



THE CHURCHMAN

THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

This year the Season of Lent has begun rather early, at the end of last month and it continues through this entire month till Easter in the beginning of April. This season is for us to spiritually prepare for the Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord. To spiritually prepare is to take this opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our Lord and to deepen our discipleship of him. We are called to know him, love him and to serve him more and more and this can happen only when we confess and ask for forgiveness for the sins of the past, *turning away* from them and commit and seek for renewal in our faith for the future, *turning to* God for his help. This in other words is repentance (turning around/a U-turn). This is emphasized by Robert Smith when he says, "True repentance has a double aspect: it looks upon things past with a weeping eye, and upon the future with a watchful eye." Repentance is not a comfortable thought and in the Christianity of the 21st century this is something not very popular. But this is the very essence of Lent and this is precisely what is expected of the Christian not only during the Lent Season but throughout the journey of faith in one's lifetime. A saying goes that if we put off repentance for another day, we have a day more to repent of and a day less to repent in.

Now this may seem like we aren't moving ahead in our faithfulness to God and so we keep on repenting for the wrong in our lives. It seems like an excuse to continue sinning. This is not at all the case and I would like to explain this with the words of an author of a 40-day devotion book that I'm reading at present. He writes, "When I was a choir-boy, it used to baffle me that we always began our services by telling God how sinful we were. Then we would say how sorry this made us, and after that we would all be told that God forgave us. Fair enough, I supposed. But next week we were all back saying exactly the same thing again. Didn't we ever get any better? I remember our vicar explaining to me that the nearer you came to God the more aware you were of how 'unclean' your life was. So when we came to church to worship God—to 'stand in his presence', as we say—it was more than ever necessary to admit our fault and ask to be made clean. As he put it, 'You wouldn't barge into dinner with the King of Windsor Castle with dirty hands, now would you?'" (Forty Days with the Messiah by David Winter).

The three pillars as lived out acts of worship to God in Judaism are helping those who are needy, prayer and reading the word of God, and fasting. These are helpful to us too in our devotion to God and many Christians focus upon these during this season of drawing closer to God. However, Jesus taught that they are only helpful if done in the right manner and right attitude which is in secrecy, sincerity and simplicity because these are acts of worship to God and not acts to be done so as to seek 'worship' from others, like the scribes and the Pharisees of Jesus' time (Matt. 6:1-6,16-18). If we do them as Jesus taught then he promised our reward to be from God himself in eternity. Otherwise our reward will be merely from human beings of their appreciation of our piety and only here on earth.

May the Season of Lent this year be more meaningful for each of us than the one observed the year before. May repentance be the core of our journey through this season bringing us truly closer to God in such a way that our spiritual hunger and thirst for him would not be limited to Lent but through all the year, all our lifetime. During this month let us specially remember in prayer the children of our congregation who are appearing for their Board Examinations. God bless you this coming month.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob

Presbyter-in-charge

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ramona Steiner; Abhishek Prabhakar; Aryan Sathe; Mahikaa Gangle; Anuj Ismail; Rachel Gangale
- 2 Dinesh Anchan; Ryan Gaekwad; Rini Jacob
- 3 Sunanda Dahitule; Jonathan Nerella; J. Beulah Manickaraj
- 4 Sheila Satpalkar; Manas Patra; Sarah Parkhe
- 5 Vasanti Anchan; Smriti Banijwadkar; Enoch Patole; Vikram Jacob; Yohann Ajinkya Panhalkar; Mandhira Miranada
- 6 Dennis Massey; Emmanuel Rathod; Sudhir Das Gupta; Col Reuben Peters
- 7 Mandakini Thomas; Daniel Devraj; Jonathan Nerella
- 8 Selina Jadhav; Prerna Unni
- 9 Rt. Rev. Vijay Sathe; Pamela Wood; Sejal Sathe; George Smith; Varun Lahori; Eric Webster; Annie Daulat
- 10 Brenda Morton; Nina Laxmikant; Jacqueline Forrester; Shanaz Gandhi; Smita Ingle; Shreya Hiwale; Robin Yardi
- 11 Asha Ranshoor
- 12 Rekha Pathak; Grace Williams; Tanya Prabhat Bist; Cecil Joel; Siddharth Mathur.
- 13 Sameer Londhe; Sheeba Peters; Neville Sharif; Debra Tiwari
- 14 Sunanda Torne; Siddharth De
- 15 Sharon D'Rozario; Vivek Abhane; Roney Anchan; Rodney Anchan; Shalu Bhatti
- 16 Priya Tribhuwan; Doris Peter
- 17 Leena Rao ; Pamela Nicholas
- 18 Robin Singh; Azariah Dason;
- 19 Debra Pereira
- 20 Bella Sharif; Shawn Daniel Devraj; Ananya Jadhav
- 21 Stephanie Torne; Neeta Benjamin; Jamshid Yarahmadi
- 22 Phoolmani Banijwadkar; Vinod Kulkarni; Sumanth Nerella; Apurva Waghmare
- 23 Vijay Kadam; Anthony Veeraswamy; Romel Joseph ; Syna Tribhuwan
- 24 Ritesh Shah; Swati Singh; Swati Nichols;
- 25 Anita Salve; Sophiya Paul;
- 26 Gordon Navamoney; Esther Lobo; Wg. Cdr. Walter Marshall; Anosh Choudhari; Stephen Fernandes; Priyanka Roy
- 27 Sunita Shantappa; Esther Victor; Ramesh Kumar Rajendra Apte
- 28 Sushma Gaekwad; Veronica Patole; Manik Chandanshiv; Rakesh Kashinath; Shrirang David
- 29 Aleta Chakranarayan; Ravi Ghodke; Reena Gaikwad; Ashwini Chandanshiv
- 30 Saeeda Joel; Reuben Prince Paul; Sanket Farande; Diwakar Manjarekar;

Wishing you all a very Happy Birthday!

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Ashwin & Kavidha Pillai
- 3 Rajesh & Pallavi Makasare
- 8 Kranti & Vandana Tiwari
- 12 Maj. Gen. Farhat & Nirmala Bhatt
- 14 Pankaj & Aneesha Wadhwa
- 23 Ashley & Pratibha Gangle
- 30 Pritam Singh & Rebecca Dhillon

Wish you all a Long and Happy Married Life!

BAPTISM

Tiffany Mia Charles, daughter of **Michelle** and **Kenneth Dinesh** (son of Tichnor & Nandini) Charles was baptised on 11th February, 2012 in St. Mary's Church.

Let us keep Tiffany in our prayers as we welcome her into the family of Christ!

An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching.

Mahatma Gandhi

JUMBLE SALE

Our Annual Jumble Sale and Mini Fete, held on 19th February, 2012 was a great success! A number of our Church members, members from other churches and the Boarders from the Bishop's School attended and had a good time!

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank all the donors, especially the stall holders, the Bishop's School and St. Mary's School! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

They would also like to thank the Youth Fellowship for the various games stalls and their participation! Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you to all those who donated clothes and other articles for the Jumble Sale as well as all those who manned (or rather womanned) the stalls!

And finally, thank you to all of you for attending! Your presence contributed to its success!

Lenten Services are being held every **Wednesday** at **6.30 p.m.** in our Church. The theme for these services is - 'The People at the Cross'. The message is brought to us by Revds. Sumesh and Puia. Do make an effort to attend these services.

Worship Services Schedule for March 2012

Date	Worship Services	
Sunday, 4 th March <i>Fifth Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 2)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>Jesus the Messiah accepted suffering according to his Father's will, and calls his disciples to follow him.</i>	OT: <i>Exodus 3.1-12</i> Psalm: <i>109.21-31</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 11.21-31</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 8.27-35</i>
Sunday, 11 th March <i>Fourth Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 3)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The transfiguration reveals the true glory and authority of Jesus, the Son of God.</i>	OT: <i>Exodus 34.29-35</i> Psalm: <i>97.1-6,11-12</i> Epistle: <i>2 Peter 1.12-19</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 9.2-10</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service – Mr. Renshaw Dennis (Leader), Youth Fellowship (praise) & Mr. John Amalraj (preacher) Topic: <i>What on Earth am I here for? – It all starts with God.</i>	
Sunday, 18 th March <i>Third Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 4)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>True greatness is shown in humble service and self-sacrifice.</i>	OT: <i>Numbers 12.1-13</i> Psalm: <i>123</i> Epistle: <i>1 Corinthians 4.6-16</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 10.35-45</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service – Ms. Lydia Nicholas (Leader), Youth Fellowship (praise) & Mr. John Kuriakose (preacher) Topic: <i>What on Earth am I here for? – You're not an accident.</i>	
Sunday, 25 th March <i>Second Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 5)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The wisdom and power of God are most clearly revealed in the 'weakness' and 'foolishness' of the cross.</i>	OT: <i>Isaiah 44.24-28</i> Psalm: <i>31.9-18</i> Epistle: <i>1 Corinthians 1.18-25</i> Gospel: <i>Mark 12.1-12</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service – Ms. Ketki Bhalariao (Leader), Youth Fellowship (praise) & Mrs. Stella Bhagvat (preacher) Topic: <i>Why does God allow suffering?</i>	

Special Days of the Church Calendar in March 2012

- 4 March - Abdul Masih, Convert (bap. 1811)
- 7 March - Perpetua and Felicitas, Martyrs (203)
- 8 March - Thomas Aquinas, Theologian (1274)
- 12 March - Gregory the Great, Bishop & Theologian (604)
- 14 March - Nehemiah Goreh, Convert & Theologian (bap. 1848)
- 15 March - Vethappan Solomon, Evangelist (landed on Car Nicobar 1895))
- 17 March - Patrick of Ireland, Bishop & Evangelist (461)
- 18 March - Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Theologian (386)
- 21 March - Benedict, Monk (c. 550)
- 25 March - **The Annunciation of Mary**
Mathura Nath Bose, Convert&Evangelist (bap. 1865)

The Modern Antithesis of Psalm 23

The modern antithesis of Psalm 23 would go something like this: The clock is my dictator, I shall not rest. It makes me lie down only when exhausted. It leads me to deep depression. It bounds my soul. It leads me in circles of frenzy for activities sake. Even though I run frantically from task to task I'll never get it done, for my ideal is with me. Deadlines and my need for approval, they drive me. They demand performance from me beyond the limits of my schedule. They anoint my head with migraines, and my 'in-box' overflows. Surely fortune and fame pressure will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the land of frustration forever and ever.

Rev. Sumesh Jacob

A Tribute to Rev. D.S. Pathak.

Rev. D. S. Pathak closed his eyes and went to be with the Lord on 2nd February 2012 after a long and fruitful innings of 54 years of ordained ministry. We, at St. Mary's were fortunate to have him at the helm of affairs for two innings! In addition to his ministerial work, Rev. Pathak took keen interest in the choir at St. Mary's and did his best to teach the congregation some of the traditional hymns from the English Hymnal! It was his vision and endeavor to have a church newsletter – which resulted in ***The Churchman***, which he initially edited for a good many years! Unlike many of his peers, Rev. Pathak was technologically very sound and up to date with all the latest applications when it came to his computer!!!

His love for the computer and his flair for communication, saw his keeping in touch with many of his friends and acquaintances around the world! He took St. Mary's Church to them via the wide circulation of an e-copy of the Churchman!!! A couple of them have sent their tributes:

*"The sorrow of Rev. D.S. Pathak is not that of permanent loss,
But the tender sense of sadness that comes in saying good-bye for now,
To someone we loved and looked up to
May today's sorrow give way to the peace and comfort of God's eternal love!"*

- Rebecca, Pritam and Mahendra Dhillon. Toronto, Canada

"Though my family has been a part of St. Mary's Church for over 40 years, Rev. Pathak and I really connected only after I left the country nearly 15 years ago. Since then, Rev. Pathak and I have corresponded regularly, I've visited him each time I was in India, and even spent a few minutes with him at Seattle airport when he was passing through. Thanks to him, I am also one of those who is able to stay in touch with the Church through the Churchman. Based on my relationship with Rev. Pathak, my local church (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kirkland, WA) partnered with St. Mary's in raising funds towards the 175th Anniversary commemoration. I will miss interacting with Rev. Pathak and know that his absence will be greatly felt by his Church family, too"

- Ameeta Chainani, USA

A Memorial Service for Rev. Pathak was held in St. Mary's Church, Pune on Friday, 10th February, 2012. It was one of those times when the Church was packed – just goes to show how much he was loved and thought of by his flock(s)!!! This was a memorial service which could easily have been aptly termed 'a Musical Service' – something he would definitely have loved! The choirs of the Pune Musicale, St. Mary's School – the girls' and boys' and St. Mary's Church; a solo by Rev. Sumesh Jacob as well as songs of tribute from his grandchildren, his sons and daughters-in-law. A beautiful slide show and words of tribute from the family, especially a letter from his grandson who is in Russia and couldn't make it for the service, brought smiles to our lips and tears to our eyes in equal measure. Rev. Pathak had penned down a few of his thoughts while in hospital and Taramati Pathak, his sister had the privilege and honour to read his "love letter" to all those present, which highlighted the highs and lows of his life as well as his love for his family, his parishioners in the various congregations he served, and most of all his love for, and commitment to his LORD!!! If you would like to have a copy of this letter, Ms. Taramati Pathak would be happy to send you a copy. Her email id is tara.pathak@gmail.com.

" I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7. These words could very well be the words of Rev. Pathak. Let us continue to keep his family in our prayers.

God's Hands

Today is in God's hands and so are you.

His hands are strong and will uphold you; His hands are great and will enfold you;
His hands are gentle and will embrace you; His hands are protective and will cover you;
His hands are reassuring and will quiet you; His hands are powerful and will defend you;
His hands are parental and will train you; His hands are masterful and will conform you;
His hands are compassionate and will care for you; His hands are healing and will renew you;
His hands are calming and will comfort you; His hands are giving and will bless you.

The hands that hold you will never let you down.

- ***Contributed by Rev. Pathak(in December) for the Churchman***