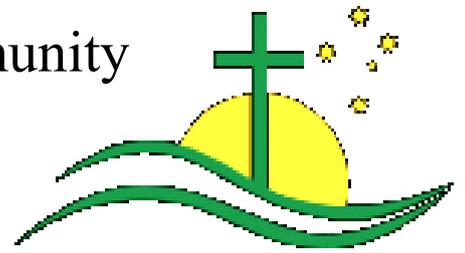




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, 2-3 January, 2021

SUPERIOR GENERAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

My dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family,

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? And I am not referring to the great preparations we all made and the wonderful opening celebrations of our Congregation's Jubilee Year. **No!** Rather, what I am referring to is probably nothing like anything most of us have experienced in our lifetime: something so terribly significant and frightfully impacting on our lives that it will surely be recorded in the textbooks of history for future ages. We have become used to speaking about "The Pandemic": a Corona virus named "COVID-19" that brought the world to a standstill, wreaking havoc in the physical, mental, social and economic lives of people, causing immense trauma and claiming some millions of lives in death.

The Covid—19 has gripped and paralyzed our lives for most of this year, causing us to live as best as possible in a prevention-survival mode, with hope for that vaccine which we believed would be our savior. Then, in the days before Christmas 2020, almost as a Christmas gift, vaccines have been approved and rolled out, and as though in another Advent mode, everyone is waiting in hope to be saved from COVID—19. Yes, we surely are grateful and thank God and the scientists and researchers for this gift! But is this the 'savior' we have been waiting for?

For the past weeks in the liturgical season of Advent, we have been preparing ourselves by doing some personal 'house cleaning' in order to create some extra space for welcoming into our lives JESUS CHRIST — our true HOPE!

He is the true SAVIOR of the world. He is the true GIFT, the PROMISE of LIFE ETERNAL — through God, with God and in God. The spiritual experience of our "waiting in hope" during the time of Advent, and our eager expectation for the presence of someone special, is now celebrated with joy and relief as we commemorate the birth of Jesus on this Christmas day: the coming of **Immanuel — God-with-us (Mt. 1:23)**. We remember that He, too, has lived this pandemic and accompanied us during this crisis.

Let us find comfort and joy, strength and peace, promise and hope in the message announced by the angels in Bethlehem and renewed once again in us: "**Today...a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**" (Lk. 2:11). This Savior lives the human experience and walks the human journey with us, showing us by example a pathway to follow — not a pathway proposed by the values of this world which is dominated by power, competition and oppression; but a pathway in accordance with the values of God's kingdom found in self-emptying, solidarity and vulnerable love.

May the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the foundation of our Passionist Congregation which we are celebrating as a Jubilee Year with the theme: **Renewing our Mission — Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope** empower us to recommit ourselves to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and, by imitating his example, bring him to birth into a world seeking to be saved.

Perhaps the following can be our prayer and commitment to be renewed. It was composed by a Malaysian priest, paraphrased from the

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Weekend Masses

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass
(11am Mass will also be live streamed)

Parish Reconciliation:

Saturdays 10am - 10.30am

Please contact Parish Office on 97003781 if you wish to book any of the weekend Masses

please go into our website:
stpaulapostle.com.au

Priests:
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Brother Luke Bulley CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Parish Calendar, News & Events

popular Prayer of St. Francis...

Lord, make me a channel to share Jesus this Christmas

If I have taken others for granted,

let me express appreciation

If I have unforgiveness towards another,

let me reconcile

If I have been harsh in my words and actions,

let me show kindness.

Make me a channel to share Jesus this Christmas

If I have judged others,

let me show compassion and understanding

If I have gossiped, let me now encourage

If I have not cared about others,

let me make space.

Jesus grant that I may never forget

That you came to live amongst us so that I may see

That you came to love us so that I may feel

That you came to hold us so that I may be loved.

Respecting the measures imposed by the health and government authorities for the common good, and with a spirit of sacrifice and care for others:

*Have a blessed Christmas
with your community, family and friends.
Be attentive to those who may need some assistance,
and best wishes for a hope-filled New Year*

*Fr. Joachim Rego C.P.
(Superior General)*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **KEISHA SALDANHA** who turned 17 on Tuesday. We keep her in our prayer especially as she is going into her final year in High school.

Reminder

We are trying to use the QR code system as much as we can, but for those who are unable to do this we ask you to write your name and contact number in a piece of paper which we collect it as you enter the church (or leave it in the red box at the entrances). You can attend any weekend or weekday Masses without making any booking as we can accommodate 200 people at each Mass (with social distancing rule) We also ask for your assistance by not moving any chairs as they have been set up based on the government regulations. Below is how you can use the QR Code system:

If you have an iPhone, you can simply scan this code and enter your details as directed on your phone. Please note some iPhone may still require to follow the same process as the Android. If your phone is Android, you will need to download the application (free) and scan the code using the app, followed by entering your details as required.

1/ Download the "Service Victoria" app on your phone

2/ On arrival at the church, open this app and click "Quick Check-in" at the bottom

3/ Scan the barcode that is posted at each entrance to the church

4/ Enter your name(s) and a contact number, and click "Check-in to this location."

May God's love light your way
and lead you into a new year
that shines with His special joy

Happy New Year

Parish Team

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord:

Is 60: 1-6;

Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6;

Mt 2: 1-12

Baptism of the Lord Sunday:

Is 55: 1-11;

1 Jn 5: 1-9;

Mk 1: 7-11

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Dolores Augustus, Camilla D'Rozario, Angela Ameruso, Sr. Serafina, Andre Machado, Yvette Woods, Bryony, Findlay Lawless, Betty Evans, Danny Sugunasekera, Gaetan Clark, Ismael Bermudez, Cyril Hendricks, Lawrence de Alwis, Kevin Passanise, Claudia Cunanan, Jack Scanlan, Doménica Lombardi, Denham Juriansz, Dwayne Edmonds, Anne Ghatt, Milica Andreevska, Chase McCarthy, Irma Aiello, Sonny Tupai, Graham Hawkesworth, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues

Those who have died

Joseph Chadwick, Julia Finn, Seaton D'Rozario, George Toskov, Carlo Jeronimo, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

