

# THE PATRICIAN

Speaking the Truth in Love (Eph 4:15)



May 2017



*Celebrating*  
**175**  
YEARS

## MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRIEST

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase".*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**MAYDAY** – 1<sup>st</sup> May – is the day we salute our workforce in India! They, who relentlessly and courageously work through the year, despite all odds, regardless of whichever class they belong to! They are the backbone of our nation's growth and prosperity. They are the celebration of the strength and resilience that has made India proud, and championed our nation into the global world that is so diversified. This is the time when we must stand by our government and private unions, in their efforts to reduce and eliminate all kinds of social and economic inequality, so that the workforce is free from all undemocratic shackles. For it is freedom of thought and independent thinking that creates innovation and reinvention, and what will make our country shine in this very competitive world. We salute you "workforce" for you are the iron that stands so strong in support of our nation's dreams of relentless growth and development.

It is also befitting that on 1<sup>st</sup> May we remember St. Joseph who was a great reinforcement to the Holy Family—a man who withstood the times of testing and turbulence with patience and complete trust, when Jesus was getting ready for the Mission that God had entrusted to Him. St. Joseph worked hard to keep the family together, providing the basic necessities and much needed moral support. We pray to St. Joseph to intercede for us, to give us patience, for it is that virtue alone which makes our faith stronger and helps us to be truly committed to our families in this topsy-turvy world.

*"God wills that all His gifts should come to us through Mary"*—  
St. Bernard

When the Blessed Virgin Mary said 'yes' with all the openness of her heart, without any diversion in her thoughts, she did so in complete faith. This month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. Through her intercession our prayers are more easily answered, for she pleads for us to her son Jesus. Her unconditional love for us is what makes her so loving, and God will surely pour down abundant blessings and gifts on us when she asks for it.

It is my desire that all the families of our parish pray the Rosary every day to our Mother Mary. If this is not possible, then do so at least on the weekends, along with the Litany to Mother Mary. I know for sure this will require great effort and sacrifice in each of our lives.

*"While she holds your hand you cannot fall; with her as our guide we cannot tremble; and with her as our mother we won't be left alone."*

God Bless Us All!

Msgr. C. Francis  
Vicar General, Bangalore Archdiocese  
Parish Priest, St. Patrick's Church, Bangalore.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Monsignor C. Francis, Ms. Rosaline Farias, Mr. Larry Furtado**

## PARISH NEWS

### Youth Retreat

In the season of Lent, a special one-day retreat was organized for the youth of our Parish, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at St. Antony's Shrine. Rev. Fr. Christopher White, Assistant Finance Administrator of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, was the retreat Preacher. Fr. Christopher and his team were particularly appreciated by the youth for the lively content and encouraging testimonials. Father emphasised the fact that we, as Christians, have to be a happy bunch of people. He ensured that the retreat, in addition to providing spiritual enrichment, also evoked a lot of smiles and laughter among the participants.

After the Youth Mass at 11 am on the same day, there was a special session by Ms. Amita Braganza on the theme "At the Crossroads" enlightening the youth to grow gracefully in the area of sexual maturity. The contemporary issues in the areas of sexual maturity, as well as some common misconceptions, were discussed in the light of Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church. It was a very thought provoking session.



### Birthday Celebrations - St. Patrick's Boys' Home

On the last Saturday of each month, the Ladies of Charity celebrate the birthdays of the boys whose birthdays fall during the month. For the month of March, the celebrations were organized on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. The programme began with the birthday song and the cutting of the cake followed by handing over of birthday gifts. The Ladies of Charity also arranged a high tea with snacks and some games.



### Pro-Life Camp

On the occasion of World Pro-Life Day, the Respect For Life India (RFLI), animated by Sr. Annunciata of the Good Shepherd Convent, organized an exhibition at St. Patrick's Church. They focused on the sanctity of life right from the moment of conception; anti-abortion; and chastity. The Stations of the Cross that Friday, with a pro-life theme, was conducted by Ms. Amita Braganza, member-RFLI, in the Church.

- Fr. Bala Francis, Sushmitha and Edward Rabi

### Holy Father's Prayer Intentions – MAY

UNIVERSAL: CHRISTIANS IN AFRICA  
That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

### IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

- May 01 : Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker
- May 03 : Feast of Sts. Philip and James
- May 07 : Vocation Sunday / Good Shepherd Sunday
- May 13 : Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima
- May 14 : Mother's Day
- May 28 : Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord
- May 31 : Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



## ALTAR SERVERS' PICNIC

April 1<sup>st</sup> was the most eagerly awaited day for all of us altar-servers – it was the day of our annual picnic. The plan was to go to the Big Banyan tree and to a farm-house at Hosakerehalli.

The day was bright and sunny and around 40 of us altar-servers had excitedly assembled in the bus. We were accompanied by Fr. Paul Raj and Brother David. After a blessing by Father, we set off on our journey. Our first stop was The Big Banyan Tree, where we had a lot of fun looking at the monkeys and clicking pictures.

We then left for the farm-house. As we reached the farm-house we were served light refreshments. After a brief rest, we broke up into 2 groups and played cricket and football. Brother David then organized some mini-games for us to play. After our lunch at around 1.30pm, we had a treasure-hunt. This was followed by the prize distribution for the winners.

After all the fun, it was finally time to return home. On the way back, most of us were tired and few were even sleeping in the bus. It was an exciting and amazing day. Waiting for the next one...

- *An Altar-Server*



## LENTEN NIGHT VIGIL

The members of the St. Patrick's Youth Group geared up to have a meaningful Lenten experience by organizing the all-night Lenten vigil on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme chosen was 'The Narrow Path' - No Resurrection without Death; No Easter without Good Friday; No redemption without sacrifice.

Our Parish priest Msgr. C. Francis began the Night Vigil at 9.45pm by sharing his perspective on the importance of making the most of the night to build a deep relationship with God. Fr. Bala Francis, our Assistant Parish Priest and Youth Animator, then exposed the Blessed Sacrament and led the faithful through an hour of solemn reflection and adoration. Fr. Christopher White took over in the next session, during which he beautifully explained the deeper meaning of the Book of Psalms. He also ensured that everyone remained active and energized by getting us on our feet to sing and dance and praise God.

The other speakers that night were Mr. Christopher Correa and Mr. Mark Braganza. The lively music and singing by Sharon Chang and her dedicated choir made the Night Vigil even more meaningful. The St. Patrick's Youth then conducted the Stations of the Cross around the Church campus. The Vigil concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Bala Francis.

The youth and all those who attended this Vigil returned home content for having spent the night in prayer in the presence of the Lord. It was indeed a night to remember and the beginning of our journey along The Narrow Path.

- Roger Lurshay



## OUR LADY OF FATIMA



This year the Church celebrates the Centenary of the Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal. Over the years 1916 and 1917, three shepherd children, Lucia Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto were witnesses to a series of apparitions of the Mother of God and the Guardian Angel of Portugal. The children received three apparitions of the Guardian Angel of Portugal in 1917. He taught them to make short prayers and exhorted them to frequently receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion and offer prayers and penances for the conversion of sinners. Eight months after the third apparition, the children received an apparition of the Virgin Mary at Cova da Iria on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917. She appeared to them there six times between 13<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917. The apparitions concluded with the spectacular ‘Miracle of the Sun’, witnessed by thousands of curious people who had gathered there, including photographers and journalists. During these apparitions, she spoke mostly of the importance of prayer and penance and emphasized that mankind should return to God. She also entrusted to the children three ‘secrets’, which were revealed in due course of time, in accordance with Mary’s directions. These extraordinary events which occurred at Fatima were a call to the human race to forsake sin and actively turn to God with true repentance. Our Lady also exhorted the children to pray the Rosary and introduced herself to them as ‘the Lady of the Rosary’. Francisco and Jacinta Marto died two years later, and were subsequently beatified by the Church. The eldest of the three, Lucia Santos, by then a Carmelite nun, died in February 2005 at the age of 97. In 1930, the Catholic Church recognised the Fatima apparitions as ‘worthy of belief’. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima was built over the spot of the apparitions and today it is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. This year, to celebrate the centenary of the apparitions, the Holy Father Pope Francis will visit the Sanctuary on that day and celebrate

Mass, during which he will canonise Bl. Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The celebration of this Jubilee is a great opportunity for us to heed the call of Our Lady, by turning to God and growing in our love for God and our heavenly Mother.

### 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, and 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.
- h) Faith Formation for children: Will resume from June 4th and will be held 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. Walter Fernandes +91-9901904718).
- 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).

**“The date for the release of the Coffee Table Book and the Souvenir is yet to be finalised. Please watch this space for further information.”**

### St. Patrick’s Church

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### Office Timings

Daily: 9am - 5pm;  
Lunch timings -1pm to 2pm;  
Saturday: 9am to 1pm;  
Sunday: 9am to 12.15pm

### Please contact us at

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