



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



Dear Friends and All

In whose hands fall this Newsletter, "Happy Christmas To You, To your Families, To your relatives and To your Friends".

May All of You participate in the Blessings and Happiness that Jesus brings into the World in this Christmas Season.

Jesus is knocking on the door of your Heart. Open to Him that he may overflow your heart with his Divine presence bringing into it heaps of Spiritual Joy that changes the hatred in your heart into Love, your sadness into Happiness, your despair into Hope.

Jesus is always present where you look for Him, and always ready to help you if you really put your trust in Him.

May the Love, the Happiness and the Hope, He injects into your heart during this Christmas Season remain with you in all your years to come.

Msgr Benedict Camilleri.

We are all a reflection of the image of God, and we are convinced that we cannot accept that the image of the living God be subject to the most aberrant trafficking" declared at the seat of the Pontifical Academy for Sciences -Casina Pio IV VATICAN CITY

POPE FRANCIS SIGNS ON THE DECLARATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF MODERN SLAVERY

"Every human being, man women, boy and girl, is made in God's image. God is the love and freedom that is given in interpersonal relationships, and every human being is a free person destined to live for the good of others in equality and fraternity. Every person, and all people, are equal and must be accorded the same freedom and the same dignity. Any discriminatory relationship that does not respect the fundamental conviction that others are equal is a crime, and frequently an aberrant crime.

"Therefore, we declare on each and every one of our creeds that modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, and organ trafficking, is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all walks of life, but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.

On behalf of all of them, our communities of faith are called to reject, without exception, any systematic deprivation of individual freedom for the purposes of personal or commercial exploitation; in their name, we make this declaration. .."echoing the voice of the Lord: I assure you that whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"

We are all a



AN EXTRACT FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Death & Resurrection



To the benefit of every man, Jesus Christ tasted death (Heb 2-9).

It is truly the Son of God made man who died and was buried.

During Christ's period in the tomb, his divine person continued to assume both his soul and his body, although they were separated from each other by death. For this reason the

dead Christ's body "saw no corruption" (Acts. 13-37).

By the expression, "He descended into hell", the Apostles Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil "who has the power of death" (Heb.2:14).

In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down into the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him.

"Let Your Light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven". (Mat. 5:16.)

THE GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE MONTH:

"The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah: 9:2).

A few days from now we shall be celebrating again the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light that was born among us to light the darkness of the World.

It is our duty, first of all, to say, "Thank You" to Almighty God, for giving us the opportunity to celebrate again this great anniversary, because there were many who celebrated this event last year and are not with us anymore. It is a great gift to us and to all good living people. It is a great gift to those who are far from God, because Jesus' birthday-commemoration is another knock on their soul's door, to open their heart to Him, through a change of life, as long as they are in time.

Because, as the Psalmist says, once we experience the shadow of death we can't serve him anymore, *"The dead do not praise the Lord"* (Ps.115:17).

Therefore, *the better and the longer we serve him in this world the greater will be the eternal reward we will receive for our service.*

Christmas should be for us a reminder of two big events, the former regards the past, the latter regards that that is to come. This big feast should remind us that Jesus, the Son of God and equal to the Father, humbled himself, "Did not shrink from birth in the Virgin's womb" (Te Deum), took our human form, came into this world and redeemed us from our sins by his death on a cross. So from God's enemies made his brothers, sons of God. He lit our minds with his teachings, assigned our duties, and went back to the Father to prepare a place for us! But before leaving he warned us with the parable of the travelling man, who left his servants in charge, each with his own task and according to their abilities, and ordered the doorkeeper to stay awake. So we should stay awake because we don't know when the Master would be back, and would have to give an account of what we had done.



Last Sunday Jesus said to us that he will come again, this time as Judge, to give us what we deserve. However our first encounter with

Christ would be immediately after our death, something we

Liturgical Celebrations for December 2014	
Date	December 2014 Celebrations
Sat 6th Dec 2014	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2.00p.m. Rosary Procession Confession followed by Holy Mass led by Msgr Greg Bennet, Vicar General and Benediction at 2.30p.m.
Sun 7 th & 21 st Dec	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory: Private Family Prayer Day
Sun 14th December	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE from 10.00 a.m. Serenade, Rosary, Procession, followed by Solemn Mass from 1.45p.m Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni: Rosary procession Followed by Confession, Adoration, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Carols during Fellowship
Sunday 21st December	WALK WITH BABY JESUS Rosary, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Benediction at 2.00p.m
Wed 24th Dec	Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas will be held at 7.30p.m
Sun 25 th Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY
Major Events for January 2015	
January 1 st	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
January 4 th	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Friday 23rd January	6.30 p.m. Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Joseph Rosary procession and Holy Mass

Do not travel on the road with a foolhardy fellow, lest he be burdensome to you; for he will act as he pleases and through his folly you will perish with him. (Sirach 8:15)

never know when it might happen. Jesus warns us to ‘stay awake’, a warning to each and every one of us, no matter who we are and where we are! Because we never know when he calls us, and after that there will be no repair, no reconciliation; what we have had done, had done!

Many people stay awake, stay on guard, but their guard is not to prepare themselves to meet Jesus but to seek mostly what could please their present life, no matter whether it is right or wrong in God’s eyes! They look more for bodily pleasure than spiritual happiness, the happiness which Jesus, by his birth brought into the world.

Therefore let us listen to our heavenly mother Mary’s invitation given to us in Cana, “Do what he tells you”, so that while we enjoy happily our Christmas earthly celebrations, we also prepare ourselves for the eternal happiness, with Jesus in heaven.

When you die,
10 things GOD won't ask you:

- 1.. God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- 2...God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- 3...God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- 4..God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- 5..God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- 6..God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- 7..God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.
- 8...God won't ask about the colour of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character
- 9...God won't ask why it took you so long to find Him and ask Him into your house, He'll lovingly take you to heaven and not to the gates of Hell.
- 10..God won't have to ask how many people, you will share these news with.
He already knows your decision..”

Keep Them Close.

I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminium foil after she cooked in it, then **reused it. She was the original 'recycle queen' before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting** old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away.

I can see them now, Dad in trousers, t-shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. THINGS WE KEEP.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste mean affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

SOMETIMES, WHAT WE CARE ABOUT MOST GETS ALL USED UP AND GOES AWAY... NEVER TO RETURN.

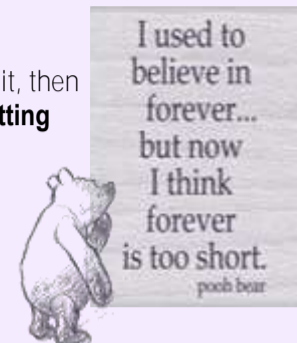
So, while we have it... It's best we love it...And care for it... And fix it when it's broken... And heal it when it's sick.

THIS IS TRUE. For marriage..... And old cars..... And children with bad report cards..... And dogs with bad hips.... And aging parents..... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with.

There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special... And so, we keep them close! I received **this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I'm sharing it with the**

people I think of in the same way... YOU - who hopefully are also "keepers" Good friends are like stars... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

"Keep them close!" (from E. Depasquale)



The Church's Teaching on Mary as Mediatrix of All Graces

The predestination of the Blessed Virgin as Mother of God is associated with the designs of divine Providence, she is the gracious mother of the divine Redeemer here on earth, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord. - **For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.**

...the most glorious Virgin, for whom "He who is mighty has done great things," was resplendent with such an abundance of heavenly gifts, with such a fullness of grace and with such innocence, that she is an unspeakable miracle of God – indeed, the crown of all miracles and truly the Mother of God; that she approaches as near to God himself as is possible for a created being; and that she is above all men and angels in glory.

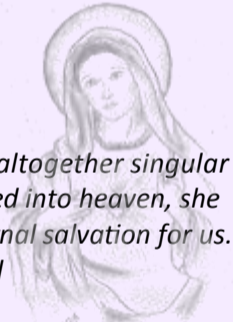
(Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX solemnly defining the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 1854)

Mary has such influence with her divine Son, that whatever graces He confers on humans, does so always with her as minister and decision-maker—(Benedict XV, Encyclical, Fausto appetente die, June 29, 1921,)

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary, which it constantly experiences and recommends to the heartfelt attention of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer."

...Mary in suffering with Him as He died on the cross, cooperated in the work of the Savior, in an altogether singular way, by obedience, faith, hope, and burning love, to restore supernatural life to souls [...] after being assumed into heaven, she has not put aside this saving function, but by her manifold intercession, she continues to win the gifts of eternal salvation for us. By her motherly love, she takes care of the brothers of her Son who are still in pilgrimage and in dangers and difficulties, until they be led through to the happy fatherland.

From the **Council Vatican II** (Dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium*, 61-62)



OUR LADY TA'PINU SHRINE HAS JOINED THE WORLD WIDE WEB :

www.tapinu-australia.org

OUR ULTIMATE AIM IN INTRODUCING THIS WEBSITE IS TO REACH OUT TO ALL THE FAITHFULS AROUND VICTORIA, STRETCHING OVER THE STATE BORDERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND EVEN AROUND THE WORLD IN ORDER TO SPREAD THE DEVOTION TO OUR HEAVENLY MOTHER MARY. HOWEVER OUR WEBPAGE IS AT ITS VERY EARLY STAGE OF CREATION WHICH MEANS THAT WHILE IT HAS GONE LIVE, THERE IS MUCH MORE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT WITH YOUR INTEREST AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION, WE HOPE TO IMPROVE ON IT BY FAR... we would also like to thank all those who have been following us Facebook through which we hope be able to share with you

Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine

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