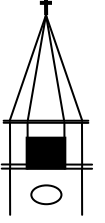




THE CHURCHMAN



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
Office: 020-26361207; 020-64013534, Mobile: 9011530827, Email: sumeshjacob@gmail.com

Assistant Presbyter: The Revd. K. Lalthlanpuia
Mobile: 7588328001 Email: thlanpuia@rediffmail.com

Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

The Season of Pentecost continues and as I have mentioned before it is the season for our spiritual growth. Our lives may be lived in the mundane routine of daily living but in and through the ordinary, God works the extraordinary. To see this we need the eyes of faith and for our vision of faith to be strong we need God's showers of blessing for our souls. This phenomenon of the spiritual life is easily understood by us when we observe the same in the natural life. For nature to be sustained and fresh the blessing of rain is needed and when it is received then we can see the green so rich and beautiful. The hillocks in Pune before the rains look so dry and dead but they come alive with green grass and small trees growing all over them once the rains begin. Our inner person also requires to receive spiritual rain for it to be renewed and refreshed just as all nature longs for rain. We need God's nurture of our souls so as to not only face the stress and challenges of daily life but also in them to experience his presence with us and his working in our lives.

Therefore, the Church calls her members in this season to draw closer to our Lord through personal and congregational worship. Our spiritual refreshing and growth comes through times of praise, prayer and Scripture because by them our faith is deepened and strengthened. This is a daily and personal call to find time with the Lord in the busyness of life. At the same time it is a call for regular time with the Lord with other believers on Sundays and other times whenever possible because through the Ministry of the word of God and the sacrament our souls are nourished in a unique way which is not possible otherwise. Partaking with others at the Table of the Lord in the Holy Communion outwardly symbolizes the inner need for our continued dependence on God for his grace so as to remain in spiritual union with Christ, for receiving his continued forgiveness for our sins and it is the means of continued belonging to all others in the Church and feeding on the spiritual food. All of this is our way of working with God to make sure our salvation which is given as a free gift from him. This is what the Apostle Paul exhorted (Phil. 2:12) and the Author of the Epistle of Hebrews warns us not to neglect (Heb. 10:25).

This month on July 3rd our church completes 187 years of its existence and we shall be having a special thanksgiving service at 6.30 pm. on that day. I request all those who worship at St. Mary's to join us for this worship service as well as the fellowship dinner thereafter. July 22nd of the Church Calendar is when we remember specially and give thanks to God for the devotion of Mary Magdalene. It falls on a Sunday and we shall be observing the same that day at our 8 am and 6 pm. worship services. The Contemporary Worship Service continues regularly at 11 am. on Sundays. Please see the detailed schedule of worship services given in the newsletter.

Speaking about rain, we need to pray for our country to receive sufficient rainfall this year otherwise the consequences are great such as the failure of crops which then affects not just the rural but also the urban and even at times the loss of human lives as farmers in terrible despair commit suicide. I came across a prayer for rain which I would like to share with you for you to pray:

O God, in whom we live, move and have our being. We praise you for the gift of creation. We thank you for the rain that has fallen and ask that you continue to grant us sufficient rain to nourish our crops and fill our reservoirs so that those who need water for their livelihood and daily living will have it in abundance. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the Living Water for all. Amen.

May we have a blessed month ahead as we give thanks to God for our church and for our spiritual nurture and let us make every effort to grow more in spiritual maturity.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob
 Presbyter-in-charge

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Edward Robert Wood.
- 2 Rajesh Silimkar.
- 3 Vandana Tiwari.
- 4 Violet Devappa, Jeena Peters, Rev. Dr. Jagat Santaram, Shreya Sapaliga, maygen Ann Young.
- 5 Tripti Bhonsle, Rev. Sumesh Jacob, Nirmala Raj, Aaron Veeraswamy, Trpti Banejwadkar.
- 6 Ashok Kotak, Abhishekh Sathe.
- 7 Sagar Gaikwad, Sony Kedar, Parag Londhe, Wg. Cdr. (Retd) Amol Patro, Renin Meprath, Abhijeet Pise.
- 8 Sangeeta Kadam, Wendy, O'Berne, Sugandhi Anchan.
- 9 Rahul Chandanshiv.
- 10 Chandani Meprath.
- 12 Sharad Bhalerao, Shashirekha Kotak.
- 13 Anil Farande, Ashlesha Onawale.
- 14 Satyavijay Ranshoor, Rohit Rajan.
- 15 Sudhakar Jadhav, Rhoda Kukarni, Magdelene Thomas, Prashansa Shinde, Esther Shinde.
- 17 Akshay Sonawane.
- 18 Chetan Gujar, Ashish Patro.
- 19 Sudhir Jadhav, Rosalyn Paul.
- 20 Andre Morris, Christopher Morris, Chanda Pandkar, Sanaaya Rawani, Alfred Santram.
- 21 Priyanka Roy.
- 22 Manish Anjan, Renin Meprath, Abishekh Benjamine, Gianna Mabel.
- 23 Mayura Barse, Varunika Patro, Anugrah Bhagwat.
- 24 Brig (Retd) Janet Dean, Rev. Vijayanad Salve.
- 25 Vijaya Sapre, Kuldip Sing, Rebecca Sapre.
- 26 Aishwarya Rao, Anjana Salve.
- 27 Rhea Anchan, Richa Anchan, Cynthia Khilare, K. Prabhakar, Sophiya Khilare,
- 28 Alok Sonawane.
- 29 Sampat Kumar David, Sophya Khilare.
- 30 Manish Farande.
- 31 Abiezer Jadhav.

AUGUST

- 1 Joshua Angre, Seema Sathe, Brandon Turner.
- 2 Sharad Tribhuvan, Rohit Sachdev.
- 3 Dheera Das, Shravani Eduljee, Manjusha Londhe, Annettejarvis Parmar, Angela Veeraswamy.
- 4 Ratnaprabha (Apte) Awale.

Wish you all a Very Happy Birthday! May God Bless you!!!

Humour!

Blooper in a Church Bulletin:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' **The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Gp. Capt. Joseph & Shanti Jason, Cdr.K.K. Menon & Hira Memon.
- 10 George & Manisha Michael.
- 21 Abhijeet & Priyanka Roy.
- 26 Suci & Diwakar Majrekar.
- 27 Brig(Retd) Vijaykant & Neeta Pardhe.
- 31 Anupam & Abigale Johnson, Francis & Shikha Singh.

A very happy Anniversary to you all!!!

Special Days in the Church Calendar

- 2 July – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 July – Ziegenbalg & Pluetschua – Evangelists to South India
- 13 July – Day of Silas the Evangelist, Companion of Paul
- 22 July – Mary Magdalene
- 23 July – Lal Behari Dey – Convert & Educationist. Baptized in 1843
- 25 July – James, Apostle & Martyr
- 29 July – Martha & Mary of Bethany
- 31 July – Ignatius Loyola – Monk & Evangelist

Organ Restoration

The Pipe Organ in our Church is the **2nd oldest surviving organ** amongst those made in England & exported to India. It reached Poona in **1856!**

The organ needs a total restoration and overhaul service to bring it back to its former glory! The cost involved is Rs. 30 lakhs and the Organ Restoration Sub-Committee is leaving no stone unturned to try and collect this large amount!

We therefore, appeal to each one of you to donate generously towards this Fund. Please hand it your donations in cash, or cheques drawn in favour of '**St. Mary's Church**', indicating that it is for the Organ Restoration Fund or send it directly to **Indian Bank, Savings Bank A/c No: 6042968286.**

Sunday Worship Services Schedule for July 2012

Date	Worship Services	
Sunday, 1 st July <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The authority of Christ's messengers is based on their living contact with him.</i>	Old Testament: <i>1 Kings 19.19-21</i> Psalm: <i>65.4-8</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>Acts 4.13-22</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 3.7-19</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service (Holy Communion) Conducting and Preaching by the Clergy.	
Sunday, 8 th July <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The spiritual peril of denying the truth of God.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Jeremiah 18.18-22</i> Psalm: <i>35.11-18</i> Epistle: <i>Hebrews 10.26-36</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 3.20-30</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 15 th July <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>From very small beginnings God produces great results.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Haggai 2.1-9</i> Psalm: <i>131</i> Epistle: <i>1 Corinthians 1.26—2.5</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 4.26-34</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 22 nd July <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>Thanksgiving for the example of devotion shown by Mary Magdalene.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Zephaniah 3.14-20</i> Psalm: <i>62.1-6</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 5.14-19</i> Gospel: <i>John 20.10-18</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 29 th July <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>Bearing witness to the healing mercy of God.</i>	Old Testament: <i>2 Kings 5.9-19a</i> Psalm: <i>71.14-24</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>Acts 9.17-22</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 5.1-20</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	

OBITUARY

Rahul Uzgare, passed away suddenly on 12 June 2012, leaving behind his shocked parents, wife and two sons aged: 12 & 10 He was in his 30s!.

Rahul, though not a member of our Church, or a Christian, was very closely related to it, for over the last 10 years. He was the florist who did all the flower arrangements for Christmas, New Year, Easter, the Church Anniversary and any other special occasions or functions in the Church.

He never charged the Church anything for his work – always saying that our Lord had repaid him manifold in the form of blessings, for what he termed as a small gesture for His glory!

May our Lord grant peace and comfort to the bereaved family!!!!

A Church of my Dreams by John Moore

“The Church of the warm heart;
Of the open mind; Of the adventurous spirit;
The church that cares, That heals hurts;
That comforts old people, And challenges the youth;

That knows no divisions of culture or class;
No frontiers, geographical or social;
The church that enquires , as well as answers;

That looks forward , as well as backward;
The church of the Master, The church of the people;
High as the ideals of Jesus, Low as the humblest
human.

A working church; A worshipping church; A winsome
church;

A church that interprets the Truth in terms of the
truth that inspires courage for this life’
And hope for the life to come;

A church of courage ,
A church of all good men and women
A church of the living God”

- Contributed by Ms. Tara Pathak on the occasion of
Rev. D.S. Pathak’s birth anniversary on 7 July! This
was one of his favourite poems!

Who Is In Your Wallet?

A ticket collector found a worn out wallet in a
compartment full of many people. He looked inside
to find the name of its owner. There was no clue. All
that there was in it, was some money and a picture
of Jesus Christ. He held it up and asked, ‘Who does
this wallet belong to?’

An old man said, ‘That’s my wallet, please give it to
me.’ The ticket collector said, ‘You’ll have to prove
that it is yours. Only then I can hand it over to you.’
The old man smiled a toothless smile and said. ‘It
has a picture of Jesus Christ in it.’ The ticket
collector said, ‘That is no proof; anyone can have a
picture of Jesus Christ in his wallet. What is special
about that? Why is your picture not there in it?’

The old man took a deep breath and said, ‘Let me
tell you why my picture is not there in it. My father
gave this wallet to me when I was in school. I used
to get a small sum as pocket money then. I had kept
a picture of my parents in it.

When I was a teenager I was greatly enamoured by
my good looks. I removed my parent’s picture and
put in, one of my own. I loved to see my own face
and my thick black hair. Some years later, I got
married. My wife was very beautiful and I loved her a
lot. I replaced my own picture in this wallet with a
picture of her. I spent hours gazing at her pretty
face.

When my first child was born, my life started a new chapter. I shortened my working hours, to play with my baby. I went late to work and returned home early too. Obviously, my baby’s picture occupied the prized position in my wallet.’

The old man’s eyes brimmed with tears as he went on.. ‘My parents passed away many years ago. Last year my wife too left her mortal coil. My son, my only son is too busy with his family. He has no time to look after me. All that I had ever held close to my heart is far, far away from my reach now.

Now I have put this picture of Jesus Christ in my wallet. It is only now that I have realized that He is the eternal companion. He will never leave me. Alas! If only I had realized this before. If only I had loved the Lord all these years, with the same intensity as I loved my family, I would not have been so lonely today!’

The collector quietly gave the wallet to the old man. When the train stopped at the next station, the ticket collector went to the book stall at the platform and asked the salesman, ‘Please give me a small picture of Jesus Christ? I need one to put in my wallet!’

The Question we need to ask is where is Jesus in our lives today? Think about it, because it could make a difference to your life today and in the days to come!

Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don’t worry; God never blinks.