

## St Lucy Virgin and Martyr

St. Lucy is one of the seven women martyrs mentioned in the Roman Canon (First Eucharistic Prayer) of the Mass indicating that she was held in great respect and widely venerated in the early Church. This love and veneration has endured down through the centuries.

Lucy was born into a wealthy family in Syracuse on the island of Sicily about the year 283. Her father, who died when Lucy was only an infant, was thought to have been Roman while her mother may have been of Greek ancestry. Lucy was brought up in the Christian faith and it is believed that from a young age she wanted to consecrate her virginity to God.

Apparently unaware of her daughter's spiritual desires, Lucy's mother arranged a marriage for her daughter. Lucy managed to delay the marriage and after a miraculous healing of her mother at the tomb of St Agatha, a virgin-martyr from the neighbouring town of Catania, she convinced her mother to allow her to distribute her dowry and riches to the poor and remain a virgin.

At this time the Church was undergoing a fresh persecution under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Her disillusioned suitor subsequently denounced Lucy as a Christian to the Governor of Sicily. There are numerous stories and legends of what came next but it would seem that Lucy was commanded by a judge to be exposed to prostitution in a brothel, a common penalty of the times. Lucy had a holy conviction that whatever happened to her, God would judge her by the intentions of her heart, not by any punishment that was inflicted upon her. God intervened however and miraculously the guards were not able to lift her to carry her to the house of ill repute. It is also reported that she was miraculously preserved from being burnt alive. Finally unable to desecrate her body with such measures, her tormentors killed her by the sword.

Lucy's martyrdom occurred in 303 or 304 when she was barely 20 years of age. The miraculous interventions preceding it clearly showed God's favor of her vow of purity and probably encouraged her veneration in the early Church. Unverifiable reports dating from medieval times suggest that Lucy may also have had her eyes gouged out before her death. From that time onward she has often been portrayed in art as carrying her eyes on a gold tray. This has given rise to her being proclaimed 'patron saint of the blind and of those with eye problems'. This is quite apt for someone whose name is attributed the meaning 'light' as it is derived from the same root as the word 'lucid'.

Lucy is one of many young virgin martyrs who down through the centuries have treasured the gift of their purity more than their own mortal life. This is a gift that they have recognized as coming from God and one which, out of love for God, they have wanted to keep for him alone.

Such a choice requires great faith, deep love and extraordinary courage. Only with God's grace can they achieve it. The world does not expect this from young girls and is confounded by their witness.

*"but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;*

*God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong"*

*(1 Corinthians 1:27)*

St Lucy's Feast Day is 13th December and is celebrated as a Memorial in the General Roman Calendar.



St. Lucy

### The Order of St. Paul The First Hermit

Young men interested in seeking a life of prayer and service to Jesus through Mary might think of the Monks of St. Paul the Hermit.

We are a semi-contemplative monastic order especially devoted to Mary.

Our Life is: Contemplation; Divine Liturgy; Devotion to Our Lady.

Our work is: Shrines; Pastoral; Retreats.

For further information, write to:

Vocations Director, Order of St. Paul the Hermit,  
6 Justin St, Smithfield, N.S.W. 2164

### REMEMBER MARIAN VALLEY IN YOUR WILL

The Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley survives totally on the donations of the faithful. If you would like to help Marian Valley in the future you might consider remembering us in your Will. If you would like to do this, the correct way to put us in your will is: **The Trustees of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers for use at Marian Valley, 2541 Beechmont Rd. Witheren, Qld 4275**

## November Mass Intentions for The Holy Souls

November is a special month of the year for prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Mac.12:46).

"From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends alms-giving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1032.)

Remember that the Church teaches us how to put into practice mercy to our fellow man in the seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The seventh Spiritual Work of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead.

The Pauline Fathers will be accepting offerings for November Masses to be said for the Intentions of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If you would like to have a Mass offered for the soul of a loved one or some of the "forgotten" souls who have no one to pray for them please fill in the form posted with this newsletter and send it to us.



# MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER

Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet



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## News from 'Marian Valley'

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year has been proclaimed the Year for the Sanctification of Priests. We live in a time when in many parts of the Church the ministerial priesthood has been downplayed or 'reinvented' with such phrases as 'president of the assembly' or 'facilitator of Eucharist' common place. In many Catholic circles topics such as womens' ordination and the 'relevance of priests in the modern world' are on the agenda at talks and conferences. The Pope, in the coming year, has given us the chance to re-focus on the ministerial priesthood and its importance in the life of the Church.

A Priest is a man called by God to make Christ present to His people. He does this by acting 'in the person of Christ' in confecting the Sacraments, by preaching the Gospel and by striving for personal holiness. Naturally, then, a Priest becomes the special target of the Devil's attacks. He is bombarded with temptations and difficulties. Unfortunately some priests succumb to these attacks and become lukewarm in their faith, embrace gravely sinful lifestyles, or lose their faith altogether. This usually happens after they stop praying, fasting and doing their priestly duties with love.

The Pope has put out the call to all priests to re-focus on their vocations, to pray more and to love more. The Pope has also put out the call to the laity to pray and offer sacrifices for the holiness of priests. Good, holy, and dedicated priests will attract vocations to the priesthood and help build up the Church.

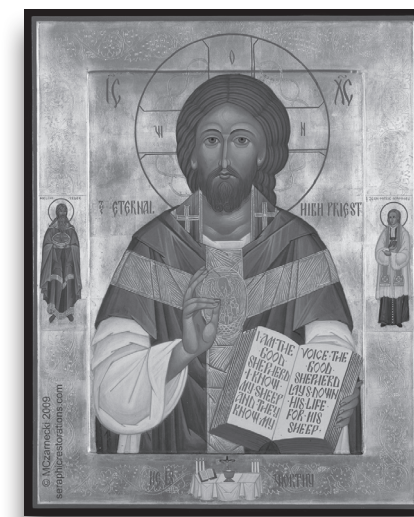
At Marian Valley we have installed the beautiful icon of Christ the Eternal High Priest (The official icon for the year of the priest) as a reminder to pray for priests. I ask you all to pray the Rosary asking the Mother of Priests to intercede for her priests.

The new Monastery that we are building at 'Marian Valley' will allow a larger community of Priests and Brothers to live together, pray together and strive for holiness together in the living out of our Pauline Religious Vocation. The Monastery is coming along well – we now have a roof. Please keep this project in your prayers and if you can help us financially or in another way it would be greatly received. May God Bless you all and may Our Lady keep your families wrapped in her mantle.

Fr Columba



The New Monestry



Christ the Eternal High Priest  
(Official icon for the  
year of the priest)

*The Blessed Virgin, by becoming the Mother of God, received a kind of infinite dignity because god is infinite; this dignity therefore is such a reality that a better is not possible, just as nothing can be better than God. (St Thomas Aquinas)*



## St. Joseph, the man closest to Jesus

By Fr. Columba Macbeth-Green. OSPPE.

We can often forget that the saints were normal people just like us who suffered temptations, sinned, were discouraged, beset with many trials and tribulations but they became saints through hard work, sufferings, persistence and most of all trust in God.

It strikes me as unfortunate that devotion to St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the man closest to Jesus, has not enjoyed an increase in these troubled times. St. Joseph is not talked about much any more, almost as if he is not relevant to us today. Maybe the reason is because of his humble life of few words and much love, maybe people think that Joseph is a little too close to Jesus, too holy and “unreal” for them to approach and relate to as a friend.

### St. Joseph is often portrayed as an old man.



St. Joseph

Maybe one of the main reasons for this general lack of devotion to St. Joseph today is that he has suffered from an image problem over many years. Down through the ages Joseph has been portrayed as a venerable old man, sometimes as a feeble old man, more like a kind of old doting Grandfather to Mary than her husband. Even today you can still find pictures of St. Joseph with a long grey beard. It is interesting to see where this image of St. Joseph comes from, it certainly doesn't come from the Gospels.

The first references to St. Joseph's great age is not found in the Gospels or the writings of the Fathers of the Church but in an apocryphal work called the *Protoevangel of St. James* and other similar works mainly of the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. The authors of these apocryphal writings portrayed St. Joseph as an old man in order to counter certain heresies going around at the time which were denying Our Lady's Virginity. They thought that for Joseph to live a life of virginity with Mary he must have been an old man. They thought that if Joseph was seen to be an old man whose passions were quelled it would strengthen the case for Mary's perpetual virginity. Portraying Joseph as an old man also solved the “problem” of Jesus' brethren who could have been the sons of Joseph from a first marriage.

The majority of theologians and scholars today say that St. Joseph was a young man. Bl. Jose Maria Escriva is just one of those who also believed this. It seems to be more in keeping with the divine way of doing things that St. Joseph was a young man in his prime with his whole life to look forward to. A man who had the cares, temptations, and problems that any young men at his age would have had. He had the added responsibility of having to be the Father of the Messiah, to protect Him, to teach Him, and to provide for Him and His Blessed Mother. But above all this was his persevering faith and trust in God.

### St. Joseph never hesitated in doing God's will.

When Joseph found out from the Angel Gabriel that Mary had conceived a son by the power of the Holy Spirit and that he should take Mary as his wife he did not hesitate for a moment. For love of God and the Blessed Virgin Mary he embarked on a life of service to his family in perfect chastity. When he was told, again by the Angel, to flee into Egypt with his young family to escape Herod, again, he did not hesitate.

When these events are related in St. Matthew's Gospel, he emphasises Joseph's faithfulness. Here is a man who kept the commandments of God without wavering, even though the meaning of some of these commandments and instructions was sometimes obscure or their relation to the rest of the divine plan hidden from him. This requires great trust in God.

The early Fathers of the Church emphasise the firmness of Joseph's faith. Referring to the angel's command to flee from Herod into Egypt, St. John Chrysostom comments: *“On hearing this, Joseph was not shocked nor did he say: ‘This is strange. You yourself made it known not long ago that He would save his people, and now you are incapable of even saving Him – we have to flee, to set out on a long journey and spend a long while in a strange place; that contradicts your promise’.* Joseph does not think in this way, for he is a man who trusts God. Nor does he ask when he will return, even though the Angel left it so vague: *“Stay there until*

*I tell you to return.” Joseph does not object; he always believes and joyfully accepts all the trials.” (In Mattheum homiliae 8,3).* Can we say the same about ourselves when we are asked by God to do unpleasant things and endure trials in our life?

### St. Joseph is a man of trust and a powerful intercessor.

St. Joseph is a fine example for us of how to have complete trust in God and His divine Will and to have perseverance in carrying out the Commandments of God in the humble circumstances of ordinary daily life (as he did as a carpenter).

St. Joseph is the “man closest to Jesus”. He lived with and cared for Jesus and Mary for many years. Jesus was obedient to him while at Nazareth and loved in a special way, he ranks second in the hierarchy of the Saints in Heaven after Our Lady; he is such a powerful intercessor, one who wants so much to help us if only we would ask him.

### St. Joseph is our special protector.

St. Joseph loved and protected Jesus when He lived with him. Joseph being the special guardian of Christ is also the special guardian and protector of the Church which is the Mystical Body of Christ. In these times of trouble and confusion in the Church we should devote some of our prayers to St. Joseph, her protector.

St. Joseph is no “plaster saint”, he is a real man who achieved sanctity through complete trust in God and ordinary, daily, hard work – and so can we.

## Share your testimony... it really is God-given... and so are the miracles.

By Patricia Ashton

I recently attended a weekend retreat at Tyalgum, with a visiting priest from Rome, Fr. Bing. It was very different to any retreat I had ever been to... it was very sobering, as he conveyed the state of the world today, and revelations. On a brighter note, he stated that miracles are happening all over the world, but unless there are documented they remain unknown. People shy away from sharing their experiences, probably from fear of not being believed, or because they feel it was meant for them alone. Bad news travels fast... however, **God's “Good News” needs to flow freely.**

There were approximately one hundred and fifty people at the retreat, and I was amazed that the first person I spoke to on arrival was a lady from Marian Valley. She said to me: “Pat, I knew Margaret Foley Long before you ever met her. I used to nurse her daughter, Margaret Mary, in the hospital.” She spoke of how they used to talk to her all the time even though she was in a coma, and as part of her care it was required that she be turned every four hours, so it really was a “hands-on” situation. Margaret Foley used to come daily, so the lady would have come to know her pretty well. I was overcome by the providence of our Maker, and look forward to one day receiving her testimony.

I also recently came across some old writings of a miracle of my own which I will now share with you:

On 10th February 2001, on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, I was driving to Marian Valley in torrential rain when I came across a road block at the top of the Mount Tamborine “Goat Track”. When I applied my brakes, the car hit the road block and spun into the water, and I then found myself travelling backwards, with no control, towards the cliff edge. I called out: “Mary help me.” The next thing I knew, I'd come to a halt and I experienced the perfect peace of Mary. When I got out of the car, I found it wedged on a mound of dirt, and half way into a Lantana bush, just feet from the cliff edge. Another Parishoner had been travelling behind me; we just sat in his car and prayed the Rosary in Thanksgiving. A few feet either side and it would have been... BYE BYE !

So... we live in a very important times in relation to the history of Marian Valley, but unless we document that history, it will be lost forever. Please write your testimony... and send it to Julianne Murphy, Susanne Redgrave, or myself.

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## Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr. Gabriel Taylor, OSPPE

Chronicles of Marian Valley by Fr Gabriel Taylor OSPPE

For the Lenten retreat day on the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19, over 200 pilgrims were at Marian valley for the Mass, spiritual talk, and Stations of the Cross. After prayers at the Chapel of St. Joseph, pilgrims shared in carrying a cross during the Stations. After the Stations, there were devotions and Benediction.

On Good Friday, 10th April, groups throughout the day prayed the Stations of the Cross. Many pilgrims came for the Sacrament of Penance. About 600 pilgrims joined in the Stations of the Cross at 3pm, with most remaining for Good Friday liturgy which followed.

For Divine Mercy Sunday, about 600 pilgrims were present for the celebration of the Eucharist and the afternoon devotions when there was the blessing of pictures and each pilgrim was blessed with the Blessed Sacrament. At 3pm there was the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

Being traditionally the month of Our Lady, May was the month when there were many wonderful celebrations in honour of the Virgin Mary. On Saturday 2nd May, the Indian Community celebrated Our Lady of Good Health VAILANKANNI. Over 200 pilgrims with their Chaplain Fr. Pan Jordan O.P. brought lively hymns and music to the celebration of Mass and the procession to the Chapel of Our Lady of Vailankanni, where there were prayers and blessings. After lunch, there was a Eucharistic procession, devotions, and Benediction for the First Saturday pilgrims.

For Our Lady of Guadalupe, on 16th May, over 200 pilgrims came with Fr. Hector Zuniga C.S. for Spanish Mass and devotions. Hymns were in Spanish and English, with Fr. Zuniga leading special prayers for families at the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Most Reverend Bishop Vinh from Vietnam was Celebrant with three priests concelebrating on the Feast of Our Lady of la Vang on 17th May. After Mass, during which the hymns were led by the harmonized singing of the choir, there was a procession with hymns to the Chapel of Our Lady of la Vang. After prayers, everyone joined in lunch prepared by the Vietnamese community.

About 450 pilgrims were present for celebrations on 23 May in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians. The Most Rev. Joseph Oudeman OFM Cap D.D. was Celebrant for the day. Included among the pilgrims were the Dutch community and the Eritrean Community. Although the day was drizzly and cool, there was much joy. The Marian Valley Choir led the singing of the Mass and hymns. In the afternoon, Bishop Oudeman led the Solemn Eucharistic Procession to the Chapel of Mary Help of Christians where prayers were prayed for Australia, for Vocations, and for families. After Benediction, Bishop Oudeman remained at the Chapel for prayers with the Dutch Community, while Fr. Columba led the Divine Mercy Chaplet at the main altar.

The Feast day for St. Anthony of Padua, a saint loved by all, was celebrated by the Croatian Community on Saturday 13 June. About 450 pilgrims rejoiced in the Mass during which some Croatian hymns were sung. After lunch, provided by the Croatian Community, there was a procession, with Rosary in Croatian, to the Chapel of St. Anthony. After prayers in English and Croatian, there were devotions and Benediction at the Grotto.

Also in June, on Saturday 20th, which was a cold wet day, over 50 pilgrims braved the weather for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mass and Devotions.

For the pilgrimage of the Sri Lankan Community for Our Lady of Madhu, on 4th July, Most Rev. Brian Finnegan D.D. accompanied the pilgrims and was Celebrant at the Eucharist. Concelebrating was the Sri Lankan Chaplain Fr. Pan Jordan O.P. who preached the homily. Other concelebrants were Fr. Columba, Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S., Fr. Gabriel, and Fr. John. After the Eucharist, all went to the Chapel of Our Lady of Madhu for prayers and blessings. In the afternoon, Fr Columba led First Saturday devotions and Benediction for those wishing to attend.

Over 150 pilgrims attended on Thursday 16th July for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Being a pilgrimage of the Italian Community, Fr. Luigi Sabbadin C.S. celebrated the Mass in Italian, after which the Scapulars were blessed and distributed.

Colourful banners of the Polish Organizations led the entrance procession at the Mass for the Polish community celebrations in honour of Our Lady of Czestochowa on Saturday 8th August. Celebrant was Fr. Stanislaw from the Gold Coast, and Fr. Stan Lipski S.CH. preached the homily. In the afternoon the pilgrims went in a Eucharistic procession to the grotto for devotions and Benediction. Following Benediction, Fr. Lipski went with the pilgrims to the Chapel of Blessed Mary Mackillop where there were special prayers for Australia and the pilgrims.

For the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 15th August, about 400 pilgrims were at Marian Valley. Many pilgrims came to Confession. Fr Columba was celebrant, and after lunch he led the Eucharistic Procession to the grotto for devotions, Benediction, and blessing of the pilgrims.

Since our previous Chronicles, we also welcomed many other groups to Marian Valley for retreats and day visits:

At the end of February, the South East Queensland region of the Army came for a weekend retreat accompanied by Senior Chaplain Mons. Glynn Murphy O.A.M. On the Sunday, the Most Rev. Max Davis, Bishop of the Military Ordinariate joined the group for talks and the Eucharist.

In March, the Police Chaplains of Queensland were on Retreat for five days.

Also in March there was a day retreat for the Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Carers with their Chaplain Fr. Jim Smith, and an overnight retreat for a group of fathers and sons from the “home-schoolers”.

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul conferences came for retreat days in April and June.

Residents of the Bally Cara Retirement Village and the Forrest Place Retirement Village visited in May. Also in May the Brisbane Bach Choir delighted and surprised visitors by singing a selection of hymns and songs in a one hour visit.

Two groups from the Spanish speaking community came for weekend retreats in May and July, their Chaplain Fr. Hector Zuniga C.S. being with them for one of the weekends.

Labrador Senior Citizens, Multicultural Care from the Gold Coast, St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Nundah, Gold Coast Centrecare, and the National Seniors from Mitchelton were groups of Seniors who visited since our last Chronicles.

The Tarragindi Bowling Social Club had their morning tea at Marian Valley in early April, as did pilgrims from Cleveland Parish later in the month.

From Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Coorparoo, about 30 pilgrims came for morning tea, and a walk around Marian Valley, and the Eucharist.

At the end of June, twenty-four pilgrims from the Coptic Youth Group came for an overnight retreat, and Teams of Our Lady had a weekend retreat in August.



Bishop Oudeman with African Pilgrims