

## Ta' Pinu Shrine

# Our Lady, Queen of the Family A CALL TO PRAYER

## “MARY - THE MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR ”

“O God, who art the greatness of the humble, reveal to us Mary's humility, which is proportioned to the elevation of her charity —2 Tim 4:3-4 .

This month we have selected an extract from The Book “THE MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR AND OUR INTERIOR LIFE” dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Our Mother who placed all Her greatness in God and was filled by Him with good things, in token of profound gratitude and filial obedience. This work is published by Rev R. Garrigou-Lagrange O.P. professor of Dogma and Mystical Theology , for the greater Glory of Jesus Christ through His most Holy Mother Mary and for the sanctification of the militant Church and her members....

...The two truths which stand out like mountain peaks in the chain of revelation concerning Our Blessed Lady, are her divine maternity and her fullness of grace, both of which are affirmed in the Gospels and in the Councils of the Church. To grasp their importance, it will be well to compare them, asking which of the two comes first, as viewed in all Mariology. In that spirit, theologians have enquired which was the greater of Mary's prerogatives, HER DIVINE MATERNITY (HER MOTHERHOOD OF GOD) OR HER FULLNESS OF GRACE

Pope Pius IX affirmed that her Divine maternity preceded her fullness of Grace , in effect in the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, by which he defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, when he said that God the Father predestined Jesus to natural divine sonship—so superior to adoptive sonship—and Mary to be Mother of God, in one and the same divine decree.

All the circumstances of time and place in which it would be realized, and especially the one expressed by the Nicene Creed in the words: “*Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine.*” - “*was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary*” By the same eternal decree, therefore, Jesus was predestined to be Son of the Most High and Mary to be Mother of God.

It follows that as Christ was predestined to natural divine son-ship before (*in signo priori*) being predestined to the summit of glory and to the fullness of grace (*the germ of glory*) so also the Blessed Virgin Mary was predestined FIRST to the divine maternity, and therefore to a very high degree of heavenly glory and to the fullness of grace, in order that she might be fully worthy of her mission as Mother of the Saviour.

This second predestination was all the more necessary seeing that, as His Mother, she was called to closest association with Jesus, by perfect conformity of her will with His, in His redemptive work. Such, in substance, is the teaching of Pius IX in the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. Thus, just as in Jesus the dignity of Son of God, or Word made flesh, surpasses that of the plenitude of created grace, charity, and glory, so also in Mary the dignity of Mother of God surpasses that of the plenitude of grace and charity.

As St. Thomas very accurately indicates, what Mary could merit by the first fullness of grace which she received gratuitously in view of the foreseen merits of her Son, was an increase of charity and that higher degree of purity and holiness which was becoming in the Mother of God.

This first reason for the eminent dignity of to that glorious title “the Mother of God”, is clear beyond question. It contains three truths which are, as it were, stars of first magnitude in the heavens of theology:

1. that by one and the same decree the Father predestined Jesus for natural divine sonship and Mary for the divine maternity;
2. that Mary was predestined for the divine maternity before being predestined to the glory and the grace which the Father prepared for her that she might be the worthy Mother of His Son;
3. that though Mary merited Heaven by decent, she could not otherwise merit the Incarnation, nor the divine maternity, since these lie outside the sphere and purpose of human supernatural merit except by gaining eternal beatitude

**IN MARY, ENTHRONED AT CHRIST'S SIDE IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,  
THE CHURCH JOYFULLY CONTEMPLATES THE IMAGE OF ITS OWN FUTURE GLORY.**



**Espousal of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Joseph**

OUR LADY TA PINU SHRINE  
All Nations Marian Centre  
15 Flanagans Drv, Merrimu.  
Victoria 3340

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016**  
**6.30 p.m**  
**Rosary, Holy Mass & Benediction**



## MARY - MOTHER OF CHRIST, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CONTD...

### II. DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN:

"All generations will call me blessed": "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship."

The Church rightly honours "the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honoured with the title of 'Mother of God' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs. . . . This very special devotion . . . differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration." The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary.

### III. MARY - ULTIMATE ICON OF THE CHURCH

After speaking of the Church, her origin, mission, and destiny, we can find no better way to conclude than by looking to Mary. In her we contemplate what the Church already is, in her mystery, on her own "pilgrimage of faith," and what she will be in the homeland at the end of her journey.

There, "in the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity," "in

the communion of all the saints," The Church is awaited by the one she venerates as Mother of her Lord and as her own mother.

In the meantime the Mother of Jesus, in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise she shines forth on earth until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God.

By pronouncing her "fiat" at the Annunciation and giving her consent to the Incarnation, Mary was already collaborating with the whole work her Son was to accomplish. She is mother wherever he is Savior and head of the Mystical Body.

The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body.

"We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ" (Paul VI, *CPG* § 15). . .

**Quote:** "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" ( Proverbs 15.3)

### Gospel Reflection : **"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."**



Today, St. Luke tells us that, "While Jesus after his Baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in a bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven. **"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."** The Baptism of Our Lord, brings to our meditation three important points, **a)** Jesus' respect to Law, to authority, **b)** the benefits of Baptism, and **c)** the responsibility of the baptised person". When the time arrived for Jesus, to begin his earthly mission, his first step was to receive Baptism from the hands of John the Baptist, who was inviting people to repent and prepare the Way for the Lord.

According to God's message, given by the Angel to Joseph in a dream, Jesus was not subject to the Jewish Law, **"For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"**; (Mt. 1:20) a message took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, **"Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called 'Emmanuel' (which means God with us).** (Is 7:14) Though Jesus himself had no stain of sin to wash away, he wanted to be an example in obedience to authority, and be the first person among his followers to receive this beneficial and spiritual treatment. Jesus always respected authority whether was coming from his parents, **"And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them"** (Luke 2:51) or the Mosaic or Civil Law. And that is what he expects always from us, as long as We don't go against God's Law.

Jesus wanted also to prepare his followers to receive seriously what he said to Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Holy Spirit, one cannot enter the kingdom of God". (Jn.3:5) It was also a prelude to the command Jesus gave to the apostles before his Ascension: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt.28:19).

Jesus wishes that the splendid remark that was heard at his baptism be repeated on each and every innocent child and repentant adult, **"You are my son, the beloved; my favour rests on you"**.

The first benefits we receive from Baptism are **"FAITH AND GRACE"**. The day we are baptised should be considered the most important day of our life. We should always thank God for giving us both physical and spiritual life, because on these two gifts depends our eternal life. Baptism cleanse our soul from the original sin as well as from all sins if ever committed before we receive it. The baptismal water works in the same way that water cleans from dirt. It also makes us sons and daughters of Almighty God and opens for us the way to the other Sacraments that help and lead to eternal happiness.



From the Vatican City:

## Pope Francis celebrates the **Jubilee of Mercy for Families** on the Feast of the Holy Family:-

On Sunday 27 December, Pope Francis celebrated the Jubilee of Families with a special Mass for families in St. Peter's Basilica. For the occasion he invited families, all together, **to join celebrations and cross the thresholds of Holy Doors** –

be they in St Peter's Basilica – or in other Churches or Cathedrals throughout the world. Pope Francis asked all believers "to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy (...) and **to not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always**". He has invited us go forward in the year-long penitential journey with an open heart "to receive the indulgence and the mercy of God".

Highlights of the Jubilee Year include the sending forth of the *Missionaries of Mercy* on Ash Wednesday and World Youth Day, which will take place in Krakow, Poland from 26-31 July. Special jubilee days throughout the year are dedicated to groups of people in the Church, including Jubilees for Consecrated Life, for young children, for the sick, and for catechists. There will also be a Marian jubilee on the Saturday and Sunday following the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, Head of the Pontifical Council for the Family spoke to Vatican Radio about the significance of the Jubilee of Families, saying: This is an occasion to rediscover the vocation and the mission of the family – and that is he said – is in

the need to step out of our constricted selves and small family circles. "We run the risk of staying 'inside' and this is a great danger – for families too!" he said.

It is important to go out, to cross the thresholds of our doors and to meet the whole of society, to meet all people, "especially poor people in order to be able to give to them the strength of brotherhood and solidarity, in order to transform our society into a real family of peoples".

Archbishop Paglia underlined the fact that the mission and the vocation of Christian families is "to transform an individualistic world into a familiar world". Another vocation of families, he says, is "to defend the creation - our common home -for one large pluralistic family of peoples"

So PLEASE STAY TUNED for future announcements about How, we, at Our All Nations Marian Centre, will be marking those significant events during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**QUOTE ""Grant to all parents, O Lord, the wisdom and patience to bring out the best in their children". James Keller**

### **One Hour or Two with the Lord**

**Are you prepared to spend at least one intimate hour with the Lord at the Chapel of Mercy ????**

Please join us as together, we spiritually journey through the jubilee Year of Mercy.

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care. You may contact Msgr Benedict or the office for further information as to how you can join the team to enjoy this unique experience encounter with God's Love and Mercy...

## Liturgical Celebrations for January 2016

Date	January Celebrations
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Solemnity of <b>Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>FIRST SATURDAY -Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Rosary, Holy Mass &amp; Eucharistic Benediction at 2.00p.m</b> <b>MASS OF MARY– MOTHER OF GOD</b>
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory: Private Family Prayer Day
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Solemnity of <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Solemnity of <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> <b>1.45 p.m Our Lady of Good Health , Vailankanni</b> Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet ,Holy Mass & Benediction
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas at 7.30p.m</b>
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b><u>ESPOUSAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN</u></b> <b>6.30 p.m Rosary, Holy Mass and Benediction</b>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30 a.m. Rosary at Our Lady of Fatima's Oratory</b> Followed by Holy Mass
<b>2016 Lenten Pilgrimage</b>	<b><u>10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 - ASH WEDNESDAY</u></b> <b><u>TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016- GOOD FRIDAY</u></b> <b><u>27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - EASTER SUNDAY</u></b> <b>IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME ON A LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO OUR ALL NATIONS MARIAN CENTRE THIS YEAR, AND IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONTACT US ON ANY OF THE NUMBERS LISTED ON PAGE 4 SO THAT WE MAY HELP IN MAKING YOUR VISIT A SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED EXPERIENCE . WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOME YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP</b>

Finally Baptism is a call to holiness and missionary work. Together with the affiliation to the Christian Family, it gives also the duty to be apostles and missionaries. This doesn't mean that we have to leave home and country to preach the Gospel. We can do all this from home, in the factory, at the Wharf, while in Church, in Parliament, as well as during parties, by an encouragement or good word, by giving good example, by not taking part in a bad conversation, by not cooperating in works that go against moral or social good; by not offending a neighbour, whether by giving bad example, by betraying a good intentioned person, by putting forward self interest in doing spiritual or giving philanthropic help and so on !

It is a pity and shame, that many Christians act like pagans. !!!

We pray our heavenly mother Mary to help us appreciate and honour our Baptismal duties, so that, what we begin with the Father's splendid words, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rest on you", we end it by the King's words, **"Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the**



## **'THIS IS PROOF'** *An Inspirational story of the Eucharist*

The date was probably somewhere around 1950 and 1952, during my early Catholic elementary school days. It was Sunday Mass, and I remember kneeling with the other school children during the time - consecration. As the priest lifted up the sacred Host that he had just said the special words over, the little bells rang. The very same thing happened when he lifted up the chalice containing the blood of Jesus. In my little mind I thought, "This is proof that the Catholic Church is the true Church of Jesus. Every time holy Mass is offered and the priest raises up the Sacred Host and the chalice, the angels ring the bells. How could the Protestants not believe when this miracle happens every single day?"

Now, even though the day would come when I would learn the truth about just who rings the little bells during Mass, the mystery of and my love for the holy Eucharist never lessened. In fact, if anything deepened with the passage of time. Here was a presence that somehow just wasn't anywhere else. In my young mind I could only understand that it was Jesus. He was really present in the tabernacle and it felt so good to be there with Him.

The call from Jesus to go apart with Him in the cloistered contemplative life grew and developed within me over the years. It was a great joy on me on my first visit to the Poor Clare monastery back in 1962, to walk into the public chapel and see the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar, and to learn that He remains this way both day and night. What a great privilege we have, in our Community of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a privilege that has been ours for many decades.

As I later learned, this mysterious drawing was not something unique to me. It is something that almost everyone experiences upon entering a Catholic church or chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is either exposed on the altar or preserved in the tabernacle. That is because it is Jesus. Himself, present for us, awaiting us, patiently waiting for our love and adoration.

Mother Mary Jude, PCC

Cleveland. Ohio

**DOOR OF MERCY at TA PINU SHRINE:** On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Jubilee of Mercy announced by Pope Francis was celebrated at our All Nations Marian Centre, with many hundreds of the local community, Marian groups and visitors attending for the official opening of the Holy Door of Mercy. The Archdiocesan Vicar General Msgr Greg Bennet, Very Rev Fr Ciril Bozic, the Episcopal vicar for Migrants and Refugees, Msgr Joselito Asis, and other members of clergy, accompanied by the Filipino Choir of St Francis, concelebrated the Holy Mass of the Blessed Virgin in Advent, before opening the Holy Door of Mercy. Having the Chapel of Mercy ready for the occasion became a race against time exercise and thanks to all those volunteers who worked painlessly through long hours to make it happen.

As I mentioned in my *words of thanks* address "YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE" but I would like to present my sincere gratitude to you once again. The work is still in progress and those who have come for a visit recently would have noticed that the Blessed Sacrament is currently not being exposed. This is because of some much needed final finishing touches and security arrangements which we hope to resolve very shortly. However, The Door of Mercy is currently OPENED for meditation and silent prayer daily.

In order to instil the proper environment, we are proposing to have Adoration on Sundays and intend to extend the hours of Adoration gradually.

I wish to thank all those who have made monetary contributions to the project so far and make an appeal to those who might still be able to help us to complete the project. Without your help and support, we would certainly struggle to put together a decent and worthy place for contemplation and meditation **ON GOD'S**

**MERCY AND FOR THE ADORATION OF JESUS, KING OF THE UNIVERSE.**

Kindly contact myself, Maria Cordina or Josette, if you wish to know more about how you can help us.

We deeply appreciate your generosity.

**Msgr Benedict Camilleri, Director**

### **Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine**

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