

**POPE FRANCIS' REFLECTION ON THE NATURE OF PRAYER  
GOD IS A FRIEND TO PRAY WITH**

Basing his comments on a reading from Exodus (32:7-14), which recounts "Moses' prayer for his people who had fallen into the grave sin of idolatry". Moses begins to plead with God in a prayer which Pope Francis described as "a true battle with God". Moses "speaks freely before the Lord" and in doing so "he teaches us how to pray: without fear, freely, even with insistence".

**MOSES "INSISTS, HE IS COURAGEOUS: THIS IS HOW PRAYER MUST BE!"**

Saying words and nothing more is not prayer, the Pope continued. One has to know how to "negotiate" with God. Essentially, the Pope said, Moses "seeks to 'convince' God to change his mind by means of many arguments. *what will your enemies say?" They will say* — he went on — "that you are evil, that you are not faithful". Moses thus "seeks to 'convince' the Lord" by engaging in a "battle" that places two elements at the centre: "your people and my people". **Moses' prayer is a success.**, because in the end he left with a great awareness in his heart: "our God is merciful, he is able to forgive, he turns back on his decisions, he is a father!".

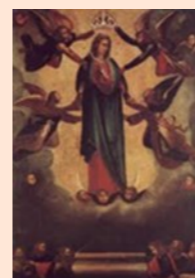
**This is what prayer does in us**, Pope Francis explained. "It changes our hearts, it makes us understand better who our God truly is". However, "it is important not to speak to God with empty words like the pagans". Instead, we need to tell him the truth: "but look, Lord, I have this problem in my family, with my son, with this or that.... **What is to be done? You can't leave me like this!**"

Sometimes **prayer takes risks**. In fact, the Pope explained, "praying is also 'negotiating' with God to obtain what I ask of the Lord....", and this is how prayer must be: free, insistent, with arguments, [even] 'reproving' the Lord a little: 'but you promised me this and you didn't do it!'".

**PRAYER, IS LIKE "SPEAKING WITH A FRIEND: IN PRAYER ONE OPENS ONE'S HEART"**. The Pope prayed that the Lord "might give us all grace, for prayer is a grace". He invited us to always remember that "when we pray to God, it is not a dialogue between two ... for the Holy Spirit is always present in every prayer". Indeed, he said, "we cannot pray without the Holy Spirit: it is he who prays in us, who changes our hearts, it is he who teaches us to call God 'Father'".

Lastly, Pope Francis insisted to ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to pray "as Moses prayed, to 'negotiate' with God in freedom of spirit and with courage". Finally he concluded this prayer:- "May the Holy Spirit, who is always present in our prayer, lead us along this path".

St Martha Chapel - Vatican City



**Ta' Pinu Shrine  
Our Lady, Queen of the Family  
A CALL TO PRAYER**



**MAY: THE MONTH OF MARY**

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church and therefore the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who, in and through the Church, seeks to be the servant of God, of man and the obedient agent of the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Popes' Devotions to the Month of Mary

The pious practice of honouring Mary during the month of May has been especially recommended by the Popes.

Pius XII made frequent reference to it and in his great Encyclical *on the Sacred Liturgy (Mediator Dei)* characterized it as one of "other exercises of piety" which although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy, are nevertheless of special import and dignity, and may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops" (no. 182).

Pope Paul VI wrote a short encyclical in 1965 using the Month of Mary devotions as a means of obtaining prayers for peace. He urged the faithful to make use of this practice which is "gladdening and consoling" and by which the Blessed Virgin Mary is honoured and the Christian people are enriched with spiritual gifts" (no. 2).

Pope John Paul II said in May 2012, "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady, a favourite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!"



**Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI: Mary Is Our Model for Prayer**. "The Mother of God", he explained on 14 March 14, "teaches us the necessity of prayer, through which God gives believers the courage "to reach the ends of the world and proclaim everywhere the Lord Jesus, savior of the world." **Profound and constant prayer enabled the Virgin Mary to embrace God's will in her life.**

On Sunday, April 27, 2014, Pope Francis gave us a glimpse of his devotion as he touches a statue of the Virgin Mary as he leads a solemn ceremony in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Pope Francis has declared his two predecessors John XXIII and John Paul II saints in an unprecedented canonization ceremony made even more historic by the presence of retired Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Francis recently acknowledged that his strongly devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has been greatly influenced by the exemplary actions of Saint Pope John Paul II- "The Mother is here! I place you, and myself, under the mantle of Mary, Our Lady" he once stated.

**Mary and Our Spiritual Devotions**

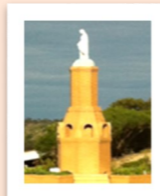
In our observance of the Marian month we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

The following practices which are recommended by the Magisterium are offered as suggestions for honouring Our Lady during Her month.

1. THE REGINA COELI ( QUEEN OF HEAVEN)
  2. THE ROSARY
  3. THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
  4. CONSECRATION AND ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY
- (Excepted from the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* )



**DEVOTIONAL WEDNESDAYS FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.**  
**On Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, the pilgrims at Our Lady 'Ta' Pinu will begin the fifteen traditional Wednesdays in spiritual preparation for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady.**  
**This year, the devotional prayers will conclude on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August .Rosary starts at 11.00 a.m., Confession followed by Holy Mass**  
**ALL WELCOME**



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**OUR LADY TA'PINU SHRINE HAS JOINED FACEBOOK!!!**  
**To Share with you some highlights of past , present and future events—Check us out at**  
**[www.facebook.com/TaPinuShrineAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/TaPinuShrineAustralia)**

**The Creator**

In the creation of the world and of man, God gave the first and universal witness to His almighty love and His wisdom . the first proclamation of the “plan of His loving goodness”, which finds its goal in the new creation in Christ.

Though the work of creation is attributed to the Father in particular, it is equally a truth of faith, that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit together are the one indivisible principle of creation.

**God alone created the universe freely, directly, and without any help.**

No creature has the infinite power necessary power to “create” in the proper sense of the word, that is, to produce and give being to that which had in no way possessed it (to call into existence “out of nothing” God created the world to show fort and communicate his glory. That his creatures should share in his truth, goodness and beauty – this is the glory for which God created them.

God created the universe and keeps it in existence by the Word, the Son “upholding the universe by his

word of power” (Heb 1:3) and by his Creator Spirit, the giver of life.

Divine providence consists in the dispositions by which God guides all his creatures with the wisdom and love to their ultimate end.

Christ invites us to filial trust in the providence of our heavenly Father (Mt6-26:34) and St Peter the Apostle repeats, “Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you” (1 Peter 5:7)

Divine providence works also through the actions of creatures. To human beings God grants the ability to cooperate freely with his plans.

The fact that God permits physical and also moral evil is a mystery that God illuminates by his Son Jesus Christ who died and rose to vanquish evil. Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit an evil if did not cause a good to come from the very evil, by ways that he shall fully know only in eternal life ry of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and Christian life.

**Choose the best way :** You cannot change your past, but you can always change your future to the better. It depends on which way you want to follow.

**THE GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE MONTH:**

**“I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life for his sheep”.**

In the last weeks, we have experienced lots of heart breaking as well as joyful events. We have read a lot about Lazarus’ miraculous resurrection at Jesus’ command; we read about the dramatic passion and crucifixion Jesus suffered at the hands of the Jews after performing so many miracles among them and finally heard about Jesus’ triumphant resurrection. It is undeniable that all these stunning events should confirm the two main attributes Jesus possessed, that he really was the Son of God, and his indescribable love towards mankind. However among these incredible events that we heard of during those days, surely, stand out what Jesus’ performed in his last supper with his beloved apostles.

Jesus had declared in various occasions that he is the bread of life, “I am the bread of Life.... This is the bread that comes down from heaven...I am the Living Bread...anyone who eats this bread, he will live for ever...he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life”, (Jn.6) No one could ever imagine that anyone in the world could eat his flesh and drink his blood. But when time was ripe to complete his mission as Redeemer of mankind, being the Good Shepherd, before he left his life for his sheep, he ordered Peter and John, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it”. (Lk.22.8)

Jesus, being about to end his earthly life, did not want to sacrifice the Passover Lamb just once for all but wanted that they will repeat it until the end time. So he gave them bread to eat and the wine to drink saying, **“Take, this is my body...This is my blood of the covenant (Mt 25:26) Do this in remembrance of me” (Lk 22.1:**

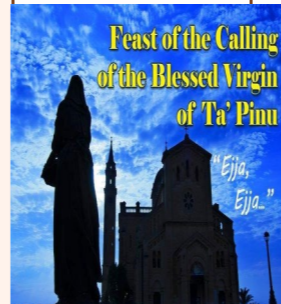
St Luke tells us (24.13) that two disciples of Jesus, on their way to Emmaus, were discussing sorrowfully Jesus’ death. Surely, for them and for so many like them, Jesus was really the lost “Good Shepherd”, and they never thought that his shepherding would last to the end of time. It had to be Jesus himself, who is always present to those who seek him, to comfort them and help them understand, through the Scripture, how Christ had to suffer and then enter into his glory. However, although their heart was burning with love, to the extent that they persuaded him to stay with them for the night, they didn’t recognise him. Then when they were at table, he took the bread, broke it and gave it to them their eyes were opened and recognised him.

What a big blessing those people ,who like Emmaus, disciples seek fervently Jesus’ companionship and shepherding would receive . Jesus is all the time ready, fills our hearts with love and holiness. And the best way to seek Jesus is by attending Holy Mass as long as one doesn’t go to Mass just to fulfil an obligation.

**Holy Mass is a renewal of the sacrifice of the Cross and a repetition of Emmaus’ episode- the explanation of the scripture , the breaking of the bread and Holy Communion**

**Liturgical Celebrations for May-June 2014**

Date	May 2014 Celebrations
Sat 3rd May	<b>First Saturday—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion at 2.00p.m</b> Rosary Confession followed by <b>COMMEMORATION OF CANONISATION OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II</b> Holy Mass and Benediction at 2.00p.m.
Sunday 4th May	<b>Our Lady of Good Health Vailankanni Devotion</b> <b>Special dedication to All Mothers</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at <b>1.45p.m.</b> Divine Mercy Prayers & Chaplet and confession followed by Holy Mass
Wed 7th May	<b>1st of the 15 Wednesdays Devotion</b> <b>of the Assumption of Our Lady</b> <b>Rosary ,Confession and Holy Mass 11a.m</b>
Then Wed 14,21 & 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Wed 7,14,21,28th	Mother and Child Oratory Novena at 8.00p.m
Sun 4th & 18th MAY	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory Private Family prayer day
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>FEAST OF OUE LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS</b> Rosary and confession followed by Holy Mass at 2.00p.m
	<b>MAJOR CELEBRATION for June 2014</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>131ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEAST OF OUR LADY’ CALL ING</b> <b>ROSARY PROCESSION, HOLY MASS AND BENEDICTION AT 2.00 P.M.</b> <b>ALL INVITED</b>



Feast of the Calling of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu

**THE FEAST OF OUR LADY TA’ PINU**

The 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady Ta’ Pinu’s Call to Carmela Grima will occur on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 . It is general practice to commemorate the feast of the Calling on the Sunday closer to the Feast day.

**Therefore, the commemoration will be held on the 22nd June 2014 starting at 2.00 p.m. ( Not on the 29th of June as originally advertised) The Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi also falls on the same day this year, . This is THE, if not ‘the biggest’ of ou Feasts at the Shrine . As usual, please join us in great numbers for that occasion.**

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!! MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE EVENT TO BE PUBLISHED IN OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER.**  
**ALL ETHNIC COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND**

**FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

Since 1814, The Australian Catholic community remained faithful to Mary and Australia was the first nation to choose her under the title, **‘Mary Help of Christians’** as principle Patroness.

Australia also became the first country to have a cathedral dedicated in Our Lady, Mary's name. St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry in 1820 .

**JOIN US FOR THIS EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY 24TH MAY AT 2.00 P.M.**



**The Regina Cæli**

Queen of Heaven,  
rejoice, alleluia. /  
For He whom you did merit  
to bear, alleluia./  
Has risen, as he said,  
alleluia. /

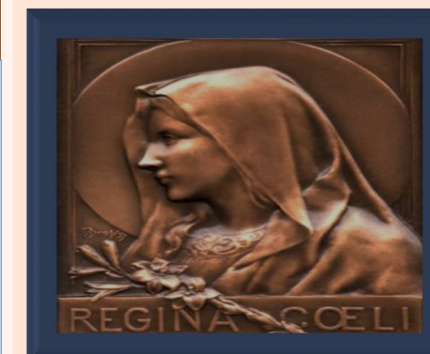
Pray for us to God, alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen,  
alleluia.

**Let us pray.** O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



Let us strive to be kind, meek and humble with everyone, especially so with those whom God has destined to be our companions. Let us not be one of those who are angels in public and devils at home.

*St Francis de Sales*