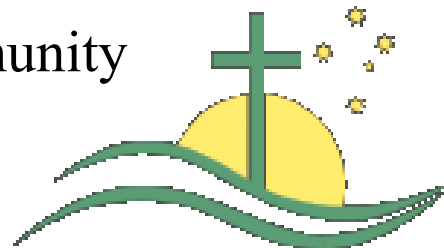




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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CHRISTMAS, 2022

Christmas Message from our Superior General, Fr Joachim Rego CP

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

As we celebrate the feast of the Birth of Jesus, Prince of Peace, this Christmas, I am particularly conscious of the rising levels of violence in our world which threaten our security, freedom and sense of peace. Violence of all kinds, local and global have deeply affected our peace during this past year. While we may be satisfied with seeing peace as the absence of war, and fighting, and conflicts, true peace is 'shalom' which is a Hebrew word conveying the sense of peace as tranquility, wellbeing, welfare, harmony and wholeness. This is the peace which Jesus lived, sought and wished for himself and others.

Peace is a dream and desire of many, but equally for many it remains only a dream and seems to be so far-fetched. Every day, instead, our media report news about acts of violence from around the world and from our particular societies – news of wars, terrorist attacks, shootings, hate crimes, armed hold-ups, unprovoked bashings etc. Violent movies, games and entertainment brainwash us, especially the young, into thinking of violence as a normal way of life. We know of the rise in domestic violence and abuse (physical, psychological, verbal and sexual) against adults and children in our society which is of particular concern. In addition, across the globe, there is so much violence against "our common home", so much so that Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* pleads for us to become non-violent

in our thoughts, words and deeds. Not to mention the violence we all commit with our everyday words and language, our attitudes, and even our silence.

The story of the acts of Cain and Abel in the Book of Genesis introduces us to the birth of violence committed in and by the human family. But this is not what God intended from the beginning, nor how we are meant to live. Our hearts are created with the desire for peace, not violence towards which our flesh is tempted, often flamed by jealousy, competition, one-upmanship, greed, control and power. This is very familiar to us all.

In light of this, I was very pleased to see that at the recent Provincial Chapter of the MACOR Province comprising South Korea and China, a proposal was introduced by a young Korean Passionist religious suggesting for the Province to adopt and the members to be trained in Non-violent Communication - a program which can help us to discover the depths of our own compassion through emphasis on deep listening to ourselves and to others. The fact that this suggestion and proposal was firstly, introduced, and secondly, adopted by the Province, spoke of the obvious felt need amongst the members to grow towards healthier relationships and harmonious community life. Imagine what a difference it would make in our world if all communities, families, institutions and organizations were to recognize the need for practicing non-violent communication and live more peacefully by developing healthy relationships based on deep respectful listening and responding with compassion. As always, this seems a tall order, but it can and must begin with ME. I need to reflect on the manner of my communication in thought, word and deed, and see how it affects all other beings and created things. I also need to reflect on how I respond toward any form of violent communication by others. The 'flesh' naturally channels us to react with retaliation and revenge ("an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"), whereas the heart and spirit encourages us to act with empathy and compassion – the principle upon which non-violence is founded.

Christmas, which celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation (God becoming human in the life of Jesus of Nazareth), reminds us that God (in Jesus) who was born into a violent world environment and who experienced violence in all its forms throughout his life, chose not to react and retaliate with violence and revenge. Instead, he chose to communicate non-violently and respond with love and

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

Christmas Eve
<https://youtu.be/l8toNm89voo>

Christmas Day
<https://youtu.be/Ow54L88z85A>

Reconciliation

Saturday 10am—10.30am
(No Reconciliation
on 24 Dec)

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr 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

compassion. Throughout his life, Jesus lived non-violent communication by listening to his heart which was moved with compassion (pity). This gave birth to a peace from the depth of his being which he, in turn, offered as a gift to others.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. ~ John 14:27

All of us and our world is in dire need of true peace and less violence. Christmas is an opportunity and an invitation for our renewal which moves us to consciously choose to shun away from any acts of violence and choose rather to humbly respond with Christ's gift of peace, moved with hearts filled with compassion.

Let us open ourselves to accept joyfully this Christmas the gift of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

The joy of Jesus' love,
the comfort of His presence,
and the strength of His faith
be with you this Christmas and always

New Year's Eve Mass is at 6pm
New Year's Day Masses are 9am & 11am
(no evening Mass in New Year's Day)



THANK YOU

Margaret Haywood is one of our long-serving parish members.

Together with her late husband Mike, they were two of the initial members of our parish. Margaret played for the 11am Mass choir for 25 years, while Mike was managing the sound booth.

Their children, Glen and Laura attended our parish school, then continued on to St John's. Unfortunately, due to Mike's health, Margaret had to retire from her role at 11am Mass to look after Mike. Thereafter, Glen and his group started to sing at 11am Mass.

When Mike died in 2017, Margaret returned to play for the 9am choir, sharing the role with Trevor Wemyss.

This year Margaret has decided to move to her holiday home in Rosebud. Therefore, we will not see her regularly, however she



has graciously advised that she will still help out during special occasions.

We thank Margaret for her generous contribution to this parish and wish her the very best with her move. We hope to see her soon at the next special occasion

2023 PARISH BINGO

Our First parish Bingo in 2023 will be on FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2023. In the Tim O'Toole Annexe and will start at 7.30pm. Anyone from 18 yr old are welcome. You can come on your own or with friends. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

ADORATION

We will update you more on this in the new year and will run a presentation preceding its commencement. Please keep an eye on our newsletter for updates and information

Readings:

CHRISTMAS DAY Yr A

Is 9: 1-7 ;
Ti 2: 11-14 ;
Lk 2: 1-14

Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God Yr A

Num 6: 2-27 ;
Gal 4: 4-7 ;
Lk 2: 16-21

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Wilhada de los Reyes, Crystal Jayamaha, Elma, Aliyah, Alleyah, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Adelina Frante, Horace Stolke, Collette Demiziere, Mercia Fernandes, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Capt. Pablo Barros, Rosetta Alberti, Vernon Law, Edna Alice Fonseca, Royston D'Silva, Henry Logotuli Peteru, Andre Machado, Pasqualina Raccosta, Ignatius Wicket, Peter Hick-ey, Esperanca Duarte, Hose Duarte **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

