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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**

**WHILE FR. MARIO IS AWAY:**

**Weekday Morning Mass**

Mondays no Mass

Tuesday & Thursday - 9:15 am (English)

Wednesday & Friday - 9:15 am (Maltese & English)

**First Friday of the Month:**

Mass in (Maltese & English) 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**

Tuesday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism:** Please contact the Rectory.

Baptisms are generally held on the first & third Saturdays of the month at 11:00am.

**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 11**

- Sunta Cortis
- Zarena Bartolo

**Sunday, September 12**

9:00am

- John Azzopardi
- Maria Portelli

10:30am

- Paul Delicata
- Paul Borg

12:00 noon

- Edmond & Carmel Scicluna

**Monday, September 13**

**Tuesday, September 14**

- Eugenio & Angelina Sturino

**Wednesday, September 15**

Our Lady of the Immigrant Perpetual Mass

**Thursday, September 16**

**Friday, September 17**

- Frank Micallef



MASS INTENTIONS

**September 12, 2021**

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B**

# Pastor's thoughts ...



I'm sure that, for many of you, the name Peggy March doesn't ring a bell. Back in 1963, 15-year-old "Little Peggy March" claimed the number 1 spot on the charts with her single "I Will Follow Him". The song was, then, immortalized in the film "Sister Act", where it was performed by the nuns' chorus for the Pope with Whoopi Goldberg's character as the lead singer.

I remembered this song (and now it stays there, lurking and haunting my every waking minute) as I started preparing this week's liturgy. Today's gospel is central to our understanding of following Jesus which, as we know, is the constant theme of Mark's gospel. We can divide this gospel passage in two parts.

In the first part Jesus asks the disciples to tell him who do people think that he actually is.

They give him a number of different answers. Then he asks them the most important question: "But who do you say that I am?" This is what really matters for Jesus. If I want to follow someone, I have to know that person. It doesn't matter what other people think of her/him. What matters is who is that person for me. It is a personal knowledge coming out of an ever-growing personal relationship. The way two lovers see and know one another is different to the way other people know them. In the gospel, Peter shows that he knows quite well who Jesus is. "You are the Christ," he tells him. Right answer, but what kind of Christ, or Messiah, was Peter envisioning? Jesus wanted to make sure that Peter not only understood that Jesus was the Messiah, but also the kind of Messiah he was. The people were expecting a Messiah which would have been a worldly leader and liberator of the people from Roman occupation. Jesus had other ideas, and he told them about his upcoming passion, death and resurrection. This is not what Peter wanted to hear. Talk of rejection, suffering and assassination were not consonant with his idea of a Messiah! Somehow, he was so taken by surprise that he did not even hear the last bit about the resurrection. So, the gospel tells us that he rebuked Jesus. He wanted to tell Jesus what he should or should not do!

And here comes the second part of our story. Following Peter's reaction, it was now Jesus' turn to rebuke Peter by telling him "Get behind me, Satan!" The role of the disciple is to follow, not to lead the master. His place is, therefore, behind the master, not in front of him. The disciple lets the master lead, and then walks on the master's footsteps. Today's message is very important for us. First of all, let us ask ourselves the question, "who is Jesus for me?" It's not what have others told me about Jesus. What my parents, teachers, catechists or priests told me about him as I was growing up was very important, but not enough. To really know Jesus, I need to enter into a real, living relationship with him. That is why Jesus told his disciples not to tell anybody about the fact that he was the Christ. He wanted people to come to know him through personal experience, not through hearsay. As a disciple, I also have to learn to follow, to allow him to lead the way. Very often in our lives we tend to do like Peter did by telling Jesus what he should do. Aren't most of our prayers about asking the Lord to change some situation which we do not particularly like? Walking on Jesus' footsteps means living the same life he lived: a life of selfless, self-giving and life-giving love. That is what passion, death and resurrection is all about. Because true love implies dying to oneself to give life to others. Some might say that this is not easy. Peter (the one who cut off the servant's ear during the passion narrative!) found it difficult, but eventually he made it. If Peter made it, we can, too. As the song goes:

"I will follow him

Follow him wherever he may go

There isn't an ocean too deep

A mountain so high it can keep me away."

- Fr. Mario

## OFFICE HOURS

During this pandemic, the Parish Office is **opened on a limited schedule** (Monday to Friday from 2:00pm to 5:30pm), however phone calls and emails are still being attended to during normal office hours:

**Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.**

Please call the office at 416-767-7054 to make masses, or to make arrangements to pick up or drop off items.



## 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE

**Sunday, September 19th,**

10:00am - Flag Raising at Malta Park

10:30am - Solemn Mass

11:30am (after Mass) - Opening of Three Exhibitions in the Lower Hall.

These exhibitions are:

- **Portraits of Prominent Maltese Personalities**  
- Photographs by Tony S. Mangion and in conjunction with the Office of National Archives of Malta
- **Traditional Maltese Balconies**  
- Balconies by Maltese Canadian Michael Andrew Camilleri
- **Traditional Maltese Bamboo Tools**  
- various Maltese and Gozitan craftspeople

A bag of traditional Maltese Foods will be given to the first one hundred families or individuals who attend the opening of exhibitions.

**Exhibitions will be open to the public from:**

Monday, September 20th to Friday, September 24th

9:00am to 12:00 noon & 2:00pm – 4:00pm



### IL-VITORJA

This weekend, Sunday, September 12th at 10:30, we will also be celebrating the Solemn Feast of Our Lady Victories -'Il-Vitorja'.

### WELCOME

This Saturday, we welcomed **Matteo Eman Marverick Brandon Apap** into our Church, as he received the Sacrament of Baptism. We pray for him and for his family as they help him to continue to grow as a mature Christian.



### REST IN PEACE

This coming week we will be having the funeral of **Maria Vittoria Borg**.

While asking the God of Mercy to grant her eternal rest with Him in heaven, we also pray for her family and loved ones during this time of loss.

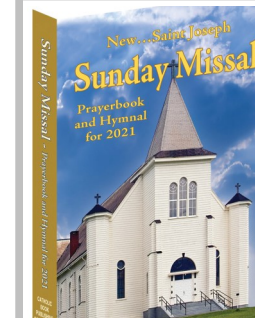


**FR. MARIO  
IS RETURNING  
THIS MONTH!!**

We have just received some good news that Fr. Mario will be returning to St. Paul's in the coming weeks.

If all goes well, and as planned he will be among us on September 20th.

We ask that you keep Fr. Mario in your prayers so that he will have a safe flight back, and an easy entrance back to Canada.



### SUNDAY MISSALS

We still have quite a few Sunday Missals. Due to the fact that we are more than half into the year, we have decided to reduce the price of these missals by 50%.

Therefore **those wishing to purchase a missal for \$2.50 may call the office during regular office hours.**