

ALL NATIONS MARIAN CENTRE—15 FLANAGANS DRV, BACCHUS MARSH ,VIC, 3340



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



OUR 'PILGRIM' LADY TA'PINU—QUEEN OF THE FAMILY

Lent: Fasting and Abstinence

The picture below shows a reproduction of the Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu mounted on a rich and thick velvet material highlighted by golden handcrafted embroidery and trims.



In October 2013, This 'pilgrim' Icon of Our Lady was brought to Rome from the National Shrine in Gozo, Malta with clergy members and Ta' Pinu Devotees on their pilgrimage to the Vatican City following Pope Francis's worldwide appeal to pray for peace. It is now graciously displayed at the National Shrine awaiting its next mission... During Monsignor Camilleri's visit to Malta last November, it was suggested that we should commission a similar 'pilgrim' icon for our Shrine in Bacchus Marsh. Thanks to his

efforts and devotion, it was agreed for us to now have Our Very Own Pilgrim Queen so that She can continue Her walks around the places of worship around Australia.

OUR LADY, OUR QUEEN HAS LANDED !!!!

As we start our missionary journey around the nation not only to visit but also to invite our brothers and sisters to 'Come and honour' Our Mother Mary, Queen of the Family in her Heavenly home in Bacchus Marsh, we look forward to welcome HER in our hearts and in our homes.

Our Heavenly Mother Mary will be taking her first Australian Walk to **ST PATRICK'S Cathedral on Sunday 23rd March 2014** and will be officially presented to the Archdiocese at the con-celebrated mass and participate for the first time in the WALK WITH MARY Procession from St Patrick to St Paul Cathedral.

We would like to invite you and specially those who call themselves "strong devotees of Our Lady Ta' Pinu" to join us as we will be walking alongside Her on that day and will be accompanying Her in Her maiden walk with all the praises and glory she deserves.

*THE HUMAN MIND PLANS THE WAY,
BUT THE LORD DIRECTS THE STEPS.*

*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
Better a little with the fear of the Lord than a great treasure
and trouble with it.*

Book of Proverbs 16:1;

Ash Wednesday, which this year will be on Wednesday 5th March is a day of fasting (one main meal, two smaller meals), and abstinence (from meat).

The rules for **fasting and abstinence** in the Roman Catholic Church are set forth in the Code of Canon Law (*Canons 1250-1252*) which prescribes:

Can. 1250: The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday
Can. 1251: Abstinence from meat, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday.

Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Can. 1252: The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until their sixtieth year.

Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.



Our Lady, Queen of the Family

invites you to
"Come - Ejja"

for the
PREPARATION FOR EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 9th March 2014

At 2.00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS AND BENEDICTION

The Principal Celebrant will be his Lordship,

Bishop Emeritus Hilton Deakin

All Community groups are encouraged to come and walk alongside our Heavenly Mother as

ONE UNITED NATION.

You are also invited to join us for a light refreshment after Holy Mass.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

I believe in one God. **God's Name is "I AM WHO I AM"**

THE IMPLICATIONS IN FAITH IN ONE GOD

Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life.

- **It means coming to know God's greatness and majesty:**

"Behold, God is great, and we know him not".

Therefore we must "serve God first". (Job 36:26)

- *It means living in thanksgiving:* If God is the only One, everything we are and we hold and have comes from him: "What have you that you did not receive?" (1 Cor-4:7) "What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (Ps116-12)

- *It means knowing the unity and true dignity of all men:* Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. (Gen: 1-26).

- *It means making good use of created things:* faith in God, the only God, leads us to use everything that is not God insofar as it brings us closer to him.

And to detach ourselves from it insofar as it turns us away from him: My Lord and my God, take from me everything that distances me from you.

My Lord and my God, give me everything that brings me closer to you.

My Lord and my God, detach me from myself to give my all to you. (St Nicholas of Flue).

- *It means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity:*

Let nothing trouble you

Let nothing frighten you

Everything passes

God never changes

Patience - obtains all

Who ever has God/wants for nothing

God alone is enough.

St Theresa of Jesus. Peoria's 30.)



THE GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE MONTH:

"Remember man that you were dust and to dust you shall return!" (Gen.3:19)

"Man does not live on bread alone... But on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4)

"If you only knew what God is offering you. And who it is who is saying to you: "Give me a drink". (Jn 4:10)

"The water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life". (Jn.4:14).

This week, we will embark on a forty day preparation for the Easter Celebrations, during which we commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ has suffered to redeem us from the bond of sin and open for us the doors of heaven.

What a shame and a loss for you and for me, if, during these forty days we don't listen to the Word of God, and drink from the Water God continually offers us!!

The Second Vatican Council teaches us that Lent is a time of penance and renewal that help us to prepare ourselves for Easter. God incessantly invites us, first of all by the Church, then through a friend, or it could be an enemy, or some special event that might occur to us personally, or to our family, and so on. Lent is a special time of grace instituted by the Church to give us a special thrust towards spirituality, to get rid of our bad habits and replace them by virtuous acts. And to help us to achieve this objective she, first of all, reminds us in God's words to Adam, **"Remember man that you were dust and to dust you shall return"**; then invites us to penance and prayer.

After his baptism, Jesus went to the desert where he passed forty days and forty nights in fasting. After such period of penance, he got really hungry. The devil, seeing the weakness tempted him, asking him to change the stones into bread. Jesus, in all his weakness **didn't fall to the temptation, but vigorously answered, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4).** Since God gave us our present life to serve him in this world and then go to enjoy his presence for ever, we need to listen to his Word, so that we know how to serve him. Lent is the best time to fulfil such a duty. The devil is very sharp, so to make us fall he seeks our weak points and times of distress to make us fall to his temptation.

The Word of God is so important to us for our salvation that Jesus repeated the same necessity to the Samaritan woman, comparing the Word of God to the divine water that leads us to eternal life. **"If you only knew what God is offering you And who it is who is saying to you: "Give me a drink". (Jn 4:10)**

"The water that I shall give Will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life". (Jn.4:14).

Dear Friends, during the Holy Lenten Days Jesus repeats to us this same words. Let us listen to his Word, given to us by our mother Church and pray Our Heavenly Mother Mary to give us the courage to resist all devil's temptations to ignore her call.

QUOTE :

If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign that He has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint.

If you desire to become a great saint, ask Him to send you much suffering.

To kindle the fire of divine love, the best wood is that of the cross, which Our Lord used for his great sacrifice of love.

St. Ignatius Loyola.

A BEAUTIFUL AND TOUCHING STORY OF LOVE AND PERSEVERANCE. - A LESSON FOR US ALL

At the prodding of my friends I am writing this story. My name is Mildred Honor and I am a former elementary school music teacher from Des Moines , Iowa . I have always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons - something I have done for over 30 years. During those years I found that children have many levels of musical ability, and even though I have never had the pleasure of having a prodigy, I have taught some very talented students. However, I have also had my share of what I call '*musically challenged*' pupils - One such pupil being Robby.. Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. ' But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.

Well, Robby began his piano lessons and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavour. As much as Robby tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary piano pieces that I require all my students to learn. Over the months he tried and tried. while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him. At the end of each weekly lesson he would always say 'My mom's going to hear me play someday'. But to me, it seemed hopeless, he just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in. Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming — he was a bad advertisement for my teaching! Several weeks later I mailed a flyer recital to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby who had received a flyer asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify. He told me that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. 'Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play' he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital - perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be all right.



The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my 'curtain closer'. Well, the recital went off without a hitch, the students have been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. 'Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?' I thought. 'Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?' Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he stated that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No. 21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories.

Liturgical Celebrations for March–April 2014	
Date	March 2014 Celebrations
Sat 1 st March 2014	First Saturday—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession followed by Holy Mass and Benediction
Sun 2 nd & 16 th Mar	Family prayer day at Our Lady of Lanka Oratory at 2.00 p.m.
Wed 5 th Mar	Mother and Child Oratory Novena and Holy Mass at 8.00p.m
Sun 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 8 st March at 11.00 a.m.: Vietnamese Community Sun 9 th March at 2.00 p.m. [all Communities] Sat 15 th March at 10.30 a.m. Hispanic Community Sun 16 th March at 3.00 p.m. Polish Community Sun 23 rd March St Brendon Parish Church at 9.00a.m & the Tamil Catholic Association at 10.30 a.m. Mon 24 th March St James the Apostle Parish School at 10.00a.m Sat 29 th March at 10.00 a.m. Slovenian Community Sun 30 th March at 9.30 a.m. Portuguese Community
Wed 19 th , 26 th Mar	Mother and Child Oratory Novena at 8.00p.m
Major Events for April 2014	
Fri 5 th Apr	OUR LADY OF SORROWS SERVICE at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Holy Mass, Benediction
FRI 18 th Apr Major Celebration	COMMEMORATION OF OUR LORD'S PASSION , DEATH AND ADORA-TION OF THE CROSS followed by GOOD FRIDAY Pageant at 2.30 p.m.
Sun 20 th Apr	EASTER SUNDAY The Risen Lord Celebration at 2.30 p.m.
Sun 27 th Apr	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Holy Mass at 1.45p.m

POPE FRANCIS' VIEWS ON THE QUALITIES CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE:

"As humble as lambs, and very joyful people:"

"Sad Christians don't do our Lord or Our Church any favours. Christians who set time for mourning, who are always complaining. They're constantly sad...This is not the attitude of a disciple.

St. Augustine tells Christians "Go on, go on, walk and sing, sing. With joy"

A true Christian is someone who walks joyfully through the world as a lamb of the Lord.



These were the words of Pope Francis at Mass in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.

The Pope then compared sad Christians to Mary Magdalene, who wept before the Holy Sepulchre, before seeing the Resurrected Lord. Commenting on the day's first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, Pope Francis reflected on the nature of Christian identity, noting :

- **A Christian is first of all someone who is "sent"**: the Lord sends his disciples out into the world to proclaim the Gospel, so a Christian is a disciple **"who walks, who always moves forward"**. A Christian who stands still "is sick", the Pope said, because the first marker of Christian identity is the capacity *"to walk even where there are difficulties, to go beyond those difficulties"*.
- A second feature of Christian identity, the Pope continued, is that a **Christian "is a lamb"**, and must retain this identity: the Lord sends us out "as lambs among wolves". Some would suggest using strength against those wolves, the Pope continued, but we must remember David when he fought the Philistine: "they wanted to dress him up in all of Saul's armour and he couldn't move, he wasn't himself, he wasn't humble", so in the end he took his catapult and he won the battle. Sometimes temptation leads us to think: "This is difficult, these wolves are smart and I'll be smarter than them". But as long as you're a lamb, the Lord will defend you, while if you're a wolf, He won't defend you, He will leave you alone.
- A third feature of Christian identity, Pope Francis went on, is the "Christian style", which is joy. Christians, he said, "are people who exult because they know the Lord and they bring the Lord". It is not possible, the Pope said, to walk as Christians without joy, to walk as lambs without joy. Even in the face of challenges, in the face of difficulties, in the face of our own mistakes and sins, "there is the joy of Jesus, which always forgives and helps".

We must reflect on the nature of Christian identity, Pope Francis concluded: a Christian is a man or woman who never stands still, who always walks, who walks as a lamb, and walks with joy. May the Lord grant us the grace to live as Christians who walk as lambs, with joy © - Libreria Editrice Vaticana

Robby—The Prodigy Boy Contd...

He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent!

Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause! Overcome and in tears, I ran up onstage and put my arms around Robby in joy.

'I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it?' Through the microphone

Robby explained: 'Well, Miss Honor remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.'

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy.

I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy of Robby.

**He was the teacher and I was the pupil,
for he had taught me the meaning of**

PERSEVERANCE , LOVE AND BELIEVING IN YOURSELF,

and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why.



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