



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

December 2015

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday - Gladys Tabor.

The celebration of Christmas is at hand! The cold season with its pleasant weather makes us yearn for warmth, the yuletide rings in sweet chimes around us, the strains of carols in the air and aromas of Christmas goodies wafting from kitchens—the month of December, so filled with Hope, Brightness, Joy and Happiness!

Jesus came on earth to reveal an incredible message to us—a message of joy, peace and hope. His birth brought Hope—the hope that keeps us alive every moment in the cradle of care that God, in all His merciful love gives us, through His only Son Jesus Christ. We thank Mother Mary for her readiness in making God's plan come to life with the birth of Jesus.

I pray that each one of you has a Joyful Christmas - a Christmas so deep rooted in the inner peace—that deep faith which gives us strength in times of turbulence and in the challenges of everyday life. Let the Birth of Jesus keep us together, to celebrate life's happiest moments. May the Birthday of Christ be for us an occasion of great joy.

Let us pray that we have a Peaceful Christmas—the peace which the world so clearly is unable to give itself—the peace that broken hearts long for; the

peace that is ours to share with one another, in forgiveness, kindness and charity. May the Peace that Jesus' birth brought to this world be gladly shared among all nations!

Let the Hope of Christmas be spread in the world around us, especially at this time when we are so devoid of hope—when nations are at war with each other and the people suffer from terrible atrocities—let this Hope that the birth of Jesus brings, be the greatest hope to all as we ring in the bells of Christmas and rejoice, for Jesus Christ alone can renew the hope in our hearts!

I wish you all a Joyful, Peaceful and Hopeful Christmas and may your Christmas also be a Merry and Happy one!

God bless you all!

Msgr. C Francis
Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

LIGHTEN UP

When Mozart passed away, he was buried in a churchyard. A couple of days later, the town drunk was walking through the cemetery and heard some strange noise coming from the area where Mozart was buried. Terrified, the drunk ran and got the town Priest to come and listen.

When the Priest arrived, he bent his ear to the grave, listened for a moment, and said, "Ah, yes, that's Mozart's Ninth Symphony, being played backwards."

He listened a while longer, and said, "There's the Eighth Symphony, and it's backwards, too. Most puzzling." So the Priest kept listening; "There's the Seventh... the Sixth... the Fifth..."

Suddenly the realization of what was happening dawned on the Priest; he stood up and announced to the crowd that had gathered in the cemetery, "My friends, there's nothing to worry about. It's just Mozart decomposing."

ADVENT - PREPARING FOR JESUS' COMING

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season. It is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple color associated with Advent is also the color of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The color of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This color symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again.

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THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AS A DOMESTIC CHURCH

During the Holy Father Pope Francis' visit to Ecuador on 6th of July, he requested the congregation which gathered, to greet him with families. He said "The family is the nearest hospital, the first school for the young, the best home for the elderly and the social capital". He also pointed out that the family has an impact on society and society on the family as well. They need to be helped and strengthened, lest we lose our proper sense of the services which society as a whole provides. The Pope reminded the faithful that the family is a small domestic church, and when we experience the love of parents, we feel the closeness of God's love.

Children are a precious gift to the family. Marriage is the rock on which the family is built. When a man and a woman, made in the image and likeness of the Triune God, give themselves wholly to each other, they begin to live like God—a life of love, a family of life. The moment a child is born, the responsibility of the parents, increases. It is the topmost priority of the parents to love and care for their children. For the healthy growth of the child three important factors are to be borne in mind.

1. Interaction/Communication between the Parents

As parents, we have to follow in the footsteps of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of Mother Mary, and lead by example in order to nurture our children with good values. When there is a conflict between the parents and there is an argument in the house for petty reasons, the children become the victims. Children, growing up in this atmosphere, are always insecure and look out for love, attention and affection. They thirst for parental love and when they don't succeed, they go into emotional disturbance.

Census Forms

All parishioners are reminded to kindly fill up the Census Form and return the same to the Parish Office or to your Zonal representative at the earliest. Please consider this reminder as MOST URGENT.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - December

Universal: EXPERIENCING GOD'S MERCY

That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: FAMILIES

That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

2. The environment surrounding the child

The Church acknowledges the many threats that the family, as an institution, faces in our times from the materialistic influence of technology and communication, to poor value-education at home, because of both parents working long hours or the unavailability of one or both of the parents, due to work constraints.

It is of utmost importance for parents to give their children proper knowledge and understanding, when they mature into adolescence, as they develop physical and psychological changes. Children today are bombarded with all kinds of news and images through the media. It is the responsibility of the parents to be vigilant and to educate the children about the right values, both through words and actions.

Comparisons are at the heart of sibling rivalry. Parents pit children against each other, in a bid to push them. This creates feelings of inadequacy and a lifelong habit of focusing on others, rather than bettering

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Cemetery

Due to acute shortage of space for burial at the cemetery, a decision has been taken to henceforth allot only temporary graves for burial. All new graves will only be MUD GRAVES, which may be claimed only for a period of 3 years, after which it may be reused to bury others. However, there is also a provision of vaults in the cemetery where the bones of the dear departed may be preserved. All those who possess existing family graves will be allowed burial in the same grave. No new graves will be allotted.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN DECEMBER

- Dec 03: Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier, Patron of India and the Archdiocese of Bangalore
- Dec 08: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Opening of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy 2016
- Dec 25: Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)
- Dec 26: Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr
- Dec 27: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
(Also, Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, though not celebrated this year)
- Dec 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents

MISSION SUNDAY AT ST. PATRICK'S

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, stressed on the importance of a relatively new term 'New Evangelisation', which means the evangelisation of the catechised or 'evangelising the evangelised'. This year, for Mission Sunday, our parish organised evangelisation stalls with a similar purpose. The stalls were centered on different themes and were put together by different prominent groups of our parish who are actively involved in the missionary apostolate. Each stall had put up colourful banners, articles, artifacts and written-material that threw light on the subjects they were focussing on.

The Prema Shanti group had put up a stall through which it explained the role and importance of Mother Mary and the Rosary. This stall was beautifully decorated with many images and other representations of Our Lady. The ICPE stall, abundant with quotes and resources focussed on the Scriptures. They distributed various materials on the Scriptures, such as pamphlets on Lectio Divina, the importance of reading the Word of God and so on. The Light of Christ Community put up a stall on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Reconciliation stall had setup a confessional in the middle of the stall and distributed handouts on the Steps to Make a Confession as well as how to make an Examination of Conscience.

The Bread of Life group, of which I am a part, had set up a stall on the Holy Eucharist. The stall had a beautiful altar setup in the middle, with an altar cloth, candles, crucifix, lectionary etc. It made many people ask if Mass was being celebrated outdoors!

On one side were chasubles in different colours, each color signifying a particular liturgical season and theme. The other side of the stall had an audio visual depiction of the Last Supper. Besides the demonstrations, there were a lot of volunteers especially youth, to explain each part of the Mass, to the curious crowd. They also distributed handouts to all those who passed by. Among the handouts were bookmarks with sayings of saints or a scripture from the Bible and a pamphlet with five Eucharistic miracles.

This day gave us a chance to testify about the living presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. As the volunteers took a step towards strangers (some Christian and some non-Christian), it meant a leap of faith, as nobody knew how they would react or how the Lord would use us. We got an opportunity to pray

with so many people, clarify so many doubts, testify to so many people, and encourage many broken hearted people.

Call it a co-incidence or God's perfect timing, many people told us that it was the last thread of hope their lives were hanging with. The Lord intervened, and gave them an experience at the right point in their lives.

Besides the stalls, quite a few people came forward to testify about how their faith in Jesus changed their life. In one of the testimonies for instance, a young boy shared how he was at the edge of despair, and decided to come to St. Patrick's Church after coming across its website - and how the Lord strengthened him. I too, was one of those who shared my testimony of how I came to know the Lord, and became a Catholic (I am a convert).

At the end of the day, each of us was deeply touched and highly encouraged to witness freely to the Lord.

"Go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15)

Deepa Naidu
Marian Zone

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY... (CONTD. FROM PAGE 2)

one's own lot. We should understand that each child has a specific gift or talent, and it is our duty to encourage them in the right direction.

3. Devotion / Prayer

Above all, more things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of! It is, therefore, important that parents also let their children see them having their time with God as well! If they are small, it is better to read stories from a Children's Bible, thereby inculcating the habit of reading.

Finally, a few sentences on Thanksgiving, for the Lord who has created them and who takes care of them and who loves them, unconditionally. The dignity and responsibility of the Christian Family, as the domestic Church, can be achieved only with God's unceasing aid, which surely will be granted, if it is humbly and trustingly petitioned in prayer.

Cynthia Fernandes
St. Thomas' Zone

A TRIBUTE TO FR. ALBERT SALEEMA

Fr. Albert Saleema, greatly loved by all, served as Associate Parish Priest at St. Patrick's Church for a period of ten years. The simple dignity of his manner - so self-restrained in his judgment of people, yet so attentive and shrewd in judging what actually mattered and what did not, was what endeared him to most. His short and to the point homilies were very practical and much appreciated, and provided much food for thought. He was greatly missed by the parish community, when he moved from St. Patrick's to his next assignment at St. Michael's Church, Shantinagar.

To the people of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, he was a champion of the less fortunate-a mentor, and above all a friend, with an obligation to give of himself not just by preaching alone, but through his friendship, kindness and subtle humour. None of us can foresee the trials and misfortunes that will test us along the way of life or know God's plan for each one of us. What we can do, is live out our lives as best we can, with purpose, love and joy. This is how Fr. Saleema lived. He went out of his way to act on his words, with kindness and a sense of urgency. He used each day to show those around him how much he cared about them, in particular the children and young boys in the boarding schools of Maria Niketan and St. Patrick's Boys' Home. A true counselor at heart, many approached him unhesitatingly for advice and guidance.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH

- a) **Daily Mass:** 6am, 6.30am (Tamil), 7am, 1.15pm, 5.30pm. Saturday evening Mass at 6pm (Sunday Liturgy). On Nov 2 (All Souls Day), Mass at the Cemetery will be at 11am and 4.30pm.
- b) **Sunday Mass:** 6am (Kannada), 7.15am (Tamil), 8.30am (Children's Mass), 9.45am, 11am, 6pm.
- c) **Shrine Mass:** Every Tuesday at 10am in Kannada and at 6pm in Tamil
- d) **Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday 6pm to 6.45pm
- e) **Adoration Chapel:** Exposition every day from 6am to 7pm. On Tuesdays, exposition up to 9.45pm.
- f) **Confessions:** Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm at the Adoration Chapel
- g) **Altar Servers Meeting:** Every Saturday immediately after 1.15pm Mass (Contact Fr. Mac Donald Fernandis+91

As Chaplain in the Christian Family Movement, he mentored and helped members forge that link between the everydayness of family life, and the calling each one had, to build the 'Kingdom of God'.

We thank God for the gift of Fr. Saleema to the Parish and to the Archdiocese. We pray that he may rest in eternal peace.

Inspired by the plea of Jabez in the Bible (1 Chronicles 4:10) Fr. Albert Saleema's fervent prayer would have been:

**O that you would bless me, indeed, O Lord.
Expand my opportunities and my impact, in such a way that I may touch more lives for your glory.
Let me do more for you.**

Jean Rego
St. Thomas Zone

Mission Sunday Fete

St. Patrick's Parish will be organizing a Fete, in the month of January, to raise money for the Missions. In this connection, we request you to kindly donate any items that you may possess, which are in good usable condition but no longer required by you, so that they may be put up for sale at the fete.

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- h) **Faith Formation for children:** Every Sunday after 8.30am Mass - up to 10.30am.
- i) **Legion of Mary:** Meetings every Monday at 4.15pm (Contact Ms. M. Menezes + 91-9845426746)
- j) **Legion of Mary (Tamil):** Meetings every Sunday from 8.30am to 9.30am (Contact Mr. John Leonard +91-9916896446)
- k) **St Vincent de Paul:** Meetings every Tuesday at 6pm (Contact Mr. James Sequeira Ph: +91-9341252624)
- l) **Ladies of Charity:** Meetings every first Thursday of the month at 4.30pm (Contact Ms. Stella Monga +91 8147971118)
- m) **Counseling Centre:** Open every Tuesday and Friday between 4.30pm to 6.30pm. (Contact +91-80-25587213)

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Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

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