

## Ta' Pinu Shrine

# Our Lady, Queen of the Family

## A CALL TO PRAYER



### *“Devotion to Our Blessed Lady , Mother of Christians ”*

This month we have selected an extract from The Book “TO BE A PILGRIM– A Spiritual Notebook ” This work explores a spirituality opened to people of all ages and in every walk of life. It is a collection of thoughts published by Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Basil Hume OSB. Thoughts in simple yet vivid language on the Christian life, the destination off which eternal happiness with God The Pilgrim is fulfilled.... Our selection is about Mary, Mother of Christians

... There is a tendency today to undervalue devotion to Our Blessed Lady. That is a great mistake!!!

We should recall that scene on Calvary as Christ was dying. Our Lady was there at the foot of the Cross with St John. Jesus, in his dying moments, turned to her and said “woman, behold your son” and to St John “Son, behold your mother”. It was as Our Lord lay dying on the Cross that the Church was coming into existence. It was the moment when we were being redeemed. As Our Lady was standing there by the Cross, suffering with Our Lord, it was as though she were going through the birth pangs of bringing new life into being.

***It was the Church that was being born, Mary became at that point the Mother of all Christians.***

In the Litany of Our Lady, there are three invocations dear to generations of Catholics. We call her “refuge of sinners”, a mother’s heart is always forgiving; - “comforter of the afflicted”, a mother always knows how to be gentle and tender; - “Help of the sick”, a mother knows how to spend herself in the service of one who has need.

Surely if a mother’s heart is touched by suffering, it is only so because “that is the way God is”. God is always touched by human feelings, by human infirmity, and Mary reflects that!!!



There are people with whom from time to time one comes in contact ,who have something special about them, a transparent goodness so that in their presence, we feel inevitably small and unworthy. Someone before whom one would never say anything offensive or do anything unworthy.

Such was the kind of reaction which St Peter had on one occasion when he fell down on his knees before his Master and said: “Depart from me, I am a sinful man.”

In the presence of Our Lord that kind of reaction was inevitable. At the same time, in someone of such goodness there is usually to be found a graciousness and consideration which, a moment later, reassures and comforts. **So it was , with our Blessed Lord.**

Prayer to Our Lady is part of the Christian instinct. It must be part of ours. It is folly to neglect that prayer which has been said down the ages: **The Holy Rosary.**

That prayer has its own attraction and its own value.

If we find , as we sometime do, that we are neglecting the Rosary, then a feast of Our Blessed Lady is a strong reminder of our negligence and a prompting of our determination to take it up again. *The faithful who pray the rosary always remain close to the Virgin Mary , and those who are close to her can only draw closer to her divine Son.*

**Continued on pg 4**

## From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

### "I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY"

**THE CHRISTIAN CREED** - the profession of our faith in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and in God's creative, saving, and sanctifying action - culminates in the proclamation of the resurrection of the dead on the last day and in life everlasting. We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives for ever, so after death the righteous will live for ever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day.. Our resurrection, like his own, will be the work of the Most Holy Trinity:

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The term "flesh" refers to man in his state of weakness and mortality. The "resurrection of the flesh" (the literal formulation of the Apostles' Creed) means not only that the immortal soul will live on after death, but that even our "mortal body" will come to life again. Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian faith from its beginnings. "The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live."

How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.... But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*God destined us in love to be his sons to Jesus Christ according to the purpose of His will" Ephesians 1:5*

**Gospel Reflection :** **An Incredible True Story on Divine Mercy Sunday and the Sacrament of Mercy** BY ( [MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, PH.D.](#) - Catholic Uni. Of America) *This article on the relation between Divine Mercy Sunday, the unbelief of Doubting Thomas, and the sacrament of penance, reconciliation and confession is offered to you as a reflection on the scripture readings for the Octave of Easter, cycle C (Acts 5:12-16, Psalm 118:2-24, Revelation 1:9-19, John 20: 19-31).*



Several years ago, the Catholic Church declared the Sunday after Easter "Divine Mercy Sunday." *So what exactly is "mercy" anyway, and what does it have to do with the Easter season?*

**MERCY IS NOT JUST PITY.** Neither is it simply sparing someone the punishment that they deserve. **No**, mercy is love's response to suffering. When mercy encounters suffering, it ultimately seeks to relieve it. God the Father is so "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4) that Paul calls him "the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3).

**Jesus is the perfect human image of the Father's mercy.** When he meets those suffering from hunger, he feeds them. When he encounters someone suffering from physical sickness, he heals them. But true mercy is not superficial, but far-reaching. And Jesus sees that the deepest suffering in human life, the root cause of all other suffering, is sin. Sin degrades us, robbing us of our dignity, weakening and even rupturing our connection with God, our loving Father and the source of our life. Sin is not just an offence against some authoritarian law; it creates a wound in us that can ooze and, if not attended to, corrupt us entirely. It gives the Prince of Darkness a hold in our lives that he tries to turn into complete control of our lives.

**True mercy seeks to ease this deeper suffering that can lead to eternal suffering.**

Jesus died to do precisely this. And the risen Christ instituted the sacrament of penance to apply the medicine of mercy, won on Calvary, to each individual sinner at the moment of their deepest need.

*Wait a minute!!! So Jesus, not the Church, established this sacrament? Where does the Bible say he did that?*

**Right there**, in John's gospel, on Easter Sunday afternoon. Despite the locked doors, he stands amidst the apostles and says "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Jesus is the original "apostle" of the Father – the word means "one who is sent." As he was sent on a mission of mercy, so he sends out his "apostles" on the same mission. He breathes on them and says "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." (Jn 20:19-22).

If you have a problem with the Church intruding on what you think ought to be just between you and

# Liturgical Celebrations for April 2016



Lord Jesus Christ, † you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, † and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. † **Show us your face and we will be saved.** † Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; † the adulteress Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; † made Peter weep after his betrayal, † and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman † **"If you knew the gift of God!"** You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and Mercy. † Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. † You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: † Let everyone who approaches them feel sought after loved, and forgiven by God. † Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen. written by H.H Pope Francis**

Date	April Celebrations
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>FIRST SATURDAY -Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion</b> Rosary, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Benediction <b>at 2.00p.m</b> MASS OF MARY– QUEEN AND MOTHER OF MERCY
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 2.00p.m</b> Holy Hour followed Services led by Bishop Em Hilton Deakin Then The RISEN LORD Procession , Benediction
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION</b>
SUNDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	<b>The Risen Lord thanksgiving Day Retreat</b> From 10.00a.m -3p.m Led by Rev Emmanuel Adami Reflection and prayers, BYO lunch and Holy Mass ALL WELCOME
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas at
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>DISCIPLES OF JESUS COVENANT COMMUNITY—DAY RETREAT</b> From 11.30 a.m. Meditation in the Chapel of Mercy , Holy Mass led by Rev Fr. Isuru Weliwatte MGL- then Stations of the Cross - ALL WELCOME
	<b>Main Events in May 2016</b>
Wed 4 <sup>TH</sup> May	<b>1st of the 15 Wednesdays Devotion</b> In preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin 11.00 a.m Rosary, confession and Holy Mass

**QUOTE** "One cannot merely scrape away at the surface of evil; one has to get down to its roots, its causes, the inner truth of the conscience. This is the meaning of the conscience. .. Lord, let me know how to live and walk in the truth.  
(St John Paul II– Meditations on the Stations of the Cross)

God, then you'll have to take it up with Jesus. It was his idea. From the looks of this text, he gave the apostles and their successors, whom we call bishops, a great deal of authority in this matter. But he also gave them a great deal of power. The same Holy Spirit responsible for the bringing of order out of chaos (Gen 1) and causing a virgin to conceive and bear a son, is breathed upon the apostles.

**He is the Spirit of Mercy, the Spirit of healing, the Spirit of liberation and resurrection.**

Going to confession is not just meeting an official of the institutional church. It is meeting a man who has been anointed with the Spirit of Mercy to stand in the place of Christ (*in persona Christi*) and serve as an instrument of the divine physician. True, this instrument is a sinner in need of mercy himself. Peter and doubting Thomas make that abundantly clear right from the start. But they are instruments of God's healing, merciful love, nonetheless. That is the case whether or not they are wise counsellors and whether or not they are exceptionally holy.

The Spirit Christ breathed on the apostles on the first Easter afternoon has been passed on to these men through the sacrament of Holy Orders.

That means that Christ is the one you meet in confession. And he comes not just to forgive, but to heal, to liberate, strengthen and transform. His merciful love means that he died not just to "cover our sins," to wipe them off God's record book, leaving us the same miserable creatures we'd always been. **No**, his mercy kills the infection, heals the wound, and breaks the bonds.

In the sacrament of reconciliation, Jesus invites us penitents, like he did with Lazarus, to come out of the place of darkness and decay. And he says to his priestly confessors the same thing he said to the people standing around Lazarus's tomb: "unbind him, and let him go free!"

**THAT'S DIVINE MERCY. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I WANT AS MUCH OF IT AS I CAN GET!**





## **A LOVING AND GENTLE GOD** *An Inspirational story of the Eucharist*

I am a cradle Catholic and have felt drawn to the Lord since I was a small child. I believe the Lord in the Eucharist is an ongoing timeless experience. My Eucharist story dates back to the 1980's.

After hearing that I was pregnant with my fourth child. I was not happy with the news. I already had three healthy children and thought my baby days are over. However, I accepted the Lord's will, and began to plan for the new addition to my family. When I miscarried in my first trimester, I was filled with guilt and anxiety. I blamed myself and viewed the miscarriage as punishment for not being accepting a new life.

About three months later, I became severely depressed. I cried, slept poorly and felt like a heavy gray cloud was enveloping me. I felt helpless and cried out to God to help me get over this. He surrounded me with love and support from my husband and friends, and I sought counselling.

On the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, I attended Mass feeling very unworthy and guilty (depression does this to you). When it was time for Communion, I convinced myself that I *was too bad* to receive the Eucharist.

As I was kneeling, I heard the priest read the Communion antiphon **"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** I thought the message must be meant for me, so I joined the line of Communicants and made my way to the front of the church. I was still down but was hopeful. I received the Lord and was walking back to my seat when I was suddenly filled with peace and joy. My depression lifted, and I could scarcely believe my good fortune. As I knelt and prayed, I remember thinking:

**"It is really in You, Lord!"** I was finally experiencing in my heart what I had known in my head since I was a young child, and it has remained within me ever since. I learned firsthand that the Lord is especially close to the broken hearted and needy.

My depression returned a short time later, but it never overwhelmed me again, I was able to cope as the Lord healed me gently and slowly. Through this trial I forged a closer relationship with Him and felt a new appreciation for His Words, **"I will never leave you, nor forsake you"**

*What a loving and gentle God we have, so full of Love and grace.*

*"Suzanne"*

*Honolulu. HI*

**Contd from page 1 :** How important is it to have always in the back of our minds, and to be able to bring to the front in time of need, this great conviction of God's very special care and interest in each one of us. That conviction has to be strong and deep and it comes from a spiritual life led faithfully, prayerfully and perseveringly. That is the lesson we learn from Simeon. He was a good and upright man. At the end of his life he knew peace and understanding. There will be times when, like Our Lady, we are puzzled and bewildered. Sometimes there will be periods when we must walk through life groping, like blind people. When we are experiencing that kind of situation, we must stick at it -BE FAITHFUL and KEEP GOING. Knowing that God allows this for one reason alone, **that we learn to trust Him.** It is quite easy to trust when things go well, when we see clearly. But when the sword pierces our hearts, may we remember that this was Our Lady's experience too, and because it was hers, there should be a part of us that can say THANK YOU —That time when we are called upon to undergo the same.

**SHE IS THERE— in the background as mothers often are— but there nevertheless !!!**

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

**All Nations Marian Centre**

**15 Flanagans Drive**

**P.O Box 800 Merrimu ( Bacchus Marsh)**

**VICTORIA 3340**

**Melway 334 H8**

**Telephone: (03) 5367 7006**

**Email: [infotapinu@optusnet.com.au](mailto:infotapinu@optusnet.com.au)**

**Mobile : 0437 261 517**

**[www.tapinu-australia.gov.au](http://www.tapinu-australia.gov.au)**

*Follow us also on Facebook/TaPinuShrineAustralia & Google+ /TapinushrineAust*

