

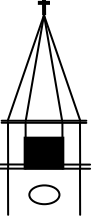


# THE CHURCHMAN

**THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**  
**ST. MARY'S CHURCH (C.N.I.), 1A Sholapur Road, Pune - 411001**

Presbyter-in-charge: *The Revd. Sumesh Jacob*

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Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

As the Calendar Year 2013 begins I wish for each of you God's blessings on your personal lives and families and on all your endeavours. I pray the priestly blessing that Aaron and his sons blessed the people of Israel with: "May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace" (Numbers 6:24-26—New Living Translation version).

This year the Epiphany of our Lord of 6<sup>th</sup> January falls on a Sunday and so we will close our celebration of Christmas by observing this festival at our 8 am. and 6 pm. worship services. On the following Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of the month we shall focus our meditation on the event of the Baptism of our Lord when he was revealed as the Son of God (we move from the event of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem to this event 30 years later at the Jordan River). January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> is traditionally the 8-day period when the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' or 'Unity Octave' is observed. The Sunday in this period is specially set aside to remind ourselves to consciously strive for the fulfilling of the prayer of our Lord that all those who believe in him may be one so that the world may believe that he is sent by the Father (Jn. 17:21). We will observe Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month as Christian Unity (Ecumenism) Sunday in our church worship services. The Sunday after which is Septuagesima, 27<sup>th</sup> of the month, begins the counting of the Sundays before Easter as Easter Day this year is early, 31<sup>st</sup> March (the 3 Sundays before Ash Wednesday are known as Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima marking the seventieth, sixtieth and fiftieth approximate days respectively before Easter). We will observe this day as Leprosy Mission Sunday as we pray for individuals and families who are affected by not only leprosy but also other diseases like cancer, HIV & AIDS, TB, etc and for those who help them. We will not only pray but will also seek to be more sensitive to these who suffer and are discriminated. On this Sunday we will also financially support the ministry of The Leprosy Mission by taking up a retiring collection at the end of the worship services.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> we shall specially observe our country's Republic Day at the 7.30 am. Morning Worship Service and thereafter we shall hoist our national flag in the church premises. Our country and society needs more prayer than ever before and so let us come together on this occasion for this purpose.

May the Lord bless us all as we enter into a new calendar year and continue our journey of faith with him in our daily living in this world. May our faith make a difference to our lives and through our lives to others until we rest at the feet of Jesus with all those who've gone this way before us. God bless you.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob

*Presbyter-in-charge*



*Wishing each one of you and your loved ones, a Very Happy and  
 Blessed 2013!!!*

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 MonaliGhatge, Neelima Mehta, Jeevamani David, Kareena Rogers, PankajWadhwa, Michael Wilson Jr., Rev. Baburao Apte.
- 2 AshwinPillay.
- 3 Viraj Kale, Sangeeta Kadam , Daniel Nichodemus, Leah Singh
- 5 Rebecca Jason, Melanie Lobo, Eva Pawar, Victoria Robins.
- 6 Daphne Peters (Bhatti), Sampath Raj.
- 7 Lynda O'Connor, Rebecca Dhillon.
- 8 Natasha Joseph, Vinay Jadhav, Samuel Paul, Ashish Salvi.
- 10 PramodAsulekar , Arlenejill Parmar, RajdeepAbhane, Kevin Chatterjee, Nayana Phase.
- 11 PriyaPatole, Stuti Patole, Christina David, Tushar Sockey.
- 12 Suresh Chandanshiv.
- 13 Mark Billimoria.
- 15 Dr. Sharad Ramdas, Maj. P.L. Simon.
- 16 Caroline Nicholls, Gail Chowdhary.
- 17 Maj. Manikraj.
- 18 Vidyasagar Chopde, Anand Peter, Aruna Shah.
- 19 Deepak Laxmikanth.
- 20 Mark Chatterjee.
- 21 Queenmary James, Nitin Joel, Sheetal Ohol, Rashmi Rogers.
- 22 Stephan Cyril.
- 24 Joshua Ranbhise, Suresh Shelke.
- 25 SunitaTopno, Marysa Edwin, Vineeta Rawani.
- 26 Sunila Kashinath, Ripple Mephrath, Veena Ledley.
- 27 BessNavomoney, Leena Salvi, Shirley Waikar.
- 28 Deepan Gaikwad.
- 29 Alice Barrow, Asha Dhillon, Rajdoot Abhane.
- 30 Neena Das Gupta, Ronjit Dhillon, Ajay Sathe, Rupa Salve, Elveera Swami Milind Noel.
- 31 Rahul Gaikwad, George Mathews, Priyanka Salvi.

***Wishing you all a very Happy Birthday! God Bless!***

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Robin & Corrine Singh.
- 2 Boland & Lorna Roberts.
- 3 Alistair & Michelle Freese.
- 4 Esther & Robert Lobo.
- 5 Frank & Valerie Freese  
S. Abraham & Dr. Vimla Abraham.
- 6 Devdutt & Rohini Sathe,  
Rajesh & Neelam Gaikwad.
- 7 Sachi & Shilpa Sagalgile.
- 8 Moses & Lata Devappa.
- 10 Rev. Sumesh & Joyce Jacob,  
Rev.Dennis & Shirley Lal.
- 14 Anosh & Anita Rogers.
- 17 Maj. Manikraj & Beulah, Sandeep & Rebecca Sapre, Veeraswamy Anthony & Angela.
- 19 Ritesh & Aruna Shah, Rajendra & Chitra Apte.
- 22 John & Jessie Amalraj.
- 24 Ajay &Utkarsha Ranbhise.
- 28 Ashish & Proshila Patro.

***Wishing you all a Long and Happy Married Life!***



### WEDDING BELLS!!

The bells at St. Mary's pealed when **GRACE KIRAN DAHITULE** tied the knot with **VISHAL PANDIT** , on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 **and when** **ANOSH CHOUDHARI**, was joined in holy wedlock to **JAYES M. JOY** on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2012

***May the Almighty bless both these couples, as they begin a new life!!!***



### BAPTISMS!

**RACHEL**, daughter of **RAJESH & ESTHER DAVID** and **ANTRA**, daughter of **ANITA & PRAVID KHAPARDE**, were baptized in our church, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012

**RAYMOND**, son of **JONATHAN & SHAYNE YARDI**, was baptized on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012!

*Let us remember these little children in our prayers, as we welcome them to the family of Christ!*

***Be at war with your vices; at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.***

*Benjamin Franklin*

## OBITUARY

**CYRIL BENJAMIN MANAKKAL**, who had been unwell for a long time, went to be with the Lord on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**M.J. MATHEW**, a retired professor of the NDA, went to his heavenly abode, after a short period of illness, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. The funeral was held on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

*Let us uphold the families of these members, in our prayers. May He grant them consolation and strength!*

### Sunday Worship Services Schedule for January 2013

Date	Worship Services	
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Second Sunday after Christmas/The Epiphany of our Lord</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The coming of the wise men from the east is a sign that Christ is for all peoples of the earth.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Isaiah 60.1-6</i> Psalm: <i>72.1-2,8-14</i> Epistle: <i>Ephesians 3.1-12</i> Gospel: <i>Matthew 2.1-12</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service (Holy Communion) Conducting and Preaching by the Clergy.	
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Third Sunday after Christmas/The Baptism of Jesus</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>At his baptism Jesus is revealed as the Son of God.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Isaiah 42.1-7</i> Psalm: <i>2.1-8</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Acts 8.26-39</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 3.15-22</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Fourth Sunday after Christmas</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Christian Unity (Ecumenism) Sunday	Old Testament: <i>2 Chronicles 30.1-12</i> Psalm: <i>133</i> Epistle: <i>Philippians 2.1-11</i> Gospel: <i>John 17.20-24</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Ninth Sunday before Easter (Septuagesima)</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>God suffers in all those who suffer in this world.</i> Leprosy Mission Sunday	Old Testament: <i>2 Kings 5.1-14</i> Psalm: <i>123</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Acts 5.12-16</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 1.40-45</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	

Humour!!!

Humour!!!

Humour!!!

*These are some BLOOPERS which actually appeared in church notices/bulletins ☺*

- The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon this evening: Searching for Jesus
- Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.
- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals...
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you...

*This article was written by Revd. Sumesh Jacob at the request of the Rt. Revd. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Poona for their Diocese magazine 'Diocesan Life' January 2013 issue on the occasion of the Unity Octave this month*

### **ECUMENISM – MANIFESTING TRUE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

The term Ecumenism is derived from the Greek word *oikoumene* which means 'the whole inhabited world' and was used in the context of the Roman Empire. The root Greek word is *oikos* which means 'house' and therefore ecumenism refers to the aim of promoting Christian unity in the household of Christ, which is the Church made up of Christians throughout the world. Over the 20 centuries of Christianity, churches have been separated by doctrine, history and practice and ecumenism has been a movement of various church bodies praying and working towards greater Christian unity and cooperation. Ecumenical initiatives have existed from the time of the Early Church and also the generations that followed with the holding of Ecumenical or General Councils. The modern Ecumenical Movement is for the purpose of improving the Church's mission to the world and the obligation to be 'one'.

Just as there are various opinions regarding Christian faith and practice and therefore the different church bodies and Christian denominations, there is also diverse understanding of the meaning of ecumenism. As a result the efforts of ecumenism have succeeded in some places and times while in others they have failed but the endeavour continues. The challenge to the movement of ecumenism continues to be the perspective that a church body holds about themselves and their relation to other Christians outside of their structure and very often the perspective is shaped by their historical and traditional background. There is often the tendency of one to have a sense of superiority over the other because as human beings we always find our identity and security in that which is familiar to us and we feel vulnerable and uncomfortable to step out of our comfort zones. As a result even in the efforts of ecumenism many a times Christian brothers and sisters from different traditions approach each other not as equals but with a sense that one holds to the true faith and tradition of the Church better than the other. Further there is the attitude that the other needs to conform to our way because we think our way is the only right way.

This is a sense of competition to be greater just like the way it existed among the Twelve apostles during the time of our Lord's earthly ministry. Our Lord had to correct them by teaching them through a child on who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God—the one who is insignificant and humble (Mark 9:33-37). Just before our Lord Jesus went to his passion and death on the cross he prayed with the Twelve apostles, praying for them and for future disciples who would believe through them; he prayed that they would be one just as he and the Father are one so that the world may believe that the Father has sent him (John 17:11, 20-23). Jesus prayed for the unity of all those who believe and follow him on the basis of the unity that he shares with the Father in the God-head. Misunderstanding about the nature of Christian unity to be uniformity occurs because of a misunderstanding about the nature of the unity between the Father and the Son. It is important to understand that whenever Jesus said that he and the Father are one (e.g. John 10:30) he never meant that they are one person but that they are two distinct persons who are one in essence, power and quality and yet both are God (the Greek word used is *hen* and not *heis*). Therefore, Jesus also said that the Father is greater than I (e.g. John 14:28) and greater than all (John 10:29). On the basis of this unity of the Father and the Son, Christians are meant to be one not necessarily in uniformity but certainly in manifesting true community, as equals although being different.

The Apostle Paul referring to this equality and unity between God the Father and his Son Jesus appeals to the Church at Philippi to adopt the attitude which was in Jesus that although he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling onto but gave up his divine privileges and took the humble position of a slave and was born a human being and in human form he was obedient to the death on the cross. Therefore we are to humbly consider our fellow Christians to be better than ourselves and to look the interest of the other (Philippians 2:3-8). This is the very essence of what the Holy Father Pope John Paul II mentioned regarding Christian Unity in his encyclical 'Ut Unum Sint' of 25<sup>th</sup> May 1995 where he mentioned that "...there can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart." The Late Rt. Revd. Oliver Tomkins who was a former Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Bristol, UK and a leading activist in the ecumenical movement wrote a prayer on Christian Unity: "Lord Christ, you are praying for us still: that we may be one that the world may believe, that we may be sanctified in your word which is truth, that we may share your glory which is

your cross. Teach us how to die with you, that with you we may find new life, in union with your Father and so with each other. O Christ, very God and very Man, we adore you in one another; we praise you that in every fellow Christian you are manifest, a living sacrament of your Real Presence.”

Ecumenism is the paying of the the price of union with fellow Christians and when we do that God cleanses us in the process. It is the allowing of the Holy Spirit to conform us to the will of the Father and by this the Son truly draws us together. Christian unity is not uniformity but the manifesting of true community.

### **New Year Prayer**

*(Written by Billy Graham for the Saturday Evening Post -2008)*

**Our Father and our God**, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life’s uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life’s inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life’s temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: “Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end” (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and centre of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

*Amen*

*Contributed by: Ashish Das Gupta*

***Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will.***

Jawaharlal Nehru

### **Not a Mongrel**

*(Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)*

Perhaps some of the apparently cruelest words uttered by Jesus were these "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." (Mat.15:26).

Strange as it may seem, it was not as shocking to the woman from Canaan to whom these words were addressed as it is to us since the Gentiles were despised by the Jews and were accustomed to being treated with contempt by them.

We are familiar with the background of this scenario: Jesus was on his way to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He was requested to help the ailing daughter of the woman of Canaan and He responded by uttering these apparently cruel words. What was unusual was the response of the Greek woman – "I don't care what you call me as long as you heal my daughter and anyway I am not a stray dog. I may not have the privilege of being your daughter, but I am a part of your household. I am a puppy dog who lies at your feet and eats the crumbs from off your table. I know your power is so great that even if you don't give me a full meal, the crumbs that fall from your table will do".

Anybody who has ever had a dog knows that the dog gets a great deal more than just the crumbs that falls off the children's table - a great deal of petting and pampering and the choicest of food!

By turning our Lord's apparently cruel words into a caress, she earned for herself eternal fame. Not only has her story been embedded in the Word of God, but we remember her every time we partake of the Holy Communion and say the prayer of humble access – "we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under thy table ..."

By her response, the woman from Canaan not only affirmed her faith in Jesus, but also her great love for her daughter and her humility.

Ah! The sheer luxury of looking up adoringly into the Master's face and informing Him with the utmost confidence that He cannot chase us away as stray dogs, since we are not mongrels but pets of His household and hence we are entitled to the crumbs from under His table!

*- Contributed by: Dr. (Mrs.) Vimla Abraham*

### **WISE WORDS**

A well-known speaker started off his seminar holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it...?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We may feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him who CREATED you and those who LOVE you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE.

You are special-Don't EVER forget it and remember to count your blessings, not your problems.

### **READY FOR TAKEOFF – FLIGHT 2013!**

Good Day and welcome to Flight 2013.

We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in, in the upright position.

All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time.

All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away.

Should we lose altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down on Positive thinking!

Positive thoughts will automatically be activated.

Once activated you can assist other passengers.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

The Captain has cleared us for takeoff --

Destination - GREATNESS