar-2024 PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY			
SATURDAY (23-Mar-2024)			
06.30 pm	English		
08.00 pm	Malayalam		
SUNDAY (24-Mar-2024)			
7:00 am	English		
08:30 am	English		
10:00 am	Malayalam		
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		
28-Mar-2024 MAUNDY THURSDAY			
06:30 pm	English		
08:30 pm	Malayalam		
29-Mar-2024 GOOD FRIDAY			
07:00 am	Malayalam		
09:30 am	Malankara (Hall)		
12:00 Noon	Arabic		
02:00 pm	Malayalam		
04:00 pm	Konkani (Church)		
04:00 pm	Tamil (Hall)		
06:00 pm	English		
07:30 pm	Sinhala (Hall)		
08:00 pm	Tagalog (Church)		
30-Mar-2024 EASTER VIGIL			
06:00 pm	English (Church)		
06:00 pm	Malankara (Hall)		
08:30 pm	Malayalam		
11:00 pm	English		
31-Mar-2024 EASTER SUNDAY			
06:30 am	Malayalam		
08:30 am	English		
10:30 am	Konkani		
11:00 am	Tagalog (Hall)		
12:00 Noon	Arabic		
04:00 pm	Tamil		
06:00 pm	English		

Parish Priest, Co-Priests, Parish Council Members and Editorial Team wish you and your family a very

"Happy Easter."