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St. Paul the Apostle Church
Maltese-Canadian
Community Parish

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email: stpaulmssp@gmail.com

Website: www.saint-paul-maltese.com

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, April 2

Sunday, April 3

9:00am

- For the People of the Parish

10:30am

- Doris Micallef
- Joseph & Carmen Govè

12:00 noon

- Theresa Massa
- Antoinette Bonello

Monday, April 4

Tuesday, April 5

- Nina Schembri

Wednesday, April 6

- Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass
- Deceased Members of the Camilleri Family

Thursday, April 7

- Joe & Apolonia Farrugia

Friday, April 8

- Fr. Karm Borg
- Richard Jankowski
- Violet & Angelo Saliba



MASS INTENTIONS

April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Lent - C

Pastor's thoughts ...



The law was clear. She was to be stoned to death. Asking Jesus for advice was superfluous. But their intention was not that of seeking advice but to entrap Jesus. Here was a Rabbi who had been preaching mercy, who was putting Love above all the written laws. What would he do now? Condemn her or disobey Moses' law?

Jesus immediately understands what's happening. From his Rabbi's seat in that Holy Temple, he neither condemns nor says anything that breaks the law. He buys time. He gives them time to think, to reflect, to calm down. He invites them to think of their own lives, their own weaknesses, their own sinfulness. Once more, Jesus reminds us that we are all in the same boat – no one has a right to judge another. Above all, moving his finger

on the temple's slab, Jesus reminds his audience of an important event in the scriptures which they knew too well: God had written the Law with His own finger on a slab. And it seems that, for these people, God's law is still there, carved in stone rather than in their heart. And if it was in their heart, it seems that their hearts are still made of stone. Through the prophets God had promised His people that, eventually, He would have changed those hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, pouring into them a new spirit.

St Paul was a person who understood this transformation too well. Often, he reflects on his life, and compares the past with the present, the "old man" with the "new man", the "old creation" with the "new creation": Because Paul, too, had been a person under the law, with a heart of stone, becoming a murderer for the sake of this law. But his encounter with Jesus changed everything. Now he knows: nothing compares with the "supreme advantage" of experiencing Christ in his life. All else fades into nothing - including the law!

It seems that the people in the Gospel, somehow, got the message. One by one they started retreating, starting with the eldest. Maybe the eldest had the longest list of sins! The heart starts changing. This is, indeed, conversion.

And they leave the woman there – this time alone with Jesus. In their hands she had no dignity. She was just the sinner, the adulteress. Jesus treats her differently. Lovingly, he enters into dialogue with her. He shows her that, for him, she has the dignity of a human being. He even addresses her "woman" – the same address he uses to address his own mother both at the wedding in Cana and, soon, from the cross, as well as which he will eventually use with his good friend Mary of Magdala after his resurrection.

Jesus does not condone the sin. He acknowledges the fact that she did sin. Still he does not delve in it. He asks no questions, no justification of the wrong committed. What's done is done, but now he invites her to go and sin no more. Having had an experience of Jesus's love and unconditional forgiveness, she can now start a new life. An experience which could have meant death for her, has been turned into an opportunity for a new beginning, a new life.

In the life of that woman there is the life of each and every one of us. We are aware of our sinfulness. Sometimes we feel guilt crushing us, its finger pointed to us like that of each of those who were accusing the woman in the Gospel. And yet, Jesus tells us that all is not lost. With him, there is always hope.

This is precisely what we shall be celebrating in two weeks' time. Without denying the reality of death, the Resurrection tells us that new life is always possible.

- Fr Mario



LENTE MISSION IN MALTESE

During this coming week we shall be having the traditional **Maltese Lenten Mission** at our parish. From Monday to Thursday:

6:30 pm - Way of the Cross

7:00 pm - Mass in Maltese, followed by the Lenten Sermon and Benediction. Fr Giovanni Tabone MSSP will be leading us during this week.

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FRIDAY, April 8 - Feast of OUR LADY OF SORROWS

9:15 am - Mass in Maltese

6:30 pm - Mass in English

7:30 pm - Mass in Maltese, concluding the Lenten Mission. Main Celebrant: **Fr. Giovanni Tabone MSSP**

**** There will be time for confessions before Mass throughout the week ****

EASTER LILLIES

During this week, Easter Lilies will be accepted to be used for our Easter Triduum liturgies. Donations for flowers will also be accepted. **Let us make it beautiful: Jesus deserves the best!**



Monday, April 4, opening and blessing of the "**Last Supper Table and Holy Week Exhibition**", at the lower hall. This will be straight after the church services. The exhibition will remain open throughout the remaining days up to Easter.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

SENIORS' GATHERING & BINGO

Our Seniors Group will recommence with their weekly gatherings and Bingo. This will start on **Wednesday, April 6, at 12:30pm**. As always, this is a great opportunity to be together and have a few words, try your luck in a few bingo draws, and ultimately also help the parish! Since we meet in the lower hall, there is plenty of space where people can spread out and not stay too close to each other.

UNITED IN PRAYERS

As a parish community we share in the joys and sorrows of our brothers and sisters.

This week we welcome **Vaughn Faught**, who will join our Christian Community through the sacrament of Baptism. We congratulate Vaughn's family and support them with our prayers, as they do their best to help her grow into a mature Christian.

We also pray for the repose of the soul of **Carmen Debono**, who passed away during the week. Her funeral will be on Wednesday at 11:00 am. We also pray for her family during this time of loss and grief.

SHARE LIFE

Today's Gospel shares the parable of the woman accused of adultery, a message of Our Lord's great love, forgiveness and respect for all people.

Likewise, ShareLife agencies are there to support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities. ShareLife-funded social service agencies have an 'open intake policy' and provide help based on need—not on religion, lifestyle, gender or ethnicity.

With last week's ShareLife collection, our parishioners have contributed \$1,330 toward our goal of \$9,000. Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

HOLY WEEK ROSTERS

All ministers: Please do not forget to put your name on the form being provided in the sacristy, showing for which celebrations you can give your service during the Holy Week celebrations. It is important that all liturgies during this very important liturgical season of the year are covered.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!