

Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family A CALL TO PRAYER



“Let us rejoice in the Lord and celebrate this feast in honour of the Virgin Mary, at whose assumption the angels rejoice, giving praise to the Son of God “



We are in the month of August, the month in which we celebrate the great event of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, an event that made complete Mary's joy and filled humanity with hope, enthusiasm and courage.

St John Damascene relying on tradition together with St Bridget confirms that the Apostles were miraculously called to Jerusalem at the time of the Blessed Virgin's death and they buried her in a new tomb in Gethsemane. However, St. Thomas, who, like when Jesus appeared for the first time to the Apostles, was not present, he wanted to see to believe. But when they opened the tomb found only the winding – sheet and lots of lilies. At that sight, the Apostles concluded that Jesus wanting to glorify his mother immediately after her death, as a reward for her association with Him in our redemption, brought her by angels' hands to be associated in body and soul with Him, also in heavenly glory and felicity.

St Anselm and St Bernard, talking about this mystery, tell us that legions of Angels came down from heaven and bowed low before the Virgin Mother, then reverently raised her into the heavenly regions. They tell us that millions of the blessed in paradise went before her, and cried out, astonished at her divine beauty, “*Who is this that come from desert flowing with delights?*” They tell us that Mary triumphantly entered heaven, was received and conducted by her Divine Son to the throne of the Eternal Father, in the midst of acclamations of angels and saints: ***“Hosanna, glory and honour to the daughter of David! Blessed be she that cometh to us like a queen, in the name of the Lord!”***

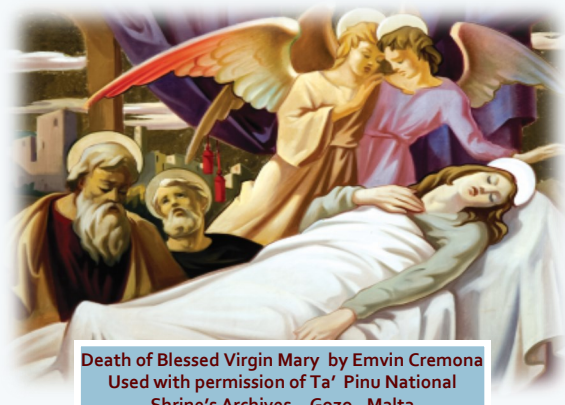
But that was not enough. It was not enough that she be presented the Eternal Father. She deserved to receive also from Him a crown on her head and sceptre in her hand and be proclaimed queen of the angels, dispenser of His grace, mother of mercy and queen of the family.

What a privilege God has bestowed on us, through his mother Mary, who called one of our countrywomen, Carmela, reveal to her and confirm Her Assumption into heaven. **What a privilege to us all and our families, devotees of Our Lady to be called to honour Her in this Marian Centre, under the name of “Queen of the Family”.**

When we meditate about the special graces Almighty God showered upon our dearest heavenly mother Mary, her resurrection, her Assumption and her coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth, we should rejoice and overflow with joy in union with the angels and the whole Church. Because, one day, if, like her, we follow God's will, we will be taken to heaven and enjoy the presence of Almighty God for ever. On this anniversary of her entrance into heaven, let us remember that she was raised so high because she was the humblest of all creation *“He looked on his servant in her lowliness” (Magnif.)* and suffered so much in accepting God's will for the sake of our redemption from the bond of sin.

Let us unite ourselves in heart and mind with the inhabitants of the Church in triumph and on earth, and reflect that she is the nearest to Jesus in glory because she followed him so closely in his redeeming mission.

Above all, let us work steadily and courageously, with Her at our side, so that like her, we follow closely her son Jesus, that after our resurrection, we ,too join them in heaven for everlasting happiness.



Death of Blessed Virgin Mary by Emvin Cremona
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From the Catholic Catechism

At the time appointed by God, the only Son of the Father, the Eternal Word, that is, the Word and substantial Image of the father, became incarnate, without losing his divine nature he has assumed human nature.

Jesus Christ is true God and true man, in the unity of his divine person; for this reason is the one and only mediator between God and men. Jesus Christ possesses two natures: - one divine and the other human, not

confused, but united in the one person of God's Son.

Christ, being true God and true man, has a human intellect and will, perfectly attuned and subject to his divine intellect, which he has in common with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The incarnation is therefore the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one person of

QUOTE: *"Appreciate God's gifts." Let us show appreciation for God's gifts of life, O Lord, by using them, not abusing them.*



Gospel Reading : *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread...Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness". (Isaiah 55:2-3)*

It was Jesus' custom, during his public life that he grabs every occasion to help and teach his followers. Once, after talking to the crowds went by boat to a lonely place, together with his disciples where they could be by themselves for a while. But the people heard about it and walked to that place. As He stepped ashore and saw the large crowd took pity on them talked to them and healed their sick. These people eager to cure their sick and hungry for his word, stayed there listening to him all day. In the evening the disciples said to Jesus to send them away. But Jesus still wanted to show them his generosity. He fed over five thousand men, plus women and children, with just five loaves and two fish, and still the disciples collected twelve baskets full of scraps. This is a good proof that Jesus is ready to help and give himself even at the smallest sign of cooperation, even though our contribution will be of comparatively of minor importance. Out of five loaves and two fish fed thousands of people; at his death on the cross promised heaven to the Criminal at the simple words, "Remember me when you come in your kingly power".

He reformed St. Augustine for a few sermons of St Ambrose; converted St Ignatius Loyola by reading of a book, and so many other innumerable similar conversions. Whoever we are, Jesus is always ready to help us if we open for him the door of our heart. Jesus is jealous and wishes that every human being enjoys with him eternal happiness. It is our personal decision whether we accept such an eternal reward or not. Taking this event with a worldly interpretation, it shows us that wherever Jesus went was always generous to his listeners. Besides teaching them he looked to their physical needs as well. However, this event could be also a preparation to a much more generous act Jesus was about to perform before returning back to his Father in heaven. At his last supper with the apostles, Jesus donated to them, and to all who would have faith in him, his personal Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine, that what Isaiah prophesized so many years before. But it all depends on our faith and belief. We should have strong faith in what he has done for us and believe in what he could do for us. When the Canaanite woman begged Jesus to cure her daughter and showed how much she relied on his power, Jesus' answer was,

"Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted".(Cont. next page...)

Liturgical Celebrations for August– Sept 2014

Date	August Celebrations
Saturday 2 nd Aug 2014	FIRST SATURDAY—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Rosary, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Benediction at 2.00p.m
Sun 3 rd & 17 th August	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory: closed due to refurbishment
Wed 6 th Aug 2014	14th of the 15 Wednesdays Devotion in preparation for the Assumption of Our Lady Rosary ,Confession and Holy Mass 11a.m
Sunday 10th MAJOR CELEBRATION	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT H.L BISHOP HILTON DEAKIN Rosary- Procession, Holy Mass, & Benediction at 2.00p.m ***All Ethnic groups are requested to attend***
Wed 13 th Aug 2014	Half Day Retreat– Walk Prayfully with Mary 10.00a.m –3.00p.m Inc. final 15 Wednesdays Devotion in preparation for the Assumption of Our Lady Rosary ,Confession and Holy Mass @ 11a.m
Fri 15 th Aug 2014	Feast Of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin <i>THIS IS A DAY OF OBLIGATION</i> Rosary, Confession & Holy Mass at 11.00 a.m.
Until Further Notice	Note: Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas will be held at St Brigid Church Fitzroy at 7.30p.m
Sunday 31st Aug 2014	Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima oratory at 9.30 a.m. Procession to the Shrine followed by Holy Mass..
Special Events for September	
Sat 6th September	Nativity of The Blessed Virgin and Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Rosary, Holy Mass and Benediction at 2.00p.m
Sun 7th September	Feast of Our Lady of Good Health-Vailankanni Rosary, Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 1.45p.m
Sat 13th September	Feast of Our Lady of La Vang Holy Mass followed by procession at 11.00.a.m
Sun 21st September	Feast of Our Lady of Grace, Madonna of San Pio Rosary, Holy Mass & Benediction at 2.00 p.m followed by procession to the oratory

(Gospel Reading Contd...) *But when Jesus called Peter to go to him across the water, and began to sink as soon as he felt the force of the wind and asked Jesus to help him, Jesus putting out his hand rebuked him,*

“Man of little faith why did you doubt?”

Dear friends, this is a lesson to us who go frequently to Communion. If we don't go with faith and humility, with love, and desire of reparation, we will be sinking in our bad habits and losing most of the benefits Jesus our Creator and Redeemer is ready shower on us.

THE FORCE OF PRAYER

A man of prayer is capable of everything. Hence it is very important for the missionaries to dedicate themselves to this practice with great affection, because without it, they will accomplish little or nothing, whereas through it, more than by letters and persuasive speech, they will be capable of touching hearts and winning souls to their Creator

LIVING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

The Archbishop 's Office of Evangelisation invites you to join Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (Archbishop of Philippines) as he leads us in a Lectio Divina and Mass. Come and get uplifted by an evening of contemplative music and reflection from 6.00 to 8.30p.m on Tuesday 5th of Aug at St Patrick Cathedral.

ALL WELCOME

This week we launched our fund-raising project for the acquisition of a **lightweight mobile amplification system** for our processions, We would like to thank many of our devotees who have agreed to help us in this campaign, We hope that you will spread the word among your family and friends to give us a helping hand so that we can uplift the hillside with our favourite hymns of Praise and worship.





Let us turn to the words of Jesus:

**"I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser...
Abide in me and I in you" (Jn 15:1, 4).**

These simple words reveal **the mystery of communion** that serves as the unifying bond between the Lord and his disciples, between Christ and the baptised - a living and life-giving communion through which Christians no longer belong to themselves but are the Lord's very own, as the branches are one with the vine.

The communion of Christians with Jesus has the communion of God as Trinity, namely, the unity of the Son to the Father in the gift of the Holy Spirit, as its model and source, and is itself the means to achieve this communion: united to the Son in the Spirit's bond of love, Christians are *united* to the Father.

Jesus continues: **"I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5).**

From the communion that Christians experience in Christ there immediately flows the communion which they experience with one another: all are branches of a single vine, namely, Christ. In this communion is the wonderful reflection and participation in the mystery of the intimate life of love in God as Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as revealed by the Lord Jesus.

For this *communion*, Jesus prays: **"that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (Jn 17:21).**

"The Church shines forth as 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'" We are accustomed to recall this mystery of Church *Communion* at the beginning of the celebration of the Eucharist when the priest welcomes all with the greeting of the Apostle Paul: **'The grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all'**

(2 Co 13:13).

After having described the distinguishing features of the lay faithful on which their dignity rests, we must at this moment reflect on their mission & responsibility in the Church and in the world. A proper understanding of these aspects, however, can be found only in the living context of the Church as **communion**.

(An extract from St John Paul II 's Apostolic Exhortation)



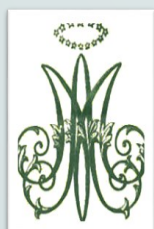
APPEAL FOR PEACE

Pope Francis made an impassioned appeal for peace in the Middle East, Iraq and Ukraine.

Addressing thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, he noted that on Monday marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I.

"As we remember this tragic event, I hope that the mistakes of the past won't be repeated, but that the lessons of history will be taken into account, so that peace prevails through patient and courageous dialogue," he said. He prayed that God grant the "peoples and leaders" in the Middle East, Iraq and Ukraine "the wisdom and strength to pursue the path of peace with determination and to face each dispute with the tenacity of dialogue and negotiation and the power of reconciliation." Every decision he said, "must not be based on particular interests but on the common good and on respect for each person.

Remember that all is lost with war and nothing is lost with peace



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