

# Holy Cross Catholic Church

## Newsletter

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 Parish Priest: Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok, ofm



February 2016

Year 21 — No. 2

### SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

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

### 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*  
 5:30 pm English (Children/Families)

### WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - English  
 7:30 am Tuesday - Greek  
*St. Anthony Devotion*  
 8:00 am Wednesday - English  
 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

### My Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The month of February gives the impression of winter hibernation and melancholy but in reality it is a very rich and bright month. We will celebrate the Presentation of Jesus who is the true “Light of God” (2 February) and on that day we will solemnly conclude the Year of Consecrated Life together with all the religious and consecrated people.

This year the beginning of the Lenten season for us in Cyprus, who celebrate Easter following the Greek Orthodox calendar, will differ from the Gregorian (Western) calendar by five weeks, with Ash Wednesday falling on 16 March. Those who want to celebrate Easter following the Gregorian calendar can do so by attending the liturgies and ceremonies in our parishes in Kyrenia, Paphos or Famagusta (see below).

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we want to be closer to the elderly and those who suffer. We will show our love, compassion and solidarity with them during our annual Mass for the memorial of our Lady of Lourdes.

May the true light of Jesus guide us and strengthen us to renew our consecration to God the Father through the prayers of our beloved Mother Mary. *Fr. Zacheusz M. Dulniok, ofm*

### Lent and Easter 2016

**Our Lenten season starts this year five weeks later than in the western churches (all over the world). Ash Wednesday falls on 16 March and Easter on 1 May. Nevertheless, in our chapels in Kyrenia, Paphos, Agia Napa –which are frequented by tourists– and at the University of Lefkoşa and in the Famagusta chapel, the Lenten and Easter times will follow the Gregorian calendar.**

### The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of February 2016

**Universal:** That we may take good care of creation –a gift freely given– cultivating and protecting it for future generations.

**Evangelisation:** That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia.

*Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary:*

## February Calendar

## CELEBRATIONS

**Tuesday 2 February**  
**The Presentation of the Lord**  
**Feast**



**Thursday 11 February**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**Memorial**



**Monday 22 February**  
**The Chair of St Peter**  
**Feast**



### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

On **Tuesday 2 February** on the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus in the Temple, a **Thanksgiving Mass with the renewal of religious vows will be celebrated for all consecrated people. This will be the solemn conclusion of the Year dedicated to Consecrated Life**, which was inaugurated by Pope Francis on 30 November 2014. We invite all religious, consecrated people and all the faithful to join together for this special Thanksgiving Mass **at 11.00 am**. Let us continue to pray for our pastors, religious sisters and brothers and for new and holy vocations to God's vineyard.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Thursday **11 February**, the memorial feast of our Lady of Lourdes is the **XXIVth World Day of the Sick**. This year a solemn celebration will take place in the Holy Land. At Holy Cross a Mass with the rite of the anointing of the sick will be celebrated at **11.00 am**. We invite all sick and senior parishioners to this special Mass. After the Mass we will all gather in Saint Francis Hall over refreshments. We kindly ask the families and relatives to assist our elderly faithful on that day to the church.

### THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

*Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith.*

(Collect of the Feast)

## New lights in our church

The Franciscan presence in Cyprus has a very long tradition, for it was nearly 800 years ago when St Francis and his brothers came to this place in 1219 during their journey to Egypt and Jerusalem.

On the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (also called Candlemas), which presents Jesus Christ as "the true light of men" (cf. *Jn* 1:9), we ask our parishioners and friends for help in raising funds for new lights in our Holy Cross church in Nicosia.

The Holy Cross Church is an outstanding example of a simple yet beautiful shrine. Last December 2015 the Municipality of Nicosia, sponsored by a European Union project, installed an external lighting system for our church. The exterior site of the church has thus been improved and gives a warm impression at night. Nevertheless, our church lacks proper interior lighting. The project to change the present lighting system is a good investment in three ways. **Firstly**, it will provide a strong and good illumination. **Secondly**, it will be aesthetically built into the present architecture of the church. And **finally**, and perhaps most importantly, it will be energy efficient. The realisation of this project requires a substantial amount of money and without your kindness and help it will not be possible to carry it out. Therefore, following the example of the Franciscan mendicants, we request your financial help. We count on your generosity! We thank every benefactor who will support the project with a "widow's mite".

Your donation will reflect this evangelical charity and Christian solidarity. At the same time, it is a gesture of trust in the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land, who from the 13th century have been taking pastoral care of the Latin Catholic community in Cyprus, as well as being engaged in service to the whole Cypriot society.

We give thanks to God and to those with generous hearts. Holy Masses will be celebrated in this church and in the shrines of the Holy Land for all benefactors. **There will be a special, second collection outside the church after all Masses on Sunday 14 February.**

May the Lord bless us all.

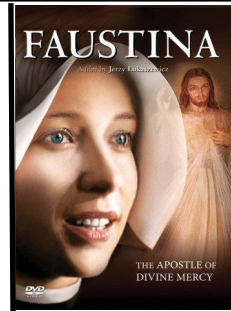
*"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,*

## PARISH NEWS



**EL SHADDAI DWXI-PPFI**  
**NICOSIA, CYPRUS CHAPTER – 24th Anniversary**  
Sunday 14 February 2016  
Holy Cross Catholic Church Nicosia, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
With Bro. Darcy Gaba

**KYRENIA CELL-GROUP, NORTH CYPRUS – 2nd Anniversary**  
Sunday 28 February 2016  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 12:00 nn - 04:00 pm  
With Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok and Sis. Berna Koutsidou



*The Apostle of Divine Mercy*

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY  
5 FEBRUARY**

**St Francis Hall  
7.15 pm**

### COME AND SEE

*Come & See! This is the special invitation to children of Holy Cross parish on Saturday mornings: they are invited to come and see for themselves the love of God and the joy and peace that He brings, to experience prayer, praise and fun and to learn more about the Catholic faith. Part of the time is spent all together, and part is spent in different groups depending on the child's age or the stage in their journey of faith. There are groups for children aged 4+, for those preparing for their First Holy Communion, those who already receive Communion, and for those preparing for Confirmation. The languages available are English, Greek, French and Sinhala. The groups are led and supported by parents, as well as religious sisters and brothers, and priests of the parish, who aim to pass on their faith to the children in a way that is meaningful for them. Come & See activities take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month, from 9.30 to 11.30 am. All children are welcome!*

### CARITAS

On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (17 January 2016, as announced by Pope Francis) we collected some **€730** from the sale of candles and from your donations. We thank you all very much for your generosity and compassion.

You have given us your money, we will pass it on to those in need. The blessing will come back to you like it has to one of our volunteers who did some babysitting for a single destitute mum and then delivered some food to her over Christmas. This is what she told us after: 'I have had the best Christmas ever. This lady has made it so. The glow on her face, the gratitude, will carry me through the whole year.' May the Lord bless you. *Gosia Chrysanthou*

### HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS & MESSAGES

The Parish Council met on Saturday 16 January 2016 and, after the opening prayers, kept a one minute silence in private prayer in memory of Fr. Umberto Barato who passed away to the Father on 22 December 2015.

The Council discussed and decided on various issues, mainly as follows:

- various events during 2016 will have a strong reference to the Jubilee Year of Mercy which began on 8 December 2015;
- films for the Holy Cross Movie Nights for the months ahead were chosen, based on the lives of the Saints, beginning with the life of St. Faustina, to be screened on the first Friday of February at 7.15pm;
- the **Holy Cross Lenten Pilgrimage will take place on Friday 1 April**, a public holiday, and it will be to the Catholic Maronite village of Kormakitis and the Holy Door which was opened for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the old church of St. George;
- the **Parish Lunch will take place on the first Sunday after Easter, on 8 May 2016**, Divine Mercy Sunday;
- the Holy Cross Parish Website (at [www.holy-cross-nicosia.com](http://www.holy-cross-nicosia.com)) has been revitalised and updated and parishioners are encouraged to refer to it regularly to be informed, pray and be inspired in the faith by its contents. Finally, it was noted that the 2016 Holy Cross calendar, dedicated to the Jubilee Year of Mercy, proved very popular. Only few copies remain available, and, if you need one, you are encouraged to get it now before they run out.

The Parish Council meeting closed with prayers and the blessing. We pray for you, for our parish, our priests, religious, families and all the faithful people from all over the world. May the Lord shower abundant blessings on us every day to serve and witness Him always! Pray for us too!

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

*and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed*

## MORE NEWS

### *Misericordiae Vultus* - BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY (4)



9. In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. *Lk 15:1-32*). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon.

From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times" (*Mt 18:22*). He then goes on to tell the parable of the "ruthless servant," who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (*Mt 18:33*). Jesus concludes, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (*Mt 18:35*).

This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (*Eph 4:26*). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (*Mt 5:7*): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

10. Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love. The Church "has an endless desire to show mercy". Perhaps we have long since forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy. The temptation, on the one hand, to focus exclusively on justice made us forget that this is only the first, albeit necessary and indispensable step. But the Church needs to go beyond and strive for a higher and more important goal. On the other hand, sad to say, we must admit that the practice of mercy is waning in the wider culture. In some cases the word seems to have dropped out of use. However, without a witness to mercy, life becomes fruitless and sterile, as if sequestered in a barren desert. The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

*You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.*

**Go to**

<http://groupspaces.com/HCNewsletter/>

Click on "Join Group" and follow the instructions.

**Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter**

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Monique ([moniqueburston@yahoo.com](mailto:moniqueburston@yahoo.com)) and/or to the Parish priest ([holcross@logos.cy.net](mailto:holcross@logos.cy.net)), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

**Deadline for submissions: 21 February**

**Coffee Morning in the Library**

**18 February 2016  
10.00-12.00**

For more information call  
Rosemarie (99216007) or Monique  
(99795207).

*and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2: 34-35)*