



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



Advent Message from The Director, Mgr Benedict Camilleri
 “ Let Us Celebrate Christmas “

Dear Friends and all, in whose hands falls this Newsletter:

“Happy Christmas Season to you All.”

Eighteen days from today, we will commemorate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born into this world, to be able to redeem us from the bond of sin. It is a great day for the major part of humanity, even those who do not belong to our Belief. The happy atmosphere of this feast is felt nearly in the whole civilized world. Street decorations, decorated Shop-windows and in some places decorated houses, inspire most of our people to say to themselves, “*What I am going to do to render this day a Happy Day to myself, to my parents, if they are still with us, to brothers, sisters, friends, as well as*



people who are not as lucky as we are?”

I feel that the first thing we should do is, Say “**Thank you**” to Almighty God for giving us the opportunity to celebrate another Christmas Day. Then, it is logical, that we start thinking *how we are going to celebrate this special Day*. Probably, seeing so many shop windows, inviting us to buy a gift, we see how much our budget permits and try to decide. After that *what we are going to prepare for our meals and who would be with us at our table* **and stop there!**

Unfortunately this is a pagans’ list. This is all for our flesh. **What about our soul???** The next thing, not to say the first preference should -rather be *How I am going to thank Jesus for giving us another opportunity to celebrate His Birthday?*” Then we try to see whether there is something tormenting our soul, something that wish to get rid of with the right medicine, whether it is **forgiveness, reconciliation, or confession**. After that ,we can give a boost to our spiritual condition by going to church for Holy Mass and **unite ourselves with Jesus** through Holy Communion. Finally, **go home and celebrate !!!**. But be careful not to jump the limits, whether with too much eating or drinking, especially if we have to drive .

Therefore, Dear Friends, Celebrate and be Happy with Jesus, Mary, Relatives and Friends BUT and don’t forget the needy!

May the Newly Born Son of God, Jesus Christ, brought to us by Our Heavenly Mother Mary, be your Special Guest, and keep you safe, sound and happy throughout the whole 2013 Christmas Season.



The Immaculate Conception of the Venerable Ones (De Scult) C1676-9 by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

Prayer to
The Immaculate Conception

O Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from thy sublime height, turn upon me your eyes of pity.

Filled with confidence in your goodness and knowing full well your power, I beseech You to extend to me your assistance in the journey of life, which is so full of dangers for my soul.

And in order that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may ever live with my heart humble and pure, I entrust myself wholly to You.

I consecrate my heart to You forever, my only desire being to love Your Divine Son, Jesus.

Virgin Mary, none of your devout servants has ever perished:

May I too be saved. AMEN .

Adoration of the Shepherds by B. Murillo at Hermitage Museum (Amsterdam)



“Praise the Lord, all Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him” Isaiah says, “ The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”



"I am the Alpha and the Omega [the first and the last, the beginning and the end], says the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, The Almighty"



From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

THE HOLY SPIRIT, INTERPRETER OF SCRIPTURE :

In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to man in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, We must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm, and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words.

In order to discover *the sacred authors' intention*, we must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, "For the fact is that truth is differently presented and expressed in the various types of historical writing, in prophetic and poetical texts, and in other forms of literary expression."

But since Sacred Scripture is inspired, there is another and no less important principle of correct interpretation, without which Scripture would remain a dead letter.

"Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written."

The Second Vatican Council indicates three criteria for interpreting Scripture in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it.

● **Be especially attentive "to the content and unity of the whole Scripture"**. Different as the books which compose it may be, Scripture is a unity by reason of the unity of God's plan, of which Christ Jesus is the centre and heart, open since his Passover.

The phrase "*heart of Christ*" can refer to Sacred Scripture, which makes known his heart, closed before the Passion, as the Scripture was obscure. But the Scripture has been opened since the Passion; since those who from then on have understood it, consider and discern in what way the prophecies must be interpreted.

● **Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church"**. According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture ("... according to the spiritual meaning which the Spirit grants to the Church").

● **"Be attentive to the analogy of faith."**⁸² By "analogy of faith" we mean the coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation.

Gospel Reading :- **WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD**

Last Sunday, our mother Church proclaimed the "ADVENT" a month of preparation to commemorate the first coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ into this world. For those Christians who lost their religious direction, this is time for **reflection, action and conversion**; for those who like the Pharisee, who walked up to the front of the Synagogue, pretending that He is above all others, is time to **ponder on how poor is their state of spirituality**. St Paul warns us to stay away from "orgies and drunkenness, promiscuity and lust, rivalry and jealousy," but to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. - Today we say a few words on the first type.

Juliette Marone, a 16/17 year old girl, mostly like going to parties, a gathering of people with music, food and fun. Nothing wrong with that! However, sometimes parties would get out of hand. Juliette would come home feeling **sad, empty and dirty**. After one of these parties, she did not make it home. Instead she finished in front of an Adoration Chapel. She entered and in that stillness, the Lord spoke to her. She decided to change her life. When she got home she wrote a letter to her future husband.

Juliette did not know who her husband would be. But as Christian she knew that - *after God, he would be the most important person in her life.* She then began praying for him. She started attending daily Mass and she offered about 1000 Masses for her future husband.

In her early twenties, she met a young man named Pierre Bonnie. They fell in love and during their engagement, Juliette told Pierre about her thousand Masses and Pierre realised where the Grace came from to keep him on the right path. Pierre and Juliette got married, had children and, as good Christians, one of their commitments was lecturing young people on chastity. Chastity is vital for young people and a task for a person's entire life.

In this story we notice three elements, imperative, to the Christian:- **SILENCE, PRAYER AND HOLY EUCHARIST.**

- Juliette's conversion came, not from attendance to parties, neither from her friends, nor from some other worldly source, but from the stillness of an Adoration Chapel, where **in silence and face to face with Jesus**, discovered God's **love and beauty**. "Orgies and drunkenness, promiscuity and lust, rivalry and jealousy" never bring peace in our heart, but sadness, emptiness, and at times dirt and even despair.
- It is prayer that helps us communicate with Our Heavenly Father. Advent is an **invitation to come closer to God**, the Father through prayer. It was through continuous prayer to the Father that Jesus got the power to suffer such an incredible cruel passion for our redemption from the bond of sin. It was through prayer and unity with God that Mary deserved to become the mother of our Lord and to endure so many sorrows in her life.
- The Holy Eucharist, given to us by Jesus at his last Supper with the Apostles, is the main source where we can obtain all the graces we need in our life. First of all, to **prepare ourselves well for the commemoration of Jesus' first-coming into this world**; then to **keep Jesus present, day and night, in our mind and heart**, and finally to **stay awake**, just as Jesus has warned us in St Matthew's Gospel, - that when he calls, he finds us with our lamps lit, (i.e. finds us in state of grace).

"Come to me ...and I comfort you!" (Jesus said)

Liturgical Celebrations for Dec 2013-Jan 2014

ABANDONMENT

Date	December Celebrations
Sunday 1st Dec 2013	Inauguration of the Our Lady of Divine Grace Oratory (Indonesian Catholic Family) Rosary Holy Mass and Blessing of the oratory at 10.30 a.m Family prayer day at Our Lady of Lanka Oratory at 2.00 p.m
Wed 3rd Dec 2013	Mother and Child Oratory Novena and Holy Mass at 8.00p.m
Sat 7th Dec 2013	First Saturday—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Rosary procession, Confession, Holy Mass & Benediction at 2.00p.m
Sat 8th Dec 2013	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosary Procession, Serenade, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00 a.m Solemn Celebration of the Immaculate Conception Rosary procession, Confession, Holy Mass & Benediction at 1.45 p.m.
Wed 11 ,18 ^h ,25 th Dec 2013	Mother and Child Oratory Novena at 8.00p.m
Fri 13 th Dec 2013	Black Nazarene— Holy Mass at 8.00 p.m.
Sat 14 th Dec 2013	7th Anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetuel Help Oratory Rosary, Holy Mass & Benediction at 11.00 a.m.
Sun 15 th Dec 2013	Family prayer day at Our Lady of Lanka Oratory at 2.00 p.m
Sun 22nd Dec 2013	<u>OPEN DAY for ALL ORATORIES FROM 11.00 A.M</u> & EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT OUR LADY TA' PINU SHRINE From 1.00 p.m. Praise and Worship followed by WALK WITH BABY JESUS FOR PEACE Procession Rosary, Holy Mass and Benediction at 2.00p.m
Sun 29 th Dec2013	Holy Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima Oratory , procession to the Church followed by Holy Mass at 10.00 a.m.
	Major events for January 2014
Sun 12th Jan 2013 Major Celebration	Baptism of Our Lord & Commemoration of the Immaculate Conception at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession followed by Holy Mass to be presided by His Lordship Dr Peter Connors, Bishop Emeritus of Ballarat & Benediction
Thu 23rd Jan 2013	Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Joseph Rosary, Confessions and Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m Couples celebrating their major wedding anniversaries during this calendar year are invited to register for the Renewal of Vows Ceremony

Father, I abandon myself into your hands,
Do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do,
I thank you.
I am ready for all.
I accept all.
Let your will be done in me and all your creatures.
I wish no more than this,
O Lord. Into your hands,
I commend my soul.
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you ,Lord, and so need to give myself,
To surrender myself into your hands, without reserve. and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Charles de Foucauld

WISDOM

O Gracious and Holy Father,
give us ...
Wisdom to perceive thee,
Diligence to seek thee,
Patience to wait for thee,
Eyes to behold thee,
A Heart to meditate upon thee,
And
a Life to proclaim thee;
through the Power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
Our Lord.

St Benedict of Norcia



Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Pilgrimage to the Hispanic Chaplaincy Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine , All Nations Marian Centre will be held on Sunday 8th December 2013.

10:00 a.m. Serenata and Holy Rosary 11:00 a.m. procession

11:30 a.m. Holy Mass at the main church 12:30 Family Brunch—**ALL WELCOME**

WALK WITH BABY JESUS FOR PEACE 2013 - For the first time this year, an **OPEN DAY** will be held on Sunday 22nd Dec 2013 to provide Pilgrims the opportunity to 'travel around the world in one place and admire Our Heavenly Mother Mary under her various titles, **ALL ORATORIES** will remain opened between 11 a.m. to 1.00p.m while the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine . You will also have the opportunity to admire the statues and art-work displayed during the Good Friday Pageant. From 1.00 p.m. The activities will continue at the main church with Hymns and Praise to the **PEACE AND LOVE** theme. At 2.00 p.m the annual Walk with Baby Jesus for Peace procession will be held followed by Eucharistic Celebration and Benediction .



HOMILY FOR THE BLESSING OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT TA PINU MARIAN SHRINE, BACCHUS MARSH

(Saturday, 2nd December 2000)- Contd..

Whenever we follow the Stations of the Cross, our attention is focussed on a particular incident in the Passion of our Lord. These are deep mysteries, and it is essential that we learn their lessons well. They teach us that in our own lives we have to carry the cross. Jesus suffered for us, as St. Peter said, to give us an example for our own journeys through life. Jesus also suffered for us because he loves each of us. It was all for me that Jesus laid down his life.

In his passion, Jesus hid his divinity. Sometimes we too cannot see our future, or are uncertain of how we should act. The last station is the Resurrection, and this is our true hope.

God brings life where we do not expect to find it. God gives hope where there is only despair. God our Father was faithful to his Son. We are also the children of God, and God will be faithful to us. We are on our way to eternal life, and Jesus is here with us to support us as we follow him.



We need places of pilgrimage such as this Marian Shrine which has become a holy place for many of you. The original shrine of Ta Pinu is in Gozo, Malta, and many of you have been used to going there from your earliest years to ask for Mary's protection for your needs and those of your families.

It is good to see that you have maintained this important practice of your faith. Monsignor Camilleri and his co-operators deserve our sincere thanks for all their hard work in both the establishment of this shrine and the building of these new stations.

What is particularly an Australian touch is that Vietnamese craftsmen made these statues. As a country made from people of every language, we have learned to work together, and as a Church we have learned to pray together so as to bring the Gospel to the people of our own time.

Your presence today is a clear indication of the very important bond that joins all of us, wherever we have come from. It is our common faith in Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Mary that has called us into unity that is far stronger than any bond of language and culture.

Let us pray that we will continue to build these bonds of faith and service, and that this place will become sacred for many people, and that they will find here the protection and love of Mary, Help of Christians. She stood by the Cross of her Son, and he gave her to us as our Mother.

May she lead us to Jesus, who is for ever the Way, the Truth and the Life

About Us...

Special Devotions, Pilgrimages and other activities are welcome at any time at the Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine, All Nations Marian Centre

We are happy to listen to your requests and we will attempt to meet your requirements so that you may experience a peaceful time away in our "space to grow" and to ensure you enjoy a worthwhile yet memorable & reflective experience.

For more information about how we can assist in planning your activity to be held at the Marian Centre, Please Call us on the numbers listed below



IMAGINE JESUS AS A HOMELESS MAN

with the wounds from his crucifixion evident on his bare feet. That's the image which Canadian sculptor Tim Schmalz wanted to depict in his life-size bronze image of Christ, sleeping on a park bench, huddled against the cold in a blanket. **The work is inspired by Matthew 25**, and represents Christ as among the most marginalized in society. Schmalz explains that with the Christ figure shrouded by a blanket, the only indication that it is Jesus is the visible wounds on the feet." Schmalz worked for a year and a half to create this statue. Apparently, he came up with the idea for the unusual sculpture after spotting a homeless person sleeping on the corner of one of Toronto's busiest streets. It was Christmastime and while the rest of the city was bustling around with the holiday spirit, this person was wrapped up in a sleeping bag. Schmalz didn't know if it was a man or a woman — all he could see was a mass of cloth lying still on the floor. He said, "My initial reaction was, 'That is Jesus.'"

This week, his statue was blessed by Pope



Francis on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica. And, judging from his smile, seemed to like it a lot.

H.L. BISHOP JOSÉ BONELLO OFM
Born in Xaghra—Gozo Malta
(Franciscan Province of Saint Paul, the Apostle, MT)
BISHOP OF JUTICALPA, (HONDURAS)
Will be visiting Australia (MELB/SYD)
From 16 Jan-4 Feb 2014



Join Us for his final Eucharistic Celebration to be held at Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine,
on **1st Feb 2014 at 2.00 p.m.** (more details to follow)



Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine

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