



THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)

January 2016

MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous New Year by believing. Believe in yourself. And believe that there is a Loving Source - a Sower of Dreams - just waiting to be asked, to help you make your dreams come true. - *Sarah Ban Breathnach*

I wish each parishioner of St. Patrick's Church a BLESSED AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR 2016. May God the Father bless and guide us all as we welcome 2016.

Let the motivator in our lives be Jesus. As we step ahead into the year 2016, let our ambitions, our goals, our ventures and our dreams hold the true value of being closer to Jesus. Let us get his blessings in all that we do, for he has told us: "when you walk two steps, I will walk the remaining steps together with you." So what more assurance do we require if Jesus is with us all the time? I wish that the New Year 2016 be a more peaceful and successful year for everyone!

This year, our Holy Father, Pope Francis declared that the church would celebrate a **Holy Year of Mercy**. In the Year of Mercy, we are all called to look into our hearts and recognize our sinfulness and our need for God's mercy. But this is not a year of sad reflection on our sinfulness; rather it is a year of rejoicing that God's mercy is gratuitous and overwhelming. Mercy is not earned. It is given.

The Year of Mercy reminds us that mercy is not only

JUBILEE OF MERCY

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, convoked by Pope Francis, began on 8th December, 2015 and will be closed on 20th November 2016. The Jubilee is a special year in the Church's history, and the most notable feature of a Jubilee Year is the granting of indulgences. The faithful are exhorted to live out this year more fully by practicing the works of mercy, which from ancient times have been classified as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. To shelter the homeless
5. To visit the sick

shown by God. It should also be shown by us. We, who have experienced mercy, must in turn grant it to others.

Jesus made this very clear in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35), who is punished by his master for not forgiving a fellow servant, after he himself had been forgiven. "So will my Heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

I ask all our parishioners to dedicate some time to ponder over the "Mercy of God" and to cleanse ourselves with His divine intervention.

God Bless us all!

*Msgr. C Francis
Parish Priest
Vicar General - Archdiocese of Bangalore*

"The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

WISH YOU A BLESSED AND SUCCESSFUL 2016

1. To visit the imprisoned
2. To bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. To instruct the ignorant
2. To counsel the doubtful
3. To admonish sinners
4. To bear wrongs patiently
5. To forgive offences willingly
6. To comfort the afflicted
7. To pray for the living and the dead

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SPECIAL FAMILY RETREAT

St. Patrick's organized a five-day Special Family Retreat between the 23rd and 27th of November. Having attended a Retreat after many years, I had a certain expectation regarding the format and content of the teaching that would be imparted. I was not disappointed in the least! The first day was so interesting that I looked forward to attending the next four days with keen anticipation and not with a sense of obligation.

Each day's topic was based on key aspects that could help build and enrich one's family life. The Preacher, Fr. John Sudeep made the sessions attention-grabbing with audio visual presentations, great examples and stories. On one of the days, a lay person gave us a powerful and moving testimony of what true commitment and love in a marriage really means and entails. A part of Day 3 was shared by another Preacher - Fr Amarnath Dinesh, Parish Priest of St. John the Evangelist Church, who also very distinctly and interestingly spoke about women and men from the Bible, whose simple characteristics were very enriching and easy to emulate!

The fourth day's session was devoted to bringing out the rich and profound meaning of the Eucharistic celebration. The Animator spent most of the two-and-a-half hour session celebrating Mass (which on other days preceded the Talk), explaining in detail what each part of the Mass signifies viz. the Collect Prayer, the Readings, Sanctus, Consecration etc. and how we could participate to enjoy a deep fruitful experience. He touched upon the power in the Eucharist - to heal, to edify and to strengthen. I don't think there was anyone in the congregation who even once impatiently looked at their watch and wondered when the Mass would end!

The fifth day was the highlight of the Retreat. Married people were urged to attend the session along with their spouses. We were led into a beautiful Way of the

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions - January

Universal: INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: CHRISTIAN UNITY

That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

Cross, supported by scenes from the movie 'The Passion of the Christ' directed by Mel Gibson. For every Station, a reflection followed, that applied to couples and families and ended with a purposeful prayer. A wooden cross was erected near the altar on the first day of the Mission and anyone was free to stick a post-it note, on which was written out their deepest needs. Needless to say, by the end of Day 5 there was not an inch of free space on the Cross! At the final Benediction, we collectively lifted up every single intention to the Lord and the fervent supplication of the 150 plus participating congregation was palpable.

Counselors were available for anyone who felt the need to talk and discuss their issues more personally and in depth.

The Clergy of St Patrick's and the Liturgy Committee provided an opportunity to the Parishioners and others who attended the Mission, to partake of a rewarding experience, to enter the Advent season in a fitting manner. The daily 2 hour evening sessions over 5 days made it convenient for interested people to attend. The Mission was much appreciated by all. We look forward to many more such programs in the future.

Bernadette Pinto
St. Peter's Zone

"We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son." - Saint Louis de Montfort

IMPORTANT DAYS IN JANUARY

- Jan 01: Solemnity of Mary, Most Holy Mother of God
Opening of the Holy Doors of the Basilica of St. Mary Major (Rome), and St. Mary's Basilica (Shivajinagar) - Jubilee of Mercy
- Jan 03: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 04: Novena begins at Infant Jesus Shrine, Viveknagar
- Jan 10: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 11: Ordinary Time begins
- Jan 14: Feast of the Infant Jesus
- Jan 18 to 25: Christian Unity Octave (Theme: "Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord" - cf. 1 Peter 2:9)
- Jan 25: Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
- Jan 26: Republic Day

BIBLE FEST AT ST. PATRICK'S

For the first time in our Sunday Catechism class at St. Patrick's church, with the initiative and under the guidance of Fr. Sunny Richard, we celebrated the Bible Fest on the 29th of November. We were divided into 5 groups named after the first 5 books of the Bible-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Each group had about thirty children taken from all the classes and was assisted by two teachers. Children from the 1st to 4th standard were prepared for a Fancy Dress Competition, while students from standard 5 to 7 were prepared for a Story Telling Competition. Children from standard seven and above had to prepare for the skit based on a topic from their respective segment.

I was in the Deuteronomy group. Ms. Juliana D'Cunha and Ms. Tessa Jose were our teachers, and they were assisted by Priyanka. Our group was divided into sub-groups for the bible quiz and each sub-group had a leader. In the initial stage none of the older kids, including me, showed any interest. The younger children paid attention and were obedient. Later on, after a couple of classes, we became serious and the teachers were successful in making us work as a team. The smaller children were guided to choose their characters and take part in the Fancy Dress competition. The children from 5th to 7th Std. were guided on the stories they had to prepare for the final event. The script for our skit was written by Priyanka, and we improvised with every practice. I was not very confident of the result, but on the final day every item that was put up, including ours, was very well organized and was informative too.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ST. PATRICK'S

St. Thomas' Zone and St. Peter's Zone celebrated Christmas by coming together as a community and sharing the Christmas joy with one another.

St. Thomas Zone

St. Thomas Zone members got together on the 11th of December. The Mass was held at St. Antony's shrine and was well attended by our ever enthusiastic and energetic members.

Fr. Mac Donald, in his homily, said that Jesus makes it very clear that the hallmark of Christian life and ministry is to serve those who give nothing in return, to lift up the broken hearted, to console the despised, to receive the shunned and to help them all realize that they are loved and cared for. He also spoke about the Jubilee year of Mercy and added that in our times,

The Genesis group enacted a skit on the creation and the fall of man. The Exodus group enacted the liberation of the Israelites led by Moses. The skit put up by the Numbers group was themed on Abraham pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah. The Leviticus group showcased Jacob and his twelve sons, which was themed on jealousy. The Deuteronomy group enacted the Ten Commandments and how they relate to everyday life.

A good number of children took part in the fancy dress and it was wonderful to see them all dressed as characters from the Bible. It truly felt like the characters from the Bible had come to life! Due to the time constraint, the Story Telling Competition was conducted a week earlier. Only the winners were given a chance to narrate their story on stage on the final day. We also had a Bible exhibition on the same day and the best three were awarded prizes. The events were judged by Ms. Bernadette Pinto, Ms. Shibani Perincherry, Ms. Jean Rego and Ms. Tara Swaminathan.

The overall experience of the Bible Fest was amazing. It helped us to learn the Bible in a very creative way. It also gave us an opportunity to work as a team. We are grateful to Fr. Sunny for this initiative. I gratefully acknowledge the efforts and the valuable time given by the teachers and volunteers, and appreciate this novel way of approaching the Bible.

*Alena Danny
Marian Zone*

when the world is suffering from war and violence and hatred, mercy is the path that God offers to reconcile humanity and to live as brothers and sisters in peace and harmony.

After the Mass, the members had a fellowship programme with lots of games and puzzles conducted by our young enterprising member Cyrus D'Lima. It was pleasing to see our Parish priest Msgr. C. Francis and Fr. Mac actively participating in the entertainment programme. The celebration ended with cake, wine and a sumptuous dinner. We are grateful to our Zonal Representatives, Brian D'Lima and Jenny D'Lemos for coordinating this event.

*Cynthia Fernandes
St. Thomas' Zone*

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS(CONTD. FROM PAGE 3)**St. Peter's Zone**

The residents of Langford Gardens located in St. Peter's Zone, set out to bring JOY TO THE WORLD!

It all began with an idea - "Let's have a get together to get to know each other in our vicinity". And what better time than at Christmas.

One of our new, but enthusiastic residents, Vijay Lobo, suggested we form a WhatsApp group to facilitate communication. So the Langford Gardens Residents Group was formed and the messages began flying back and forth. What an amazing response from the young, the old, Priests, Religious and lay people.

The Jesuits from Arrupe Nivas gave us their premises for tuning up the guitars and our singing voices and on

the appointed day, Wednesday December 16th, we were more than 40 carollers. We visited homes, apartment buildings, sang for the children of the orphanage run by the FSI Sisters, the Good Shepherd Sisters, and finally lined the main street on both sides singing carols and waving to cars, bikes and pedestrians who surprisingly waved back and shouted 'Merry Christmas' in response. Some of our non-Christian neighbours even invited us to visit their homes and sing for them. Each visit ended with a small prayer.

It was all so exhilarating and most of all we brought joy to ourselves, to our group, to our neighbours and even those passing by - really Joy to the World!

Jeanette D'souza
St. Peter's Zone

Mission Sunday Fete on Sunday, 10th January 2016

With the view to extend our support to the Missions all over the world, St. Patrick's will be having a Mission Sunday Fete on the 10th of January. In order to make this event a great success, we request your whole-hearted cooperation and invite you to come forward and help by way of donations of food items, household articles, money, gifts for prizes towards games that will be conducted, your voluntary services and any other form of help towards this cause. Please contact the parish clergy to see how you can help. We seek your sincere involvement in this parish event.

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 8971216787)
- 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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