

ALL NATIONS MARIAN CENTRE –FLANAGANS DRV, BACCHUS MARSH VICTORIA, 3340



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



The Apostle Paul's Shipwreck

A historical examination of the Acts 27:27-28:5

Following the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys, he was arrested in Judea, tried, and then transported as a prisoner to Rome. This historical evidence can be found in the book of Acts recording Saint Paul's voyage and shipwreck on the shores of the Islands of Malta, supported by a wealth of detail. History provides us with a striking meteorological and nautical confirmation of the biblical record.

...On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. Those who could swim jumped overboard. The rest tried to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. Everyone reached land safely.

Paul Ashore on Malta - Act 28 Once safely on shore on the island called Malta, the islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he

SAT 15TH FEB 2014

At 2.00 p.m.

Rosary, Holy Mass & Benediction
Feast of St Paul's ship-
wreck

[Maltese National Day]

Join us as we pray for the
Church in Malta,
and for

"the Maltese diaspora"



Simeon's moment by Ron Di Cianni
"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Luke 2:30

put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live." But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. When nothing happened they say that he must be a god.



In verse seven, Luke states that they were the guests on Malta of a man named Publius, known as "the first man of the island." Ancient inscriptions reveal that the head official on Malta had the title "First Man of the Island." (22) And so began a Christian influence in Malta that has continued down through the centuries. The tiny island of Malta in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea has a rich history as one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. Today, it is the most religious nation in Europe - 98 % of its citizens are members of the Catholic Church.

Saint Paul is memorialized throughout the island, nowhere more than in Saint Paul's bay, where tourists come to visit the Shipwreck Cathedral, and see the spot where most believe Paul's ship ran aground nearly 2,000 years ago. The theory goes that this was the bay written about in Acts 27 and 28. Part of the biblical account says that the sailors didn't recognize the island until the villagers told them. However, In the 1960's, just outside St Thomas' Bay, near a dangerous sandbar called the Muxnar Reef. The four anchors as described in the Acts were retrieved from the sea bed by two divers Joe Navarro and Ray Ciancio. These were later donated to the National Maritime Museum, and expert analysis confirmed they were Roman-era anchors from the right time period.

Today, the sea floor is again tranquil and calm, giving no clues to the secrets it may hold. It is impossible to know for sure if it is the spot where St Paul's shipwreck occurred, but if nothing else, the idea is prompting some Maltese to re-think their tradition.

Anchored in Faith- Joe Navarro is one of the divers who helped retrieve the anchors in the 1960s. He says: "I think it is high time we questioned ourselves," he said. "I myself am convinced that it is more plausible that the shipwreck was on Muxnar, not on St. Paul's island. We have believed St. Paul's island, but nobody ever questioned, 'But, are you sure?'

"For me personally, it did a lot to enhance my faith. For me, they are a symbol of hope

AN EXTRACT FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith is a personal adherence of the whole man to God who reveals himself. It involves an assent of the intellect and will to the self-revelation God has made through his deeds and words.

"To believe" has thus a twofold reference to the person and to the truth: to the truth by trust in the person who bears witness to it.

We must believe in no one but God: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Faith is a supernatural gift from God. In order to believe, man needs the interior helps of the Holy Spirit.

"Believing" is a human act, conscious and free, corresponding to the dignity of the human person.

"Believing is an ecclesial act.

The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports, and nourishes our faith.

The Church is the mother of all believers. **"No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother"**. (St Cyprian)

We believe all "That which is contained in the Word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed." (Paul VI)

Faith is necessary for Salvation. The Lord himself affirms: **"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"**. (Mk 16:16)

"Faith is the foretaste of the knowledge that will make us blessed in the life to come". (St Thomas Aquinas)

QUOTE : **Patience**

Moses' rod on the ground was a frightful serpent; in his hand it was a marvellous wand.

Thus our tribulations, Considered in themselves, they are terrible; considered in the will of GOD, they are honours and pleasures

St Francis de Sales



Presentation in the temple – by Simon Vouet c. 1640 (Chateau du Louvre).

*Ecumenical
Walk with Mary,
Sun 23rd March
2014*

Join many other Catholics and Anglicans for the *26th Annual Walk with Mary* from St Patrick's to St Paul's Cathedrals

This year, the Marian Movement at our Centre be walking under the watchful eyes of *Our 'Pilgrim' Lady Ta' Pinu*, Queen of the Family.

So, Come & join us in our mission to promote Her special place in our own family & Bacchus March..

More Info to follow..



THE GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE MONTH:

Jesus is the light glory of the people who seek Him.



"In the opening of the Olympic Games, the first thing that draws our attention would be a special gold medal winner in previous games carrying the Torch that inflames the spirit of the Athletes that will be competing in the coming event.

This month, the Church reminds us of that big event, when our Heavenly Mother Mary, the Special Gold Medal Winner for Spirituality, carried to the Temple not a small torch but with **'the Light of the World'**, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary is so special that she deserved to be called by the Archangel Gabriel **"Full of Grace"**, while according to the upright and devout man, Simeon, who prompted by the Holy Spirit was called to the Temple, at the time Jesus was taken to the Temple, declared Jesus as **"A light that enlightens pagans and glory of the people of Israel"**.

First of all, Mary was champion of Charity. As soon as she got the News that her kinswoman Elizabeth conceived a son, immediately, left her home, crossed the mountainous and dangerous country to go to her help. Being the mother of God, she not only forgot all about her privileged call, the risk to get to her but also the humble service she was to do her. Being the **mother of God, she herself could have asked for a special treatment! Then at Jesus' birth she observed the Law, like every other Jewish woman of the time was obliged to do.** Although God has made her most pure in that immaculate birth, Mary wanted to be an *example of humility* to us all; from whatever walk of life we are, in all circumstances of her life. What a shame and a lesson to those whom Almighty God deigned to give some special earthly gift, try to crash those around them.

Mary was also champion of Purity, to the extent that she was declared the **"Immaculate Conception"**. Mary being so privileged, with so beautiful virtues, she now deserved to carry Jesus in bosom and later in her arms and bring him to the Temple to be for the first time a **"light of revelation to the Gentiles"**, so making this day a special feast for both Jesus and Mary. By this act of purification, although she was not subject to such a purifying act, encourages us that we too purify our hearts from any type of sin and make ourselves pleasing to God, the Father through her Son Jesus Christ.

St Alphonsus Liguori describing Mary's power on this special day, used this old legend: Plutarch relates that Antipater wrote a long letter to Alexander the Great, accusing Olympia, Alexander's mother. Having read the letter, Alexander answered, **"Does not Antipater know that one tear of my mother is enough to cancel an endless number of letters of accusation?"** Then St Alphonsus applies these words to Jesus: **"Does not Lucifer know that one prayer of my Mother, in favour of a sinner, is enough to make me forget all the accusations of offences committed against me"?**

Therefore if we want to find Jesus and obtain his forgiveness, let us go to his Divine Mother; and let us go with great confidence.

Liturgical Celebrations for February –March 2014

Date	January 2014 Celebrations
Sat 1 st Feb 2014	First Saturday—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Feast of the Presentation of the Lord at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession followed by Holy Mass and Benediction to be presided by His Lordship Joseph Bonello OFM Bishop of Juticalpa (Honduras)
Sun 2 nd & 16 th Feb 2014	Family prayer day at Our Lady of Lanka Oratory at 2.00 p.m.
Wed 5 th Feb 2014	Mother and Child Oratory Novena and Holy Mass at 8.00p.m
Sun 9 th Feb	Our Lady of Good Health – Vailankanni at 1.45p.m. Confession, Rosary, Benediction , Holy Mass & Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wed 12 th , 19 th , 26 th Feb	Mother and Child Oratory Novena at 8.00p.m
Sat 15 th Feb 2014	Feast of St Paul The Apostle-Patron of Malta Rosary procession, Confession followed by Holy Mass and Benediction at 2.00 p.m.
Sun 23 rd Feb 2014	Feast of Our Lady of Lanka. Rosary procession & Holy Mass at 10.00 a.m.
Major Events for March 2014	
Sat 9 th Mar Major Celebration	PREPARATION FOR EASTER CELEBRATION Station of the cross (in church) Confession followed by Holy Mass and Benediction at 2.00 p.m.
Way of the Cross followed by Holy Mass During March	Sat 1 st March at 11.00 a.m.: Vietnamese Community Sat 9 th March at 2.00 p.m. [all Communities] Sat 15 th March at 10.30 a.m. Hispanic Community Sat 29 th March at 10.00 a.m Slovenian Community Sun 30 th March at 9.30 a.m. Portuguese Community Sun 16 th March at 3.00 p.m. Polish Community

How can you help?



Get Involved!!

The Marian Movement at the Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine needs your help!!! And to keep its heart beating, the need for volunteers cannot be emphasise enough. Like Pope Francis states in his address to the Youths: **“let us make His living church so large that it can hold all humanity.”** If you would like to join us in the many jobs that need to be done each day, or participate in our work in any way, Please call us on one of the listed contact numbers on page 4 ..

THANK YOU !!!



On 23rd February , Thousands of the faithful Sri Lankan Community will once again unite together at the National Shrine dedicated to Our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary in Tewatta , Sri Lanka for the annual commemoration of the miracle that saved the country from the World War. And to ask for a new miracle- Devotees of Our Lady of Lanka, in Australia, have been coming to Our Lady Ta’ Pinu Marian Centre in great numbers to venerate Our Beloved Mother Mary since 2006. Once again, the Sri Lankan community and spiritual leaders have renewed their call for everyone to **“cultivate peace”, above all ‘in their own lives and families’, in order to “better understand others and their needs”**. They have invited all to come and **“pray to Mother Mary to give them the wisdom and strength to understand and love people, and to spread peace and unity in the country and around the world”**. Starting at 10.00a.m. You are most welcome to join in the Rosary procession from Our Lady of Lanka’s Oratory followed by Holy Mass in the main church.

O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him and by doing so make us witnesses to your truth in the world...



Before his conversion, Paul, then known as Saul, was a "zealous" Pharisee who "intensely persecuted" the followers of Jesus. St Paul's letters to the Galatians also describe his conversion as a divine revelation, with God's Son.

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the Church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

- Galatians 1:11-16

Extract of **POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE 22nd WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Faith and Charity:



"We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the occasion of the 22nd World Day of the Sick, whose theme this year is Faith and Charity: I turn in a special way to the sick and all those who provide them with assistance and care. The Church recognizes in you, the sick, a special presence of the suffering Christ. It is true. At the side of our suffering, is the suffering of Christ; he bears its burden with us and he reveals its meaning. When the Son of God mounted the cross, he destroyed the solitude of suffering and illuminated its

darkness. We thus find ourselves before the mystery of God's love for us, which gives us hope and courage: hope, because in the plan of God's love even the night of pain yields to the light of Easter, and courage, which enables us to confront every hardship in his company, in union with him.

The incarnate Son of God did not remove illness and suffering from human experience but by taking them upon himself he transformed them and gave them new meaning. Faith in God becomes goodness, faith in the crucified Christ becomes the strength to love to the end, even our enemies. The proof of authentic faith in Christ is self-giving and the spreading of love for our neighbours, especially for those who do not merit it, for the suffering and for the marginalized.

By virtue of Baptism and Confirmation we are called to conform ourselves to Christ, who is the Good Samaritan for all who suffer. When we draw near with tender love to those in need of care, we bring **hope and God's smile to the contradictions of the world.** *To grow in tender love, and a respectful and sensitive charity, we have a sure Christian model to contemplate: **Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother**, who is always attentive to the voice of God and the needs and troubles of her children.*

She knows the way, and for this reason she is the Mother of all of the sick and suffering. To her we can turn with confidence and filial devotion, certain that she will help us, support us and not abandon us. She is the Mother of the crucified and Risen Christ: she stands beside our crosses and she accompanies us on the journey towards the resurrection and the fullness of life.

I entrust this 22nd World Day of the Sick to the intercession of Mary. I ask her to help the sick to bear their sufferings in fellowship with Jesus Christ and to support all those who care for them. To all the ill, and to all the health-care workers and volunteers who assist them, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

FRANCIS

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**FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENT-
SAT 9TH MARCH**

PREPARATION FOR EASTER CELEBRATION

Stations of the Cross (in church)

Confession, Holy Mass and Benediction at

2.00 p.m.



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