



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

April 2016

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

“Look into my heart and see there the Love and Mercy which I have for humankind, and especially for sinners. Look and enter into my Passion”

-Jesus to St. Faustina (Diary 1663)

After celebrating Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead, a life of forgiveness is what we have learnt from our Lenten experience!

The month of April is a time filled with fun and frolic for the children, as they begin their summer vacations. The older kids await their exam results. High school and college students are busy with college search and admissions, and CET and other professional exams—for them a stressful time. So, this month means different things to different people and it is also a time when some others invest a great deal of effort into serious career building! To each one of you and to all the children of our Parish, I convey my very best wishes and good luck in all your ventures towards your educational and knowledge-gaining efforts.

The first Sunday after Easter is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy of Jesus is a Roman Catholic devotion to Jesus Christ, associated with the reputed mystical apparitions revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska. This month is dedicated to the Novena of the Divine Mercy. We shall pledge our total trust in Jesus Christ, for He is our Saviour and Comforter.

I would like to encourage every family of our Parish to pray the Divine Mercy Novena in order to attain blessings and graces from the Lord.

To our dear children, place your trust in Jesus and He

GOD'S MERCY—A BEAUTY TO EMBRACE OR A CHALLENGE TO ENDURE?

In the Bible, St. John describes God as **Love**. And since **Mercy** is the **genuine love** for any person who is suffering and unhappy in any way, St. Paul describes God as **Merciful**. Therefore, summing up the understanding of God by these two great saints, we can say, **“God is Love and rich in Mercy”**. God has always been rich in mercy, but we sometimes tend to forget His Merciful Love. Therefore, Pope Francis has declared this year as the extraordinary **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, hoping that the faithful will be able to find the joy of rediscovering God's Mercy in their lives and in turn, be able to reflect that same mercy

will surely walk along with you in your efforts as a student. I wish you all good luck in your examination results. Be positive and always have trust in God.

God Bless us all.

Msgr. C Francis
Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

The Divine Mercy Image and Devotion

The earliest element of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina was the Image. On February 22nd, 1931 Jesus appeared to her with rays radiating from His heart and said:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world. (Diary 47)

I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as My own glory. (Diary 48)

I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature "Jesus, I trust in You." (Diary 327)

towards their neighbour.

Whenever Jesus talked about the **Mercy of God** to His people, he used **Parables** as a powerful means of teaching, especially to the less learned. And these parables, even today, are very effective in teaching

...contd. on page 3

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POPE FRANCIS WASHES THE FEET OF MIGRANTS FROM DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

The Pope decided to celebrate his Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at the **Reception Center for Asylum Seekers**, after spending previous years offering the Mass in prisons and a rehab center for the disabled.

Pope Francis spoke to the 900 migrants and refugees currently housed at the Center in Castelnuovo di Porto. Nearly all of them come from sub-Saharan Africa. Most of the migrants hosted at the Center are Muslims, and among the Christians, most are Copts or Protestants.

During the Mass, Pope Francis washed the feet of 11 migrants and one volunteer. Of the migrants, four were Catholic youths from Nigeria, three were Coptic women from Eritrea, three were Muslims, and one was a Hindu youth from India.

Several of the people, whose feet the Pope washed, were moved to tears by his fraternal gesture.

In his homily during the Mass, the Pope spoke about the 2 gestures that were covered in the Reading - **the gesture of Jesus of washing the feet of the apostles and the gesture of Judas of selling Jesus for money**. Following is the translation of the homily the Pope gave in Italian.

"Actions speak louder than images and words. Acts... There are, in this Word of God that we have read, two acts: Jesus who serves, who washes feet... He, who was the "master", washes the feet of others, his [disciples], of the least. An act. The second act: Judas who goes to Jesus' enemies, to those who do not want peace with Jesus, in order to take the money for which he betrayed Him, 30 pieces of silver. Two acts.

Today too, here, there are two acts: this one, all of us, together: Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Copts, Evangelicals, but brothers and sisters, children of the same God, who want to live in peace, integrated.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - APRIL

Universal: SMALL FARMERS

That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

Evangelization: AFRICAN CHRISTIANS

That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

An act. Three days ago, an act of war, of destruction in a European city, by people who do not want to live in peace. But behind that act, as behind Judas, there were others. Behind Judas were those who paid money for Jesus to be delivered. Behind "that" act [in Brussels] are weapons producers and traffickers who want blood, not peace; who want war, not brotherhood.

Two parallel acts: on the one hand, Jesus washes the feet, while Judas sells Jesus for money; and on the other hand, you, we, everyone together, different religions, different cultures, but children of the same Father, brothers and sisters, while those unfortunate ones buy weapons to destroy brotherhood. Today, at this moment, as I perform the same act as Jesus by washing the feet of you twelve, we are all engaged in the act of brotherhood, and we are all saying: "We are different, we have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and sisters and we want to live in peace". This is the act that I carry out with you.

Each of us has a history on our shoulders, each of you has a history on your shoulders: so many crosses, so much pain, but also an open heart that wants brotherhood. Each one, in your own religious language, pray to the Lord that this brotherhood infect the world, that there be no 30 pieces of silver to kill a brother, that there always be brotherhood and goodness. Let it be."

Where there is no love, pour love in, and you will pull love out.

- St. John of the Cross

*The Patrician wishes
Fr. Mac Donald Fernandis (Apr 9) and
Fr. Sunny Richard (Apr 20)
a very Happy Birthday.*

IMPORTANT DAYS IN APRIL

Apr 03: Divine Mercy Sunday; Jubilee for those who are devoted to the spirituality of the Divine Mercy.

Apr 04: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

Apr 23: Feast of St. George, Patron of the Holy Father.

Apr 24: Jubilee for young boys and girls.

GOD'S MERCY—A BEAUTY TO EMBRACE OR A CHALLENGE TO ENDURE (CONTD. FROM PAGE 1)

us and our younger generation about the Love and Mercy of God towards his wayward children! Whenever we think of God's Mercy, one parable that always comes to mind is the **Parable of the Prodigal Son**, wherein we like to compare ourselves with the younger son, and gain God's grace and mercy as the younger son did in the parable. But, in reality, that is not always the case my dear friends. Though we may desire to take the position of the younger son, we are sometimes forced to see ourselves in the place of the elder son, especially when we find God showing Mercy towards our neighbour, whom we think is not deserving of it at all! In such a situation, how we would react, is something we need to meditate upon. In other words, let us consider God showing His mercy, not to us, but to a person whom we know to be the most unruly, irresponsible, and good-for-nothing sinner. What would be our reaction then towards God and that person? Our reaction, most surely, would be the same as that of the elder brother in the parable who was upset and frustrated, both with his father and brother; or as the Pharisees in the gospels who were upset with the sinners and with Jesus, who encouraged these sinners to seek for forgiveness and eventually eternal life!

We react this way because we are conditioned by the world to react in this manner. Our thinking has become logical, mathematical, decisive and judgmental. It follows the "Cause and Effect" theory or the tit-for-tat mentality, which is an eye for an eye! It has narrowed down to certain ways and been constrained by boundaries outside of which we do not want to think at all. Because of this, we have become more and more mechanical and insensitive and concepts like forgiveness, endurance, kindness, compassion and mercy have become very difficult for us to understand. Having grown up with such conditioning, it is hard for us to accept the loving mercy and forgiveness shown by God to a person whom we consider to be a total failure, an outcast or an evil doer, who actually deserves punishment or abandonment! This is exactly what happened with the elder brother in the parable. He reacted with anger and frustration when mercy was shown to the younger son. And this will continue to happen even with us, and we will continue to suffer spiritually, whenever mercy is shown by God to someone whom we consider to be undeserving, unless we take the initiative to understand the **Mind of God** and start looking through the **Eyes of God**.

For this, we first of all have to understand the personality of God. As explained earlier, God is not just a lovable person. Love is not merely a quality of God. **God is Love itself! God is Love in its fullness!** And God being Love, He has got His own way of dealing with persons, situations and circumstances. St. Paul has beautifully expressed the qualities of this God, who is love, in **1 Cor. Ch.13 vs.4** onwards. It reads: **"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous and conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal"**. (Good News Translation)

Dear friends, unless we give up qualities like jealousy, selfishness, pride, considering others as worthless or hopeless; unless we give up our ill-mannered and conceited way of thinking, we will never understand the Mind of God and His Mercy! Instead, if we cultivate noble qualities like patience, kindness, forgiveness, faith, hopefulness and perseverance, we will start looking at and dealing with things, persons and circumstances as God would do.

And this is what we should start doing. It is definitely not easy, but not impossible either. If we succeed in understanding the Mind of God and start looking at things the way He does, our reaction when in the position of the elder brother, would be as that of Jesus, our elder brother, who is always happy to accept us sinners as His younger ones! He not only accepts us—but let us not forget—gave up His everything for us, His life and His mother. He endured every suffering possible and also instituted beautiful Sacraments, through which we, God's wayward children lost in sin, can find our way back to our Heavenly Home and be in communion with Him and His Father, who is also our Father! When we do this, we will experience life to be beautiful and things so much better than before!

May God give us the Grace to understand Him in a better manner and live our lives emulating His Son, our Lord Jesus, so that we may build a solid community of love, peace, harmony and forgiveness here on earth, especially in our Parish and may we hope to reach our Heavenly Father's abode in the after-life!

*-Fr. Mac Donald Fernandis
Asst. Parish Priest*

LIGHTEN UP! CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

1. Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help.
2. Thursday night-Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
6. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
7. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
8. The service will close with "Little Drops of Water". One of the ladies will start (quietly) and the rest of the congregation will join in.
9. Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will

- come forward and get a piece of paper.
10. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
 11. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
 12. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
 13. Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.
 14. The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

First Holy Communion will be administered to the children of our parish on 19th June 2016.

Preparatory classes begin on 1st May 2016 from 9am to 11:30 am and will go on till May end. Attendance at these classes is compulsory. Please register your child's name at the parish office, (Ph No: +91-80-41511044) along with the baptism certificate.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH

- a) **Daily Mass:** 6am, 6.30am (Tamil), 7am, 1.15pm, 5.30pm. Saturday evening Mass at 6pm (Sunday Liturgy).
- 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 Fernandies +91 8971216787).
- h) **Faith Formation:** There will be no Faith Formation

classes in the month of April. However, classes for those wishing to receive First Holy Communion in our parish will begin on 1st May, 2016 and continue till the end of May, from 9.00 AM to 11.30 AM.

- 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 +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

Please contact us at
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feedback/contributions.

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