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YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH

Dream Big programme was conducted at Christ The King Church, Bhandup on 6th July, 2019. His Excellency Mar Thomas Elavanal felicitated the children those who scored 90% and above in SSC and 80% and above in HSC. Mrs. Sunitha George (Principal of Bombay Schotish School) gave a motivation talk.
NURTURING TOLERANCE
IN TIME OF VIOLENCE

Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB
is an Indian Catholic priest who is a Salesian of Don Bosco and a member of the Missionaries of Charity. He was kidnapped in March 2016 and held hostage by terrorists in Yemen, before being released in September 2017 after the intervention of the government of Oman and the Catholic Church. He currently visits places and shares his living testimonial of faith.

Every one of us has worry and anxiety to some extent about many things in life. The Gospels speak about it and the means to face them. Faith in the good and loving God, prayer to Him and forgiveness to oneself and others are the means to overcome fear, anxiety and worry.

“I tell you not to be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn’t life worth more than food? And isn’t the body worth more than clothes? ... Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?” (Mt 6:25)

“Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. No one gives to his / her child a stone when it asks for bread and a snake when asked for a fish. You know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him? (Mt 7:7)

“Aren’t five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one sparrow is forgotten by God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows.” (Lk 12:6-7)

These and a few other passages of the Gospel were my frequent comfort in my long 557 days of life in captivity under the terror group in Yemen from the 4th March 2016 to 12th Sept. 2017. In Yemen, I happened to see many a people dead in the bombings due to the war, the destructions and ravages of war in that country. I was captured on the 4th March 2016. I had to witness the brutal killings of the 4 Missionaries of Charity Sisters and a few others with me on that day. It was certainly not due to my strength of mind or will power that I could remain calm and pray for the dying ones and the ones who were doing the killing; I owe it to the grace of God and the prayers of the MC Sisters, my fellow Salesians of Don Bosco, family and people of good will. I was preserved from any nightmares, serious physical or Psychological ailments or even spiritual letdowns all through the 18 months of captive stay. Praise to the Lord Jesus and thanks to the prayer support of all my sisters and brothers from all over the world, I am back to my normal activities after having gone through those days of captivelife in Yemen.

The root cause of violence is the undue desire for wealth, power, authority, etc. The uncontrolled desire to have everything for oneself, even at the cost of deprivation and destruction for others, one’s own fellow beings, lead one to make inappropriate attempts to handle one’s emotions of anger, frustrations, sadness, and the like. Violence is one such inappropriate attempt and is used as a medium of expression of anger,
frustration and sadness by many an individual. The training we receive and the examples we witness right from our childhood through, from our family, schooling, society and circle of friends have a great say in the way we express our feelings, emotions, frustrations etc. It could be in a healthy manner or in an inappropriate. We ourselves can be our best judges on that. In any case, the responsibility lies on each one of us to wipe out the growing culture of violence in our lives and society.

The Lord God has a mission for each one of us. Provided, we are willing to listen to the call to the mission in the silence of our heart in prayer and are ready like Mother Mary to say that generous YES to God; then the Lord God will give all the strength and energy we need to go through and fulfill that Mission towards our sisters and brothers. There are several incidents, small and big, in my life that brought me to this realization and conviction. Some of these are narrated in detail in my autobiography “By the Grace of God”. Jesus has given us the command to love one another as He has loved us and to forgive our offenders and to pray for them. ‘Let not the sun go down on your anger.’ By forgiving others of their offences against us and by praying for their well being we develop the capacity to remain calm in mind and in soul, even in the storms and turmoil of life.

Prayer is the most powerful weapon against the enemy in the face of violence and forgiveness is the best medicine in healing the injuries and scars of violence. Let us make use of it frequently and generously to bring healing to the violence ridden society.
"Aṣ纳税
cartaravam

- അ. സന്ദർഭം സി. SDB


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APF

"എഗ്രഹിതനാ


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 AFP
“By The Grace of God”

“മേലുള്ള സ്വദേശത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വരെ വാസനകർമ്മങ്ങൾ നിർക്കുന്നതിനു? സമാധാനമേളുകയോ അത്യുഭാവമേളുകയോ വന്നതാണോ എന്നാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്ലാൻപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന്. മുറ്റിയും കീടനാണ്നയപ്പെട്ടു എന്നും അർത്ഥവുമേളുകയോ. അതുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥ ഹാർശങ്ങളിൽ പ്ലാൻപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന്.”

(മുഖ. 12:6-7)

2016 ജൂൺ 4 മുതൽ 2017 ഏപ്രിൽ മുതൽ 12 മാസ 557 ദിവസം വരെ നിരൂപനത്തിലുള്ളതായി മുഴുകുന്ന സമയം ഇന്ന് കിഴക്കോട്ടിന്റെ നിർദ്ദേശം അനുസരിച്ചു സ്വാധീനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ പ്രാരംഭം നിരൂപന പ്ലാൻപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന്.

“ആദ്യത്തെ നിരൂപനമേളുകയോ അത്യുഭാവമേളുകയോ

ഏകദേശം ദേശത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വരെ വാസനകർമ്മങ്ങൾ

എന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥ ഹാർശങ്ങളിൽ പ്ലാൻപ്പെട്ടതെന്ന്.”

(മുഖ. 7:7)
The Story:

The Least of These is a documentary based on the life of an Australian missionary - Graham Staines and his family who worked in a remote village in Orissa. This true story dates back to the late 1990s when Staines and his family dedicated their lives to treating the lepers and downtrodden tribals. Lepers have been treated as a curse in our society since time immemorial and in a country like India, where most villagers do not have access to basic education, the alienation of lepers is much more extreme. They are treated as untouchables and do not receive the medical attention needed to cure their condition. When missionaries like Staines reach out to them and help them - they are perplexed and wonder why someone would leave their own country and come here to serve us. Is an act good, just by virtue of the act or does the intent or motive behind the act also matter? What Staines considered as his life long mission to serve Christ was perceived as a stunt to convert locals to Christianity. As the social fabric in the area crumbled, Hindu fanatics criticised his work and strongly opposed it. Staines and his two sons were attacked by a mob of extremists who burnt their car and reduced their bodies to ashes.

My Reflections and Learnings:

In conclusion, I would like to share Mother Teresa's poem Glades' place?

We all should understand that there is no 'us' and 'them', we should all be able to connect with each other as humans regardless of caste, creed, sex and religion. Our role as Christians is to absorb and end challenges arise every single day! Tolerance in students and have activities that cater to the same. We all should understand that the biggest learning and inspiration is that Glades chose to truly love her enemy, just like Christ would. What would you do if you were in the movie Aneesh Joshi and Prakash Belawadi (editor of the newspaper). The director of the movie Aneesh Joshi. The naive journalist is given an inventory of black deeds”. What can we do to ensure that no one has to suffer in this manner?

Anyway

Give the world the best you've got anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

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**Movie Review:**

The events in the movie unfold through the eyes of a journalist, Manav Banerjee played by Sherman Joshi. The naive journalist is given an assignment to collect evidence about forcible conversion by Staines. As he tries to uncover information, his own beliefs and stance on Staines (played by Stephen Baldwin) and his work slowly changes. However, other events incite further communal hatred and lead to the barbaric scene when a mob surrounds Staines and his two sons in their station wagon and are subsequently incinerated.

Overall, the movie is shot on location and has some soul stirring performances from Sherman Joshi and Prakash Belawadi (editor of the newspaper). The director of the movie Aneesh Joshi, has portrayed this provocative narrative in the most neutral manner possible. It is interesting to note how the movie refrains from naming the political party involved in the gruesome murder of the missionary. Additionally, while Staines and his family members’ identities are revealed, the perpetrators names have been changed from Dara Singh to Mahendra. Some of the questions that popped into my head are:

Who are we protecting and why?

Has the movie served its purpose?

**My Reflections and Learnings:**

There's a lot of uproar regarding communal violence recently around the country which makes me wonder if much has changed in the past two decades. Yes, we’ve been to the moon and back two times, but our minds are still cloistered. After Staines’ untimely death, President K.R. Narayanan spoke for everyone when he described the murder as "a monumental aberration of time-tested tolerance and harmony. The killings belong to the world's inventory of black deeds". What can we do to ensure that no one has to suffer in this manner? An open dialogue needs to be initiated between different communities. Schools should build tolerance in students and have activities that cater to the same. We all should understand that there is no ‘us’ and ‘them’, we should all be able to connect with each other as humans regardless of caste, creed, sex and religion.

Our role as Christians is to absorb and end violence and not incite any further hatred. My biggest learning and inspiration is that Glades Staines (wife of Graham Staines) forgave the perpetrators in the spirit of Christ’s love and teaching of forgiveness. Although the perpetrators were given a life sentence to prison, Glades chose to truly love her enemy, just like Christ would. What would you do if you were in Glades’ place?

In conclusion, I would like to share Mother Teresa’s poem *Anyway* which encourages me to work in the social sector even though many challenges arise every single day!

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered; Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God; It was never between you and them anyway.

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**Anju Meritta Joseph**

belongs to St. Sebastian Church, Goregaon East and currently leads the Kashvi Learning Centre, Chembur
On 23rd May 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi demolished his opposition and swept to victory in the world’s largest democracy. But seeing it through a Christian lens raises some pressing questions about the future of religious minorities here. The election results of 2019 has not exposed Modi, in fact, Modi need not be exposed as he is quite well-known since 2002. Sadly, the election exposed the true colours of the majority of the people of India. It stripped naked or exposed the true person hiding behind the mask of secularism. What upset many, and especially me, was not that Modi came back to power but that our country can no longer claim to be secular. It has been eight weeks since then and there are numerous examples that proved my point and so, I need not explain this in detail.

My question is, what has this result done to the minorities of this nation? It has created in each one a remorse or sadness that we are pushed down towards being second-class citizens. It has shocked us and left us hopeless that India will never be great again. It has created a fear in the minorities that our Hindu neighbours can no longer be trusted. We will think twice before engaging in a political conversation with any of them. The scenario seems grim and saddening. Till now, all who were lynched are Mohammed Akhlaq or Pehlu Khan. I fear a day when these names would change to be a Joseph, Thomas or Varghese. In fact, there are already quite a few instances reported of atrocities against the Christians in the North of India. Lynched for what we eat or simply for being a Christian minority. I do not want to sound disillusioned and hopeless or in any way fill you with fear. In this context, to tell that the church teaches universal brotherhood and sisterhood, that each person is made in the image of God, and so, should work towards fostering and promoting dignity would be too preachy. This political scenario must lead us to re-think and re-orient ourselves.

In spite of these situations, we Christians are seen by our Hindu brothers and sisters as people of peace who love the enemy and are non-retaliatory. Therefore, in this situation, we are called to take two concrete steps: 1) re-orient ourselves through introspection; 2) re-think our social stance and social commitments.

Whatever the situation is, Christians are often viewed as peacemakers and contributors to our society. Apart for the issue on conversion, our Hindu brothers and sisters, as a whole, see and
place Christians in high regard. They are highly appreciative of our institutions as well as of the way we, as a community contribute to the development of the society. However, of late, this aspect of our overall image has come under attack. The church in Kerala, especially, has undermined the image of the church by constantly engaging in internal fights to bring them out in public. The media celebrates each juicy tidbit on primetime, which has brought the credibility of the church under constant scrutiny. This political scenario should lead us to introspection on these elements of internal divisions within the church, which are decreeing and rotting it. More than ever, these are the times when the church as a whole should stand united. Whatever denomination one might belong to, the leaders of the church must cometogether and unite in an act of sincere retrospection and find the courage to change the things which would label us as an anti-witness to Christ. When there are dangers outside waiting for an opportunity to attack and hurt us in whatever way possible, we cannot afford to be in our slumber of internal fights, issues on leadership and petty disagreements on faith, liturgy and traditions. Our efforts to be united under one Shepherd Jesus must be our utmost priority in these difficult times. These are times which must be outlived by constant prayer and supplication for the world, and especially for our country.

The other aspect that needs immediate attention is for us to re-think our social stand and social commitment. There will be a tendency, in these troubled times, to feel angry, which can demoralize us and lead us to curb all our charitable initiatives. There would also be a number of instances where we might feel less than enthusiastic to help others, especially our Hindu brethren. These feelings can easily be justified saying that let the government help the poor and the needy. In fact, it was the poor and the needy who voted them in. In these moments, it will be normal to look at society with our political interests in mind, but one needs to look at it through the lens of Jesus Christ, as revealed in the gospels. Neither person nor any evil could deter Jesus from doing good to others. And the church and its calling is to bear witness to this same activity like its leader, the Prince of Peace Jesus Christ.

We need to re-focus our mission to do more good when there are ample chances where we will be misunderstood for doing them. Let our institutions, schools and hospitals, do more charity, towards the society, than ever before. It is the Christian associations and institutions that play a key role in linking the Church and the state. Our leaders and we as a church must constantly engage in healthy inter-religious interactions: organize inter-religious dialogue sessions in our premises as well as go to participate and make our presence visible and audible in all the programs organized by the ruling party as well as other religious groups. Build healthy relationships with all politicians at the parish, diocese and national levels. These are times of networking and making ourselves understood well by others. In fact, when there are chances of being misunderstood, we should continue our mission to serve humanity and especially, the society well. Believing in and thinking of the verse Jesus taught us in the beatitudes, “When others persecute you and utter all kinds of evil falsely against you for my sake and the gospel, rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets and me before you” (Matthew 5:11). In fact, when there are instances or chances of the church being misunderstood and has come under attack, we will continue to do good with great fervour; we must increase our charitable works and infuse them with more love because the Lord taught us to do so.

I would like to conclude in Dalai Lama’s words: **Compassion is the radicalism of our time...**

**For only when the power of love overcomes the love of power will the world know true peace.**

Fr. Rajesh Mathew  
is a priest with the Diocese of Kalyan and currently a Doctoral student in Milan, Rome.
Today the world is more polarised than ever. I know, trust me to come up with the understatement of the century!

It is an undeniable reality that across the world, right wing political parties are winning elections and building governments that fan the flames of communal discord. But before I share my personal views on today’s political scenario, let me present a few short summaries of various conversations that I have had with colleagues and friends.

Of Experiments and Experiences
One guy, let’s call him Ajay, a Buddhist by religion, told me that he was very disappointed with the choice of candidates this election. So he opted for NOTA. When I asked him how that would help, he mentioned that by doing this, he has recorded his displeasure. Oh well.

Another friend, Dipti, a Hindu lady, voraciously defended the current regime's tough stance on terrorism. On being pointed out that there were more attacks in comparison to the previous government, she mentioned that she is happy that the current government gives it back as good as it gets.

I, later, had a similar conversation with some of my Catholic friends. Sadly, most were completely oblivious to the gravity of recent happenings and largely apathetic about the current political scenario.

As I interacted with more and more people about the political climate in the country, to my dismay, I found that most had bought in to the popular narrative.

Humans have survived across millennia because we were able to identify and neutralise threats early on. Today, when our very existence is in question, largely due to environmental factors, we are being head faked by politicians.

And so, here we are, with our very own survivor series - The survival of the fanatic. Educated, uneducated, rich or poor, all are welcomed as long as one adheres to populism.

A common enemy is chosen. It’s often a community or group that is in the minority. They are mistreated as the majority (read - the righteous) strive to build a new region devoid of blemishes. How fascinating! If only we could easily rid ourselves of the unwanted! Case in point: the Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Coming back to the friends I mentioned earlier, a few days ago, Dipti was ready to go to war on my behalf when she heard that someone had been disparaging me. It took me by surprise when I heard her defense of me as I was already quite upset with her political views. I belong to a minority, so why save me now when you don’t care about my rights one way or another.

I soon realised that this feeling of being protective towards one’s friends rang true across religions and communities. They saw me as their friend. There, one’s political or religious stance was of no consequence whatsoever, which opened my eyes to the fact that it is only when the enemy is nameless that the other has power.

A Dipti would not want her friend, Rini, to suffer, but an unknown Catholic fellow suffering in a remote corner might not trouble her.

Humans have always been subjective, but like to think of ourselves as objective. This is why we feel so furious whenever we see favouritism in our workplaces or groups. But it is this exact emotion that has saved people when trouble came calling. When Hitler tried to eliminate the Jews, more often than not, it was their friends who stepped up to the challenge and protected them in their own homes.

Wise and kind, the former US President Abraham Lincoln once said, “Do I not kill my enemies when I make them my friends?”

It’s time we take a leaf out of the lives of legends who survived the harshest parts of history. As we move ahead in these turbulent times, the time has come for us to befriend our neighbour. Not just because our lives might depend on it, although it’s part of it, but because as Christians it is our duty is to love our neighbours without judgement. It is only when someone feels affectionate towards you that they would be amenable to your views. Respecting and understanding the other’s point of view is an important part of building communal harmony.

So, the next time anyone thinks of going to war against their neighbour, let the battle cry be- ‘Kill them with kindness’.

PS: Names have been changed to protect identities.

Rini Kunjuvareeed
belongs to St. Joseph’s Parish, Powai
WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

A wise, old boatman took pilgrims across the river,
On the other side was a mosque, a church and a temple,
St Thomas built the church with love and Faith.
A wise Travancore king, famous for his generosity,
love and peace, donated him the land.
He loved listening to the bells and call for worship.
The church was built by Muslim artisans and Hindus.
Some of them converted to Christianity,
Love and acceptance, brotherly love prevailed,
Simple villagers who shared the beliefs of St. Thomas.

As they journeyed across the river, they admired
the coastal areas, shared food, ideas on farming and laughed.
Many years passed; People travelled by cars, schools established.
Technology and gadgets took over; Modern culture prevailed
Luxury living and high thinking, replaced the simple life.
Nostalgia, St. Thomas came down and took the boat again,
As the boat started, chaos and confusion, fist fights followed,
Ishmael sat with his friends, Xavier took his group stern side
Hindus in the middle, no one spoke, nor shared water or food.
Indifference all around, St. Thomas dismayed, spoke to them:

...The king of Travancore, accepted me like a brother...
He looked at Xavier and Ishmael, their hearts melted,
Arms outstretched Thomas embraced them with Love;
Hindu brethren watched with emotion and smiled with wisdom;
I built my church with Love, Peace and Brotherhood on this land.
Fill your hearts with Love, Spread the Love of a Perfect Saviour.

And then came the havoc, rendered by Floods,
Differences forgotten, they helped one another,
They conquered the disaster, St. Thomas was pleased
Love One Another As I Have Loved You. The message bore fruit.

Anonymous
"അദ്ദേഹം വളരെ പ്രണയ കാലത്തെയും കാലത്തെയും ഭരണാധികാരികളിൽ പ്രാന്താധിനിവേശം അന്താരാഷ്ട്രത്തിനെയും ആംഗ്യം"
ക്ഷാരീരം (കാലത്തെയും കാലത്തെയും)

അതോതു അധിനിവേശം വിപ്ലവം വെച്ചു വന്നു.

"പുരാവൃത്തം പ്രനിക്കല്ലാണ് ക്ഷാരീരം കാലത്തെയും കാലത്തെയും ആംഗ്യം"
(നില 4:4)

"അദ്ദേഹം വളരെ പ്രണയ കാലത്തെയും കാലത്തെയും ഭരണാധികാരികളിൽ പ്രാന്റാധിനിവേശം അന്താരാഷ്ട്രത്തിനെയും ആംഗ്യം"

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The Divine Mystery

Here in this prayer we recite: ‘we commemorate and celebrate... the divine mystery’. By the word ‘mystery’ the Eastern fathers of the church mean the sacrament. The sacraments are to be understood in relation to the paschal mystery of Christ. Whenever we participate in the Holy Qurbana, through the commemoration of the paschal mystery, we are made participants in the new covenant ratified in the blood of Christ. Through the new covenant we participate in the paschal mystery especially in the joy of His resurrection.

Rejoining and Glorifying

As we read, when the Risen Lord appeared “the disciples were filled with joy” (Jn. 20:20). Early Christian community used to gather together for the ‘breaking of the bread’ on the first day of the week as the day of the resurrection of the Lord (Acts 20:7). They participated in it with great joy (Acts 2:46). They praised God in the joy of the resurrection of the Lord. In the Holy Qurbana too the community remembering the salvific actions of Christ praise and thank God with great joy. It
is to this Christian community that St. Paul says “I want you to be happy, be always happy in the Lord” (Phil. 4:4).

**Commemorate and Celebrate**

When the priest offers up the bread and wine in the Qurbana he makes the prayer “May Christ who... commanded us to celebrate the memory of His passion”. At the beginning of the institution narrative again he prays: “we commemorate the passion of your beloved Son”. A gain at the conclusion of the fourth Gehantha prayer” we commemorate and celebrate”. This word ‘commemorate’ has deep meaning and significance. It is to be understood not merely to mean to bring to mind a past event but rather to mean to ‘make present’ sacramentally the events commemorated. For the Jewish people too passover celebration helped to experience and re-live the exodus event. So too, here we not only commemorate the paschal mystery as a past event but it is made sacramentally a present reality.

**Made Present**

The salvific actions of Christ remain as eternal reality that is beyond the limits of time and space. it is once and for all fulfilled reality (Heb. 10:10) and a reality that will remain for ever. Through the commemoration and celebration this mystery entrusted to us by Christ, becomes a present reality. So these words’ commemorate and celebrate reminds us that the salvific actions of Christ as they are divine actions, cutting across the limits of time, are made a present reality through the celebration of this mystery. Because of the sacramental and divine efficacy given to this mystery it is ever a reality made present through the celebration. It is in this sense that St. Leo the great has said “that which was visible in Christ was passed over into the sacraments of the Church” (Sermo 74:2). When we see in the light of the faith, the community that participate in the Holy Qurbana not only remember but are always made to participate in the paschal mystery of Christ.

**Make the Celebration an experience**

Therefore, Eucharist is the commemoration and celebration of the redemptive actions of God. It is commemoration that helps us to understand what is being celebrated on the altar. If only the commemoration is strong the celebration will become meaningful. It is the lively and powerful memories that make the celebration experiential. The loss of the deep meaning of commemoration will result in the loss of the aspect of experience of the celebration. Through the symbolic celebration on the altar we remember the salvific actions of God. It is our faith that helps to make it an experience of today.

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**BISHOP’S DIARY**

**AUGUST - 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Qurbana - Sakinaka</td>
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<td>4th</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Minor Seminary Class - Panvel</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Recollection and Presbyterium - Bishop’s House</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Curia Meeting - Bishop’s House</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>MPC - Panvel</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Qurbana - ARC</td>
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<td>12th</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>MPC Resource persons meet</td>
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<td>18th-31st</td>
<td>Seminar on Theology of the body</td>
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<td>CRI Superiors Meet</td>
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<td>Synod of Bishops - Kakkanad</td>
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Dominicans elect first Asian leader

The Dominicans, one of the most prominent religious orders in the Catholic Church, have elected the first Asian leader in their 800-year history.

Fr Gerard Timoner, who comes from the Philippines, was chosen as the 88th Master of the Order of Preachers on July 13. The election took place during a gathering of the order in Bien Hoa, Vietnam.

The 51-year-old master is a former leader of the Philippine province of Dominicans and up until now has held a senior Rome-based position – a “socius” – advising on Asia Pacific matters. His election reflects the Church’s growth in Asia, and a new generation of emerging leaders from the continent.

Pope Francis chooses Marian theme for World Youth Day

The theme of the 2022 World Youth Days in Lisbon will be “Mary rose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39), Pope Francis said June 22 while meeting some 250 youths from more than 100 countries.

The young people were in Rome participating in the XI International Youth Forum, which focused on the theme of “Youth in action in a synodal Church.”

Recalling World Youth Day in Panama, Pope Francis called on young people to prepare for the next World Youth Day by meditating on two scriptural passages from Lk 7:14: “Young man, I say to you, Arise!” and a re-working of Acts 26:16, “Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen.”

Pope Francis gives away relics of St. Peter to Orthodox patriarch

Following a solemn Mass on June 29, the liturgical feast of the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul, the Pope gave a delegation representing Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople a bronze reliquary containing nine bone fragments of the first Pope.

The Orthodox Church, while having a valid priesthood and sacraments, is not in full communion with Rome, in part because it does not accept papal primacy. Although a mutual withdrawal of excommunication between Rome and Constantinople was issued at the end of the Second Vatican Council by Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras, Catholics do not pray for the Orthodox patriarchs in their liturgy nor do the Orthodox pray for the Pope. There is no sacramental intercommunion between the Churches.
Pope Francis moves NYC Archbishop Sheen one step closer to sainthood

The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, a charismatic figure of U.S. Roman Catholicism in the 20th century and a pioneer in using media for religious purposes, is one step closer to sainthood.

A Vatican statement on July 6 said the pope had approved a decree recognising a miracle attributed to Sheen’s intercession, meaning he will be beatified.

The Vatican-approved miracle relates to the case of a stillborn Illinois baby in 2010, the Catholic Herald reported. The child, James Fulton Engstrom, had no heartbeat for more than an hour after birth — but revived on his own when family members prayed for Sheen’s intercession, a panel of doctors found.

Sheen, who was born in Illinois in 1895 and died in New York in 1979, was sometimes called the first “televangelist”.

The church will require documentation of a second miracle before Sheen can be canonized as a saint.

Pope Francis to declare Kerala nun Marian Thresia a saint on October 13

The Blessed Mariam Thresia, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Family Congregation under the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, will be canonised on October 13. She will be canonised along with John Henry Newman from England, Italian Josephine Vannini, Swiss Marguerite Bays and Brazilian Irm Dulce Pontes, said a report.

Thresia, who belongs to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, was born in the village of Puthenchira in Thrissur district on April 26, 1876. She died in Kuzhikkattussery village on June 8, 1926.

Pope St John Paul II had declared the nun as venerable on June 28, 1999, and she was beatified on April 9, 2000. Thresia was professed in 1914.

“Education of girls was Mariam Thresia’s liberation theology in action, without the slogan,” PTI quoted a Church document as saying. “Several young girls were attracted to her by her simplicity, humility and shining sanctity. At the time of her death at the age of 50, there were 55 Sisters in the congregation, 30 boarders and 10 orphans under her care.”

The Vatican had earlier declared three Kerala-born Indian Catholics as Saints. While Fr Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Sister Euphrasia were canonised into the league of saints by Pope Francis in 2014, Sister Alphonsa was declared a saint in 2008.
Answers to Activity-1

1. Jeremiah was a young man when God called him to be a prophet to many nations. God told Jeremiah He knew him before his birth.

2. The two signs God showed were a branch of an almond tree and boiling pot running over.

3. Jeremiah thought he wasn’t qualified to be a prophet of God as he considered himself to be a child.

4. Jeremiah was born in the kingdom of Judah, in a town called Anathoth, north of Jerusalem.

5. Jeremiah warned the people that the judgement day was near and it is going to be terrible as the people worshipped idols instead of God.

Lucky winners of Activity 1

- GLENNIS JOY, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Church, Kandivili (E)
- SELWYN SAJI, Our Lady of Rosary Parish, Katraj, Pune Forane
- LYNN AVILA THOMSON, St. Thomas Cathedral, Kalyan (W)

Answers to Activity-2

They worshiped worthless idols

Lucky winners of Activity 2

- DIYA ROY, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bhayander
- IMMANUEL ANTHONY, St. Thomas Cathedral Church, Kalyan (W)
- JULIET TOYSON, St. Mary’s Church, Malad East

Answers to Activity-3

Lucky winners of Activity 3

- MARIA PINTO, Mother of Victory Church, Tikujiniwadi
- AMIE GEORGE, St. George Catholic Church, Nalasopara (W)
- ALONA BRITO, St. Alphonsa Church, Mankhurd
Answers to Activity-4

Lucky winners of Activity 4

- JERRY WILSON MULAKKAL, St Bartholomew church, Kalyan (East)
- BENITA SIJO, Infant Jesus Church, Koparkhairne
- CHRISTMOL CHERIAN, St. Thomas Church Vashi

Answers to Activity-5

Selected entry for Activity 5

Jesus is visiting your home tomorrow. What would you cook for him? Why?

Look! A Whatsapp video call from Angel Gabriel, “Hey Mary and Elizabeth (our baptismal names), this is Angel Gabriel from St. Peter’s office in heaven. Jesus would be there for lunch at your place, tomorrow.” Who wouldn’t be excited with such a precious call. We both are extremely delighted to meet Jesus. It reminds us that thousands of years back, Mary pregnant with Jesus Christ, had visited Elizabeth’s home. We rushed to share the good news with our parents. We were not at all nervous because our mother is a Master Chef, she would cook a delicious and mouth watering meal and our father, being acatechist & anevangelist for the past 25 years, would precisely guide us as to what would be the best way to welcome our Lord.

Dad would help us to get to know what Jesus would love to eat with references from the Holy Bible & Mom would support us to gather the ingredients so that we could plan the menu accordingly. We would cook our Savior & Redeemer Jesus, the following food. We hope he loves it.

Welcome Drink: Grape Juice (Jesus the true Vine - John 15)

Starters: Steamed Momos with Quail Meat (Quail - Exodus 16)

Main Course: Broiled Fish Pizza with Olives & Cheese (Bread - John 6:35 + Fish - Luke 24 & John 21 + Olives - Nehemiah 8:15 + Cheese - 1Samuel 17 : 18)


SHANELLE & SHAUNNA PALLIKUNNATH, St. Joseph’s Church, Airoli
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PROPHET SAMUEL

1. **Samuel is a miracle child.**
   We meet Samuel’s parents before we meet him. His mother Hannah cannot have children, but God hears her prayers and opens her womb, blessing her with the child Samuel.

2. **Samuel’s name means “Name of God.”**
   The translation of Samuel literally means “name of God,” or “God has heard.”

3. **Samuel is from the tribe of Levi.**
   Not only was Samuel from the tribe of Levi, but he may have had Ephraimite blood, too (1 Sa 1:1). This qualified him to serve in the temple.

4. **Samuel is the last judge.**
   After Joshua dies, the nation of Israel enters the “days of the judges,” (Ru 1:1).
   During this time, God would raise up individuals to deliver Israel from her enemies. The book of Judges tells us about 12 judges, and First Samuel introduces two more: Eli and Samuel. After Samuel, Israel is led by kings (Ac 13:20).

5. **Samuel anoints the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.**
   When the people demand a national king, God directs Samuel to anoint Saul, a tall man from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul doesn’t turn out so well, and so God has Samuel anoint a young shepherd named David as the future king: not the king Israel needs, but the king they deserve.

6. **Samuel is the first of the prophets.**
   A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. Samuel’s prophetic ministry is significant because it begins at a time when words from the Lord are rare and infrequent (1 Sa 3:1).

7. **Samuel is a priest.**
   He begins his ministry serving the chief priest in the tabernacle (1 Sa 3:1). Samuel makes sacrifices on behalf of the people, and offers intercessory prayers to God for them (1 Sa 7:9).

8. **Samuel is a Nazarite.**
   Like the mighty Samson, Samuel is dedicated to the Lord as a child. This dedication was for life, and so he never cuts his hair (Nu 6:1–21).

9. **God calls Samuel by name— twice**
   Samuel is one of 8 people in the Bible that God calls by name, twice. The others are Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Martha, Simon, “My God,” and Saul.
KALYAN EPARCHY YOUTH

Rain camp '19 will be held from 26th July to 28th July at ARC, Panvel. The trekking spot is Prabalgad Fort. This camp is a celebration of youthful unity coupled with adventure, while being the perfect stress-buster from their busy work schedules.

FR. SUNNY MEMORIAL CHURCH CHOIR COMPETITION

2019 will be held on 2nd September '19 at Mahakavi Kalidas Nityamandir, Mulund West.

This competition is a musical spectacle, a stupendous platform for church choirs to showcase their talents. Over the years, it has turned out to be one of the finest and most awaited events of our diocese with around 1500 participants showing a wide range of age groups, turning up from Mumbai, Pune and Nashik regions. Last date of registration is 11th August 2019. Contact your respective Dexcos for further details and registrations.

KAIROS 2019

Kalyan Diocese Pithurvedi is conducting KAIROS 2019 on Sunday 19th August 2019 at ARC Panvel. Registration will start at 8.30am and inauguration of the function will be at 9.30 am.

The following competition will be held

1) Bible Quiz
2) Extempore speech (Malayalam and English)
3) Solo singing (Malayalam devotional songs)
   Maximum thirty entries are permitted in the competition. Only one entry will be allowed from a parish. Karoke and instruments are not allowed.
4) Nadan Pattu (Malayalam)
   Only one team will be allowed from a parish. Maximum 20 teams are allowed on first come first serve basis.

More details contact General co-ordinators

Vitus Joseph (9867039529)
Gison Jose (9987851858)
Fr Shibu Pulickal - Director, Pithurvedi
What does “consubstantial” in the Creed mean?

Now where have I heard that term before? Consubstantial is a word you probably won’t hear in any context other than reciting the (Nicene) Creed. After expressing belief in the Father, the Creed goes on to express belief in the “one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God… consubstantial with the Father;…”. By this, the Church professes her belief that the Father and Jesus, two distinct persons, are one being/substance/essence/nature (undivided) and are therefore fully and independently God. This came out of a need to defend the divinity of Jesus against certain heresies. The concept of homoousion (homo = ‘the same’, ousia = ‘being’), which is now translated into consubstantial, was first clearly articulated at the Council of Nicea in 325 (which is where the Nicene Creed comes from).

Nirgun-Sargun

Actually it is not only the Father and Jesus who are consubstantial, but the Holy Spirit too. This naturally begs the question as to what is the exact composition of this undivided substance/essence/nature that each of the 3-divine persons fully possesses in his own right? Now that’s a tricky question, because at the heart of it, God is “simple”, i.e. there are no parts/layers/degrees in him. Love, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence etc., these are not qualities he possesses; rather, he IS all of them perfectly. As such, really, language fails in describing him. Incidentally, when Moses asked God his name, the reply that came from the ‘burning bush’ was “I am who I am”. This further indicates that he is above and beyond description. So if we are attempting to describe God, it is probably safest to say “God IS” and leave the sentence incomplete. The Sikhs’ Nirgun-Sargun concept of God (having no attributes but is all the attributes) is somewhat similar.

Consubstantial with us

There is one more context in which it is found to occur. The fourth ecumenical council, at Chalcedon, 451, combating the Monophysite heresy that sought to deny Christ’s humanity, affirmed that Christ is consubstantial with the Father as to his divinity and consubstantial with us as to his humanity. They said that he simultaneously holds two natures, the divine and the human, “without any confusion, change, division or separation”. Puzzling? Well, that’s only to be expected, for “the hidden wisdom of God … is beyond the mind of man”!
Question:
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Answer:

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The meet was presided over by KMS Director Fr. Benny, Asst. Director Fr. Joemon, KMS Animator Sr. Joyce and KMS Executives.

Message by KMS Animator Sr. Joyce

Over 400 members were present for the meet Kalyan Mathrusangam conducted Forane and Parish Executives meet on Sunday 30th June 2019 at Animation and Renewal Centre, Panvel. The meet was presided over by KMS Director Rev. Fr. Benny, KMS Asst. Director Rev. Fr. Joemon Kurisingal, KMS Animator Sr. Joice and KMS Executive members. Around 400 Executives from different parishes attended the function.

Almanah meet will be held in the five regions of Kalyan Diocese in the month of July 2019 – November 2019. The meetings will be held as per the following schedule:-

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<tr>
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Announcements and guidelines by KMS Director Fr. Benny

KMS Anthem by the Executives

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Humble, patient, loving and kind, your equals on earth are hard to find Deep in our hearts you’ll always stay, loved and remembered everyday.

Deeply missed and fondly remembered by Wife, Son & Daughter-in-law, Daughters & Sons-in-law, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Family, Relatives & Friends

P.K. PAUL
Bandra (East)
Date of Birth: 30.04.1926
Date of eternal abode: 10.08.2017
Kalyan Mathrusangam conducted Forane and Parish Executives meet on Sunday 30th June 2019 at Animation and Renewal Centre, Panvel. The meet was presided over by KMS Director Rev. Fr. Benny, KMS Asst. Director Rev. Fr. Joemon Kurisingal, KMS Animator Sr. Joyce and KMS Executive members. Around 400 Executives from different parishes attended the function.

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Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness... carried up into heaven, she is the mother and queen of all creation. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (Luke 2:19, 51) and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom. (Pope Francis, Laudato si, No. 241)
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# FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**SEPTEMBER 01 TO 08, 2019**

**AT MOTHER OF VICTORY SHRINE, TIKUJIWINWADI**

## FESTAL SERVICES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Rosary, Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Marathi)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
</tr>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
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<td>Sept 5</td>
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<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
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<td>Sept 6</td>
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<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
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<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
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<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (English)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Rosary at Grotto (Malayalam)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena, Adoration (Malayalam)</td>
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## September 08 (SUNDAY) FEAST DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Solemn Holy Mass, Novena, Ledinju (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Novena, Litany, Adoration (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Mass, Novena (Malayalam)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We cordially invite you to seek divine intercession and offer our gratitude for the blessings received through our Holy Mother.

There will be Special Prayers & Adoration for Childless Couples everyday. Send us, names of the childless couples at the below given phone numbers. We will be specially praying for them during these days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Biju Kollamkunnel</td>
<td>Mob: 7021 083 867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Fibin Kanjiraparambil</td>
<td>Mob: 9400812654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Tomy Thomas</td>
<td>Mob: 9820 482 788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. James Sebastian</td>
<td>Mob: 9920 363 839</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Festal Greetings
To All Our Parish Priest

ST. JOHN MARIA VIANNEY
Patron of Parish Priests
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