



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

December 2016



MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

With all the hue and cry of demonetization – I really would not debate on its advantage or disadvantage—it certainly becomes a relevant decision, as we live in a democratic society and we abide by the decision of our leaders, for the betterment of the society and our nation. With every change, there are many inconveniences; yet we march along with our nation's growth hoping it will be a prospective one. I pray to God that He give us the tolerance and sustainability we need, through His divine intervention.

The normalcy of life has been disrupted temporarily, but I know for sure that with every change our instinct becomes more adaptive, that we bring back the normalcy with our intelligence and with faith in God. I feel proud of you all, our parishioners, for with your faith and prayers you are able to bear all difficulties, to bring happiness and joy in your lives and live together as one community. Our faith and trust in God will make our lives stronger.

December is the much-awaited month of the year, not only for its pleasant weather but more especially because we look forward to the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and the joy and happiness the season brings us!

Advent Retreat at St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's Church is organizing an Advent Retreat for all the families of our Parish from December 15th to December 17th from 5.30pm to 8.00pm. The retreat will be preached by the Redemptorist priests. You are encouraged to make use of this opportunity to enhance your spiritual and

The greatest gift that God gave to us is His Son, Jesus Christ. This was His generous act of forgiveness to mankind. Let this Christmas bring us the gift of love, the gift of tolerance, the gift of understanding, the gift of charity, the gift of kindness and generosity, the gift of selfless service to the poor, the gift of caring for the elders and above all the gift of forgiveness. Let us pray, that above all the material gifts that our mind would cherish and heart would desire, we may have these virtues that will make us better humans and qualify us to stand in front of Jesus and ask Him to bless us all through the year, with good health and prosperity!

Let this month of sharing and forgiveness bring joy in our hearts. Luke 6:38 says: "Give, and it will be given to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, it will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

With all the economic anxiety and uncertainties engulfing us, let us with faith and belief in the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary and our prayers to all the angels and saints, ask for that inner strength and peace to overcome these trying times.

"Faith makes all things possible; Hope makes all things work; Love makes all things beautiful." I wish you all a Blessed and a Merry Christmas!

God Bless us all.

Msgr. C Francis

Parish Priest

Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore

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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Francis Xavier was born on 7th April 1506 in Navarre (a part of Spain) to a noble family. His father worked in the king's court. His childhood was one of privilege and from a young age he had an aptitude for learning. He was found to be complying, humorous and a good genius. In 1525 his parents sent him to study

at the University of Paris, where he obtained a master's degree in Philosophy and taught at the Beauvais College. He was expected to become a noble man and a knight himself.

At the University of Paris, Francis Xavier was sharing his accommodation with a young priest, Ignatius of Loyola, who was a former soldier. Ignatius had experienced a religious conversion while recovering from a wound; he studied the gospel and the life and personality of Christ. He asked three questions to himself: what have I done for Christ, what am I doing for Christ, what I ought to be doing for Christ. These questions helped to change his own life. He did his utmost to convince Francis Xavier about his religious beliefs. But Francis Xavier, being ambitious, made tough resistance and bantered and rallied Ignatius on all occasions, ridiculing the meanness and poverty in which he lived, as a degenerate lowness of the soul. Ignatius repaid his contempt, with meekness and kindness and asked Francis "What does it profit a man, if he loses his own soul but gains the whole world?" This had a great impact on Francis, and he slowly began to realise the emptiness of earthly greatness and found himself powerfully touched by the heavenly things. Ignatius guided him to perfection. Thereafter, Francis began to have a deep encounter with Jesus; he gave up everything for Christ on the cross, for it became more desirable to him than all the glories of the world. He entered the study of divinity for three years; he glorified God in all possible means. He decided to devote his entire life for the salvation of souls.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions – DECEMBER**Universal: END TO CHILD-SOLDIERS**

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: EUROPE

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Francis Xavier set sail to the east as a Missionary, on the orders of Ignatius. Upon his arrival in India in the coastal villages, he preached about Jesus Christ and brought his message to the pagans, who at first did not receive him quite well. But by his holy zeal, he performed many miracles and God was pleased to manifest his truth to them. And the sick recovered in great numbers. Thousands began to flock to him and were willing to accept the Christian faith. He began to instruct and baptise them. Hence began the huge conversion. He expelled devils from those who were possessed and delivered them from their cruel subjection.

Francis was consumed with an insatiable thirst for the salvation of souls and Christ's kingdom on earth. He is the model of missionaries and is hailed as one of the greatest apostles of the east. There was no anger or impatience found in him, for he rejoiced in afflictions and sufferings. He said "anyone who suffers for Christ will ever find it worse than death to live without the cross."

-Tina Fernandez

Gospel Choreography

In view of the 175th year celebration of our Parish, our youth are organizing an Inter-Church Gospel Choreography on the theme 'Mercy of God' on Sunday, the 18th of December, from 4pm to 7pm. The program will be held in our Parish Hall. You are invited to attend this cultural evening.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN DECEMBER

- Dec 03: Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier, Patron of the Archdiocese of Bangalore
- Dec 08: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Dec 25: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)
- Dec 26: Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr
- Dec 27: Feast of St. John, Apostle
- Dec 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents
- Dec 30: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT ST. PATRICK'S

“ Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”- Mark 10:14

Children are our most precious, valuable and fragile resource for the future. They are the hope of tomorrow. Their quality and personality will determine the destiny of the nation. The celebration of Children's day is one of the right steps towards securing their bright future.

We, at St. Patrick's, celebrated Children's day on the 13th of November. A special Mass for children was organized at the regular 8:30am Mass, at which all the faith formators were present. Children attended in large numbers and the Mass was celebrated by Fr Julius who is the coordinator for Faith formation. The Mass Readings were done by the Faith Formators, and special prayers for the children were offered during Prayers of the Faithful. At the end of the Mass the priest pronounced a special blessing over the children. The children performed an action song for the recessional hymn. At the Catechism assembly, the Faith Formators performed an action song, as all the children joined in with joy and enthusiasm. Sweets were distributed to all as a special treat.

“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” – Mathew 18:3.

It was indeed a great pleasure to see the children come in large numbers and occupy the front rows of the church. We felt that every Sunday should be celebrated as Children's day!

As parents, mentors and teachers it is important to advise our children about participating in Mass every Sunday. They must grow up to be an active part of the Parish and develop a sense of belonging to the larger parish community. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” – Proverbs 22:6.

Every Sunday at 8.30 am is the children's Mass followed by Catechism classes. It is important to encourage our children to attend this Mass and the classes. The children are given an opportunity to do the Mass Readings, with proper training. They are also encouraged to join the altar servers group or the choir if they are interested.

As a parent and a Faith Formator, I sincerely thank our Parish Priest and the parish clergy, all the Faith Formators

THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent is the time before Christmas, extending over four Sundays, when we prepare for the Lord's coming. It is a time of joyful waiting – when we wait for the coming of Christ in several ways – his birth in time, in our everyday lives, and some day in his coming in glory at the end of time.

One of the more popular symbols of advent is the Advent Wreath, which consists of four candles – three purple (the liturgical colour of prayer, penance and sacrifice) and one pink- arranged within a wreath made of evergreen boughs. The Advent wreath has a beautiful symbolism that helps us in our preparation for Christmas.



The circle of the wreath represents God's eternity and unity. The evergreens are a symbol of enduring life – the everlasting life found in Christ.

The four candles in the advent wreath correspond to the four Sundays of Advent and have a symbolism of their own. The candles are lit in sequence on each Sunday of Advent. The light of the candles signifies Christ, the Light of the world, who will come into the world at Christmas.

The **first** candle, which is lit on the first Sunday, is called the 'prophet's candle' and is meant to signify the Hope of Jesus' coming.

The **second** 'Bethlehem candle' symbolizes Faith and reminds us of Mary's and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The **third** 'Shepherd's candle', is the pink candle and symbolizes the Joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

The **fourth**, 'Angel's candle' symbolizes Peace, reminding us of the message of the Angels at Jesus' birth: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.”

THE JOY OF GIVING



On my drive towards Malur to locate “Happy Fields” – a gated community, I came upon Vishranti which is a home for senior citizens run by Mrs. Padma Srinivasan the Managing Trustee of Vishranti Trust.

Padma told us how she lost her husband in a road accident when she was just 28 years old and had to struggle to bring up her young son and daughter. ITI gave her a job as a clerk and she rose to become the Finance Manager before retiring.

Once her children were wellsettled, she longed to open a home for senior citizens, to reach out to others in need. She sold her house in Richmond Town and with the proceeds set up the Vishranti Trust. She even convinced her daughter to retire from her high-profile job and help her to build the three-storied structure which is home to 12 couples.

The top floor comprises 2 dormitories, one for boys and one for girls. These are reserved for orphans she plans to foster, as an old grandmother like her loves to be with children, says a beaming Padma.

Hers is a story of the joy of giving. Some of us give of our time and talent. Some offer support in terms of money through scholarships, free-ships, equipment, etc., But the best of all is to give of ourselves as this brings true joy.

Bill and Melinda Gates, Narayana and Sudha Murthy and thousands of others have realized the joy of giving.

Christmas is that special time of the year when we appreciate how our Father gave us His son Jesus, as the most precious gift we could receive.



Many of our Parishioners have given generously of their time, talent and money through organizations such as the Maria Seva Sangha, The Catholic Club Orphans’ Trust, The Vincent de Paul Society or the Ladies of Charity and through many NGOs and have experienced the Joy of Giving.

Right now, we at St Patrick’s are celebrating the 175th year of our Parish. We are raising funds to assist us publish a unique Coffee Table Book on St. Patrick’s Church, besides releasing a Souvenir on Sunday 19th March 2017. We request you to come forward and donate generously towards the production of the Coffee Table Book or Advertise in our Commemorative Souvenir. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Let us look at the child Jesus and search deep in our hearts and then reach out to experience the true joy of giving.

-Gregory De Nazareth

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Saturday: 9am to 1pm;
Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

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