

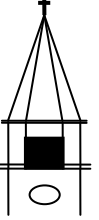


THE CHURCHMAN

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,

The Season of Lent continues into this month as we take this period in the Church Calendar as an opportunity to renew our devotion to the Lord. This happens as we take this time for introspection on our own selves and draw closer to God, bringing our struggle with evil within us to him for his healing and deliverance. The spiritual disciplines of sacrificially giving to the needy, prayer and fasting are a means to help us in our seeking spiritual strength from God so as to overcome the temptation of the world (the corruption around influencing us), the flesh (our sinful nature within) and the devil (our spiritual enemy). Jesus warns us to be careful in the way that we live out the spiritual disciplines, not as a means of self-projection but as a means of pleasing only God and thus seeking the reward that comes from the Father and storing up heavenly treasure (Matt. 6:1-21).

But even though we observe all these so as to be spiritually strengthened we must realise that our own efforts do not give us God's salvation. It is only the unmerited favour of God brought through Jesus Christ on us that gives us that quality of life which deep down in our hearts we desire and long for. Our salvation comes by the grace of God and we receive it through faith in Jesus Christ, believing who he is and what he has done for us (Eph. 2:1-10). We have true life, both sharing in the abundant life here as we live this earthly life and the eternal life hereafter in the presence of the Lord forever, by the victory of Jesus as he overcame the temptation to sin at every point throughout his life and ministry on earth. His victory over the devil during the 40 days in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:13), during the time of his public ministry, at the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46; Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46) and finally on the cross (Matt. 27:33-44; Mk. 15:22-32; Lk. 23:26-43; Jn. 19:17-24) all become our victory as we experience more and more that in our sincere struggle and perseverance against sin and evil God comes close to us by his Holy Spirit to lead us deeper into loving obedience to the Father.

As a church family we have the Lenten Self-Denial Offering tins/boxes and the Wednesday Lenten Devotions at 6.30 pm. in the church as a way to help us live out the spiritual disciplines and make the Lent Season meaningful and a blessing to our lives. As the Lord leads you please do participate in these. The last week of the month of March will be observed as Holy Week: 24th as Palm Sunday; 25th, 26th and 27th as Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week when we shall have devotional worship services at 6.30 pm. (this year since 25th falls in the Holy Week we shall not have any special observance of the Festival of the Annunciation of Mary); 28th as Maundy Thursday when we shall have the Service of Feet-washing and The Lord's Supper at 6.30 pm.; 29th as Good Friday when we shall have the 3-hour Devotional Service from 12-3 pm.; 30th as Saturday of Holy Week when we shall have the Easter Vigil Service at 6.30 pm. 31st as Easter Day and we shall have only one worship service at 8 am.

May the remaining of this year's Season of Lent be a means of blessing for our personal lives, our families and as a congregation together as we understand the meaning of observing it. May the Season of Lent be a spiritual exercise of reminding us of who we are before God and what God has so graciously done for us. As we move through this season may we gain spiritual insight about our life's faith-journey from our 'repentance for fallenness at Ash Wednesday' to the 'glory that awaits us at Easter' and that the only way is through the 'dying to ourselves at the cross of Good Friday'. God bless you.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob
 Presbyter-in-charge

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rachael Gangle, Abhishek Prabhakar, Ramona(Scott) Steiner, Anuj Ismail, Aryan Sathe.
- 2 Dinesh Anchan, Ryan Gaekwad, Rini Jacob.
- 3 Sunanda Dahitule, Beulah Manilkraj.
- 4 Amit Patro, Manas Patra, Sheila Satpalkar, Sarah Parkhe.
- 5 Smriti Banejwadkar, Vikram Jacob, Mandira Miranda, Yohaana Panhalkar, Vasanti Anchan
- 6 Dennis Massey, Monisha Jacob.
- 7 Anuj Ismail, Jonathan Nerella, Abhishek Suryawanshi.
- 8 Selina Jadhav.
- 9 Eric Webster, Varun Lahori, George Smith, Sejal Sathe, Rt. Rev. Vijay Sathe, Pamela Wood.
- 10 Jacqueline Forester, Shreya Hiwale, Nina Laxmikanth, Smita Ingale, Nupur Jacob, Robin Yardi.
- 11 Sunanda Torne, Asha Ranshoor, Myra Topno.
- 12 Tanya (Thomas) Bhist, Cecil Joel, Grace Mephrath, Rekha Pathak.
- 13 Sameer Londhe.
- 14 Ramakanth Sagalgile, Sunanda Torne.
- 15 Col. I.R. Issac (Gophne), Shalu (Peter) Bhatti, Ronney Anchaan, Rodney Anchan, Vijay Ramaniam, Sharon (Scott) D'Rozaria.
- 16 Doris Peter.
- 17 Pamela Nicholas, Rupendra Salve.
- 18 Robin Singh.
- 19 Debra Ann Pereira, Aditya Apte.
- 20 Shayne Yardi.
- 21 Steffi Torne.
- 22 Vinod Kulkarni, Sumanth Nerella, Apurv Waghmare, Phoolmani Banejwadkar, Lily Jacob.
- 23 Veeraswamy Anthony, Vijay Kadam.
- 24 Ritesh Shah.
- 25 Raju Bhagwat, Anita Salvi, Sophiya Paul, Elizabeth Patole.
- 26 Anosh Choudhary, Stephen Fernandes, Esther Lobo, Wg. Cmd (Retd) Walter Marshall, Gordon Navomoney.
- 27 Rajendra Apte, Ramesh Kumar., Arti Charles
- 28 Mank Chandanshiv, Ananya Jadhav, Rakesh Kashinath, Sushma Gaekwad, Veronica Patole.
- 29 Aleta Chakranarayan, Ashwin Chandanshiv, Ravi Ghodke, Reena Gaikwad.
- 30 Sanket Farande, Saeeda Joel, Diwakar Majerekar.

Wishing you all a very Happy Birthday! God Bless!

For those of you who would like to continue staying in touch with Rev. K. Lalthlanpuia, his Email remains the same i.e. thlanpuia@rediffmail.com and his new mobile number is - **08415841681**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Kranti & Vandana Tiwari.
- 12 Farhat & Nirmala Bhatti.
- 14 Aneesha & Pankaj Wadhwa.
- 23 Ashley & Pratibha Gangle.
- 30 Rebecca & Pritamsingh Dhillon.

Wishing you all a Long and Happy Married Life!

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Special Days of the Church Calendar in March 2013

- 1 March - *World Day of Prayer*
- 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
- 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)
- 28 March - *Maundy Thursday*
- 29 March - **Good Friday**
- 31 March - **Easter Day**

The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.

Henry Knox Sherrill

Sunday Worship Services Schedule for March 2013

Date	Worship Services	
Sunday, 3 rd March <i>Fourth Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 3)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The true glory of God is manifested in the humanity of Jesus.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Exodus 33.17-23</i> Psalm: <i>99</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 4.1-6</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 9.28-36</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service (Holy Communion) Conducting and Preaching by the Clergy.	
Sunday, 10 th March <i>Third Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 4)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The power of God is manifested in the works of Jesus.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Isaiah 49.22-26</i> Psalm: <i>76.1-9</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>Acts 19.11-20</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 11.14-26</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 17 th March <i>Second Sunday before Easter</i> (Lent 5)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The magnetism of the cross.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Isaiah 53.1-6,10-11</i> Psalm: <i>22.22-28</i> Epistle: <i>Hebrews 5.1-10</i> Gospel: <i>John 12.20-36</i>
	Please Note: No 11 am. Contemporary Service due to General Body Meeting at 10 am.	
Sunday, 24 th March <i>The Sunday before Easter: Palm Sunday</i> (Lent 6)	8 am. & 6 pm. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>Christ enters Jerusalem to offer his life for the salvation of the world.</i>	Old Testament: <i>Isaiah 50.4-10</i> Psalm: <i>69.1-4,7-16,20-21</i> Epistle: <i>1 Corinthians 1.18-25</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 23.1-49</i>
	11 am. Contemporary Service	
Sunday, 31 st March <i>Easter Day</i>	8 am. The Lord's Supper Service Theme: <i>The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia!</i>	Old Testament: <i>Exodus 15.1-2,19-21</i> Psalm: <i>118.1-2,15-18,22-23</i> Epistle: <i>Colossians 3.1-4</i> Gospel: <i>John 20.1-18</i>
	Please Note: No 11 am. Contemporary Service and no 6 pm The Lord's Supper Service.	

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Holy Week Lenten Devotional Services - Monday, 25th; Tuesday, 26th and Wednesday 27th March at **6:30 pm**.

Maundy Thursday, 28th March – Feet washing and Holy Communion Service at **6:30 pm**.

Good Friday, 29th March - 3-hour Devotional Service from **12 noon to 3:00 pm**. Preacher: The Revd. Jitesh Soans, Pastor-in-charge of the Oldham Methodist Church, East Street, Pune.

Holy Saturday, 30th March – Easter Vigil Service at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday, 31st March – Holy Communion Service at 8:00 am. (Only one service)

I SAW IT!

Easter morning I awoke, still filled with all my doubt;
The others were confused, and scared, of how it all
turned out.
All our plans and dreams were gone, our future looking
bleak.
Everything we had hoped for, with nothing left to seek.

Well, I guess that life goes on, you do the best you can.
I had hoped He was the one, but He was just a man.
Today the air seems fresher, as I walked out in the street.
"Have you heard," a stranger said, as he began to speak.

"That man named Jesus, that they killed, last Friday on
the cross,
Nobody knows what happened, everybody's at a loss."
"Someone took His body, others say He rose again."
"Some even say He lives, and He has spoken to His
men."

I thought, I spoke to John and Peter early on last night,
They never mentioned anything, this fellow can't be right.
The town is in a frenzy, some remember what He said.
They think because the body's gone, He came back from
the dead.

Many were not there that day, when He was crucified.
But, I saw the soldier thrust the sword into His side.
I had thought, He'd use His power to show He was Lord.
But, I knew that He was dead, because I saw the sword.

I had to go and see the men, to see what they have
heard,
Rumors spread so quickly and you can't believe a word.
People love to gossip and spread stories all around.
I know the men are hiding, they're afraid they may be
found.

Later on that evening, when I knew it would be safe,
I went to see the other men, to see them face to face.
As I opened up the door, expecting to see fear,
They were all excited and they said, "He was just here!"

"He has given us the Spirit, of the Holy Ghost!"
"He breathed on us and told us, that our bodies were His
host!"
"Are you all insane?" I asked, before I turned to leave.
"Unless I see Him for myself, I never will believe."

"I was there, I saw the nails, they hung Him on the cross."
"The sword that pierced His side and all the blood He
lost."
"He was dead, I know He was, when I had to leave."
"Unless I see the wounds on Him, I never will believe."

"I will come back, a week from now, to see if you regain,
Your senses, after you recover from your awful pain."
"All of us are hurting from His loss, as it would seem,
But, we cannot go on in life, while you live in a dream."

Exactly eight days later, I went back to check on them.
Hopefully, they've overcome their fantasizing whim.
As I stood among them, "It is true," they did persist,
"Jesus came!" and suddenly, He was standing in our
midst.

Then, He looked at me and said, "It's true I really died."
"Come and take your finger, and just thrust it in my side."
"Look upon my hands and see the marks where I did
bleed,
And then you'll know I live again, and then you can
believe."

"Now, my Lord and God I know, and I do realize,
You were dead and live again, I've seen it with my eyes."
"You believe," He said, "because your eyes are sharp
and keen,
But, blessed are believers, who believe and have not
seen."

After this He came to us and taught a month or so.
He showed us many wonders and taught all we had to
know.
I am here to tell you, that I saw Him die and rise.
It's not a story that I heard, I saw it with my eyes!

THOMAS!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Ted and Molly were the parents of a rebellious young girl, who often scoffed at her spiritual parents. She refused to accompany them to church and categorically stated that she didn't believe all this humbug. However, her parents continued uphold her in prayer and asked the Lord to protect and guide her.

'You'll never guess where I've been tonight!' said the rebellious young girl, one day, to her parents. The parents held their breath as she went on to say, 'I've been to a séance but don't worry. The medium said he could not get through to the spirits because of an unseen force that surrounds me.'

This is the Power of Prayer!!!