

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Andrew Arhin ofm



May 2020

Year 25 – No. 5

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1st Saturday of the month*
- 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2nd Saturday*
- 6:30 pm English (Children/Families)

SUNDAY MASSES

- 8:00 am English
- 9:30 am Greek
- 10:30 am English
- 12:00 nn French: *Every 1st Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nn Tagalog: *Every 2nd Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nn Indian: *Every 3rd Sunday of the month*
- 12:00 nn Sinhala: *Every 4th Sunday of the month*
- 6:30 pm English

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - English
- 7:30 am Tuesday - Greek
St. Anthony Devotion
- 6:30 pm Every day - English

MASSES IN NORTH CYPRUS

- 12:00 nn St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia - *Every Sunday* - English
- 7:00 pm Famagusta - *Every Sunday* - English

The coronavirus health emergency has limited our ability to physically gather together. This is certainly a great trial for the Church, paralyzed in her pastoral life and in the life of the faithful who are being deprived of the one true Treasure, the Eucharistic Lord Jesus.

My dear friends, the Blessed Virgin Mary has always asked us to be a “*balm of love*” for this suffering humanity. She insistently calls us to follow the teachings of Jesus which form the basis of our brotherly love: *our daily journey in the Kingdom of God*, our life of faith in the Church, our fidelity to the Gospel, and our participation in the richness of the sacraments and the practice of the virtues.

Our Blessed Mother teaches us not to get caught up in our earthly affairs, but to look at them through her eyes. The medicine to heal our life from the works of the evil one comes from the Risen Lord. In this way we can be medicine for our loved ones, for the Church and for the world, in a life more animated by the Holy Spirit who renews us.

It is right and proper to pray for an end to this terrible pandemic but Our Lady asks that we “work” and “battle” for the salvation of all souls with our prayers and with our love for the Eucharistic Jesus.

Fr. George Kraj ofm

Vicar General

God is the source of every blessing in our lives. Success is not just wealth or acquisition of money or material possessions. Indeed Success can be for everyone and can be enjoyed by everyone. So at this time the entire world is suffering from this virus let’s look up to our God and He will protect us and grant us an unforgettable success in life. Happy, happy Easter to everyone.

Fr. Andrew Arhin ofm
Parish Priest



The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of May 2020 For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices

Friday 1 May
St. Joseph the Worker



Friday 13 May
Our Lady of Fatima



Saturday 14 May
St. Matthias, Apostle



Tuesday 31 May
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



POPE FRANCIS' SPECIAL CATECHESIS FOR THE 50TH EARTH DAY

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we celebrate the fiftieth Earth Day. This is an occasion for renewing our commitment to love and care for our common home and for the weaker members of our human family. As the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us, we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst. The Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* deals precisely with this "Care for our Common Home". Today, let us reflect together a little on that responsibility which characterises "our earthly sojourn" (*Laudato Si'*, 160). We must grow in our awareness of care for our common home.

We are fashioned from the *earth*, and fruit of the earth sustains our life. But, as the book of Genesis reminds us, we are not simply "*earthly*"; we also bear within us the *breath of life* that comes from God (cf. *Gen* 2:4-7). Thus we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God's other creatures. As *imago Dei*, image of God, we are called to have care and respect for all creatures, and to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God's love for us, manifested in his Son Jesus, who made Himself man to share this situation with us and to save us.

Because of our selfishness we have failed in our responsibility to be guardians and stewards of the earth. "We need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair" (ibid., 61). We have polluted and we have despoiled it, endangering our very lives. For this reason, various international and local movements have sprung up in order to appeal to our consciences.

I deeply appreciate these initiatives; still it will be necessary for our children to take to the streets to teach us the obvious: we have no future if we destroy the very environment that sustains us.

We have failed to care for the earth, our garden-home; we have failed to care for our brothers and sisters. We have sinned against the earth, against our neighbours, and ultimately against the Creator, the benevolent Father who provides for everyone, and desires us to live in communion and flourish together. And how does the earth react? There is a Spanish saying that is very clear, in this; it says: "God forgives always; we men forgive sometimes; the earth never forgives". The earth never forgives: if we have despoiled the earth, the response will be very bad.

How can we restore a harmonious relationship with the earth and with the rest of humanity? A harmonious relationship... Very often we lose our view of harmony: harmony is the work of the Holy Spirit. In the common home, on earth, too; also in our relationship with people, with our neighbour, with the poor, how can we restore this harmony? We need a new way of looking at our common home. Let us be clear: it is not a storehouse of resources for us to exploit. For us believers, the natural world is the "Gospel of Creation": it expresses God's creative power in fashioning human life and bringing the world and all it contains into existence, in order to sustain humanity. As the biblical account of creation concludes: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (*Gen* 1:31). We see these natural tragedies that are the earth's response to our mistreatment, I think: "If I ask the Lord now what He thinks, I don't think He will tell me something very good". We are the ones who have ruined the work of the Lord!

In today's celebration of Earth Day, we are called to renew our sense of sacred respect for the earth, for it is not just our home but also God's home. This should make us all the more aware that *we stand on holy ground!*

Dear brothers and sisters, "let us awaken our God-given aesthetic and contemplative sense" (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Querida Amazonia*, 56). The prophetic gift of contemplation is something that we can learn especially from indigenous peoples. They teach us that we cannot heal the earth unless we love and respect it. They have that wisdom of "living well", not in the sense of having a good time, no, but of living in harmony with the earth. They call this harmony "good living".

At the same time, we need an ecological conversion that can find expression in concrete actions. As a single and interdependent family, we require a common plan in order to avert the threats to our common home. "Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan" (*Laudato Si'*, 164). We are aware of the importance of cooperation as an international community for the protection of our common home. I urge those in positions of leadership to guide the preparations for two important international Conferences: *COP15 on Biodiversity* in Kunming, China, and *COP26 on Climate Change* in Glasgow, United Kingdom. These two meetings are very important.

I would like to support concerted action also on the national and local levels. It will help if people at all levels of society come together to create a popular movement "from below". The *Earth Day* we are celebrating today was itself born in precisely this way. We can each contribute in our own small way. "We need not think that these efforts are going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread" (*Laudato Si'*, 212).

In this Easter season of renewal, let us pledge to love and esteem the beautiful gift of the *earth*, our common home, and to care for all members of our human family. Like the brothers and sisters that we are, let us together implore our heavenly Father: "Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth" (cf. *Ps* 104:30).

Readings for Sunday Masses

4th Sun of Easter

May 3

Acts 2:14, 36-41

Ps 22: 1-6

1Pt 2:20-25

Jn 10:1-10

5th Sun of Easter

May 10

Acts 6:1-7

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1Pt 2:4-9

Jn 14:1-12

6th Sun of Easter

May 17

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Ps 64:1-7, 16-20

1Pt 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21

Ascension of the Lord

May 24

Acts 1:1-11

Ps 46:2-3, 17-23

Eph 1:17-23

Mt 28:16-20

Pentecost Sunday

May 31

Acts 2: 1-11

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-34

1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23

Let us should praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

NEWS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II (18.05.1920-2020)



This year together with the whole Church we are praising God and chanting the hymn “Te Deum Laudamus” for the gift of the life of Karol Wojtyła, who was born 100 years ago in Wadowice, Poland. God gave him to the Catholic Church and to the world in the person of the Pope who chose the name of John Paul the Second.

Many celebrations were planned all over the world to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of this beloved pope, but the Corona virus pandemic has led to their postponement.

We may not be able to participate as we had wished to do, although the corona virus will not stop us praying on that day and glorifying God for such a wonderful gift to the Church and to the world.

We will therefore give thanks to God for the life and vocation of Saint John Paul II on Sunday 17th of May during Holy Mass at 10:30 am. We are blessed to have in the parish church of the Holy Cross here in Nicosia the relic of Saint John Paul II, which we will venerate especially on that day.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

PLEASE PRAY FOR US SPECIALLY IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME OF PANDEMIC!

Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok ofm

Holy Cross Parish Council News & Messages

XPICTOC ANECTH! CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY RISEN! This year we all had a totally different experience during this time during Lent, Holy Week and the celebrations of the Passover of the Lord, the Easter Triduum. We at the Parish Council have been planning the Lenten Pilgrimage, appropriate Movie Nights, the Good Friday Way of the Cross Drama, the Parish Lunch etc. We expected like every time, to come together for these events, to prepare well in the same way as in other years and to celebrate our greatest feast in our Parish in our Church, overflowing with all the faithful.

But everything this year was different. Everything, except the call we have as Christians to faith, to trust in the Lord always, even more strongly this year, beyond our reason, unconditionally and without limits, at this time of such crisis in our world and our lives - like Jesus Christ on the cross, crying out in prayer beyond the crisis, beyond the fears, with hope in Him, announcing that we do not need to be afraid, because we are not alone, the Risen Lord is with us.

The coronavirus crisis brought us closer and deeper in the faith in many ways, calling us to turn to God more strongly. We prayed fervently, our homes became “small churches” guided by our priests, connected to our Parish, through the technology, we celebrated the liturgies and the Easter Triduum, united together, each family having also more time to talk, to reflect and to pray both alone and together in our homes.

This crisis will certainly pass also, as many others in the history and we will come together again, only stronger than before, appreciating more the gifts the Lord is giving us, our open churches, the faithful coming together in the celebrations, receiving the sacraments we need so much, in the faith, the hope, the love, grateful for the Lord’s protection.

We in the Parish Council would be holding our meetings in the meantime through the means modern technology can offer us, to discuss various issues arising at this time. May the light of the resurrection be our guide, consolation and strength in every moment of everyday, in all the issues we face, today and throughout our lives. And as we walk towards the great feast of Pentecost, may the Risen Lord grant us His grace and peace always!

We pray for you and wish you once more, every blessing from the Risen Lord for our Parish, our priests and religious, our families and children and we also pray for the work of the Parish Council too! We pray that the Risen Lord may fill you with His Holy Spirit, everyday, with His power, His Light and His mercy! **Pray for us too!**

Akis Hjiiossif (Chairman of the Parish Council – email: holcrossparishcouncil@yahoo.com)

For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,

MORE NEWS

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis

To the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

25/04/2020

Pope encourages faithful to pray Rosary at home

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

FROM THE DIARY OF SR. FAUSTINA (NOTEBOOK 1)

23 Toward the end of the first year of my novitiate, darkness began to cast its shadow over my soul. I felt no consolation in prayer; I had to make a great effort to meditate; fear began to sweep over me. Going deeper into myself, I could find nothing but great misery. I could also clearly see the great holiness of God. I did not dare to raise my eyes to Him, but reduced myself to dust under His feet and begged for mercy. My soul was in this state for almost six months. Our beloved Mother Directress [Mary Joseph14] encouraged me in these difficult moments. But this suffering continued to grow stronger.

The second year of the novitiate was approaching. Whenever I recalled that I was to make my vows, my soul shuddered. I did not understand what I was reading; I could not meditate; it seemed to me that my prayer was displeasing to God. It seemed to me that by approaching the Holy Sacraments I was offending God even more. But despite this, my confessor [Father Theodore15] did not let me omit one single Holy Communion. God was working very strangely in my soul. I did not understand anything at all of what my confessor was telling me. The simple truths of the faith became incomprehensible to me. My soul was in anguish, unable to find comfort anywhere.

(9) At a certain point, there came to me the very powerful impression that I am rejected by God. This terrible thought pierced my soul right through; in the midst of the suffering my soul began to experience the agony of death. I wanted to die but could not. The thought came to me: of what use is it to strive for virtues; why mortify oneself when all this is disagreeable to God? When I made this known to the Directress of Novices, I received this reply, “Know, dear Sister, that God has chosen you for great sanctity. This is a sign that God wants to have you very close to Himself in Heaven. Have great trust in the Lord Jesus.”

That dreadful thought of being rejected by God is the actual torture suffered by the damned. I fled to Jesus’ Wounds and repeated the words of trust, but these words became for me an even greater torture. I went before the Blessed Sacrament, and I began to speak to Jesus: “Jesus, You said that a mother would sooner forget her infant than God His creature, and that „even if she would forget her infant, I, God, will never forget My creature.” O Jesus, do You hear how my soul is moaning? Deign to hear the painful whimpers of Your child. I trust in You, O God, because heaven and earth will pass, but Your word will last forever.” Still, I found not a moment of relief.

(To be continued)

You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.

*Send Email to Berna
bernadette@cytanet.com.cy*

Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Berna (bernadette@cytanet.com.cy) and/or to the Parish priest (holycross@cytanet.com.cy), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

Deadline for submissions: 22 May 2020

**Coffee Morning in the Library
Please call**

*Rosemarie (99216007) or
Monique (99795207).*

and paid for us the price of Adam’s sin to our eternal Father! [Exsultet—Easter Proclamation]