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**Pastor:** Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP  
**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ivano Burdian MSSP  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. Rita Apalit

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

**MASS SCHEDULES & OTHER ACTIVITIES**  
**Weekday Morning Mass**  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese)  
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

**First Friday of the Month:**  
Mass in Maltese at 9.15 am,  
followed by Adoration & Benediction

**Weekend Masses;**  
Saturday 5:30 pm (English)  
Sunday: 9:00 am (English)  
10:30 am (Maltese)  
12:00 noon (English)

**Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Wednesday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

• **SACRAMENTS**  
**Baptism:** Please contact the Rectory.  
Baptisms are held every Saturday at 10:30am.

**Marriages:**  
Contact the priest at least one year in advance of the wedding.  
A marriage preparation course is required.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Any day, by appointment; call the office.

**Anointing of the Sick:**  
Contact the priests. Parishioners are reminded that this is not a sacrament that should be left for the last possible minute. It is a Sacrament for the sick, not just for the dying.



**Mission Statement**

We, the community of St Paul the Apostle, are a Maltese-Canadian personal Parish, founded on September 8, 1930, and administered by the Missionary Society of St Paul. We are a faith community reflecting the gospel values of Christ according to the teaching and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We serve the Maltese community, welcoming also other people from other nationalities. Our mission is to follow Christ by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure: by imitating Christ; and by giving witness to our faith through our everyday lives..

**Saturday, September 3**

- Deceased members of the Camilleri Family
- Doris Micallef
- Emmanuel Sammut
- Eileen McAleenan

**Sunday, September 4**  
**9:00am**

- For the People of the Parish

**10:30am**

- Helen & Emanuel Cachia
- Frank Attard

**12:00 noon**

- Ann Psaila
- Martin Cole (sick)

**Monday, September 5**

- Nina, Angelo & Carmenu Schembri
- Anthony Sultana

**Tuesday, September 6**

- Deceased members of the Camilleri Family

**Wednesday, September 7**

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

**Thursday, September 8**

- Anthony Healy

**Friday, September 9**

**MASS INTENTIONS**



**September 4, 2022**  
**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - C**

# Pastor's thoughts ...



During these last few weeks, we have been accompanying Jesus' disciples as they travelled with him towards Jerusalem. Throughout this journey we have been constantly challenged by Jesus to think about what does it mean to be a Christian, a follower of his. One thing should be clear by now: it is not just a matter of being baptized. A true Christian is not so simply because he or she happens to be born in a Christian family. It is also not enough to just go to church or say a few prayers, although those things are needed. Being a Christian is a lifestyle. My baptism is lived and reflected in my whole life, in my daily life. The choices I make have to be enlightened by the faith I profess.

In today's gospel St Luke tells us that "great crowds were travelling with Jesus". There is no doubt, he was a popular man. And, in spite of what some people sometimes think, he still is today. Large crowds still follow Jesus today, at least nominally. According to the 2019 census, about 63% of the population in Toronto declare that they are Christian, with half of these professing to be Catholic. Nothing much has changed since Jesus' time! Seeing those crowds, Jesus offered them a challenge, a challenge that is being offered to us today. Basically he is telling us: if you want to really follow me, you have to make choices in life. These choices may, sometimes be difficult. Jesus, who is resolutely journeying towards his ultimate sacrifice in Jerusalem, wants us to help him set the world on fire by making certain definite choices. It is about choosing to go through the narrow door, about consciously seeking the lowest places, about not being too concerned about one's own rights—definitely not putting your rights over and above loving your neighbor ... or your enemy!

Often unlike us, it seems that Jesus was not really concerned about numbers. Upon seeing all those crowds following him, instead of rejoicing and applauding them, it seems that he is actually discouraging them. He continues to challenge them to make difficult and unpopular choices. In today's gospel Jesus reminds those who want to follow him that, being his disciple might come at a cost. He reminds them that there is a cross to carry (ultimately, that is what he is going to do, literally!). He also reminds them that their becoming his disciples might create rifts between them and their loved ones, who might not share the same values. To be his disciples we must be ready to carry our cross, he tells us. And the cross, my friends, can take many forms and sizes!

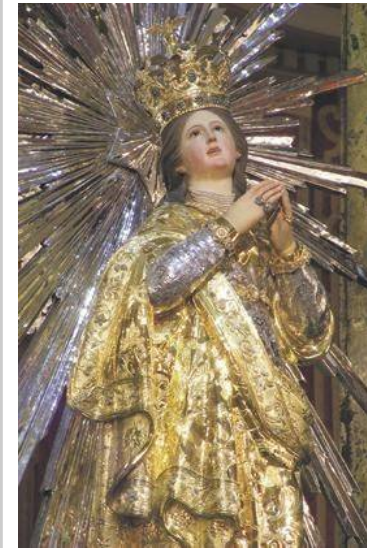
Jesus is very real, very down to earth. He never gives empty promises. All he promised was that he will continue to be with his disciples, to accompany them, to never abandon them. And this promise is based on what is about to happen in Jerusalem. True, there he is going to meet his passion and death. But there he is also going to experience his resurrection, his victory over all that is evil, all that is wrong in life.

I might really encounter trials and difficulties as I struggle to follow Jesus in my life. But it is all worth it, because I know that, ultimately, the victory is mine. Through my baptism I am not only called to carry my cross like he did, to share with him in his passion and death, but am also assured of a share in his resurrection.

- Fr Mario



## OUR LADY OF VICTORIES



On September 8 the Church celebrates the feast of the Birth of Mary. In Malta it is affectionately called "Il-Bambina", and, for obvious historical reasons, the Maltese community remembers this date as the feast of Our Lady of Victories, or simply Victory Day: "Il-Vitorja".

It was on this day, in 1565, that the Knights of the Order of Saint John in Malta along with the Maltese fighters won against the Ottoman Empire, after a siege that lasted more than 3 months. More than just a political or military victory, it was an event that safeguarded the Christian faith in the Mediterranean.

This day recalls the end of other historical sieges made on the Maltese archipelago, namely: the Siege of Valletta by the French Blockade ending in 1800, and the Siege of Malta during the Second World War ending in 1943.

We pray, through the intercession of Our Lady, that we will continue to treasure and live the faith handed down to us by our forefathers.

Since this year September 8th falls on a Thursday, we will be celebrating on Sunday September 11th during the 10:30 a.m. Mass.



## SENIORS GROUP - BINGO

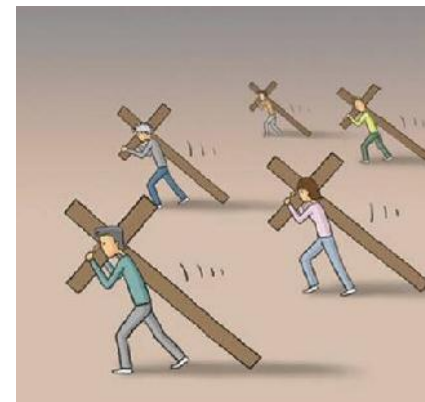
After the Summer break, the Seniors' Group will start meeting again on **Wednesday, September 7**. This is always a great opportunity to spend a couple of hours together, have a chat and a drink, and, of course, play a few games of BINGO. All are welcome ... spread the word!. The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m.



## SEASON OF CREATION

Initiated by Pope Francis in 2015, the annual event of Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. Each year an ecumenical steering committee selects a theme, and this year inspiration is taken from Psalm 19:1-4 that proclaims, "Listen to the Voice of Creation".

May this Season of Creation renew our Christian unity through our common efforts to respond to the voices on the margins of society and to care for the earth as good stewards in our discipleship.



TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS TO CARRY ONE'S CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM

## LABOR DAY

We wish everybody a happy "Labor Day" long-weekend.

On this day we remember in our prayers all workers and all those who, for some reason, are struggling to find a decent and dignified work.

