



# 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, Mobile: 9011530827, Email: [sumeshjacob@gmail.com](mailto:sumeshjacob@gmail.com)

Assistant Presbyter: *Rev. K. Lalthlanpuia*

Mobile: 7588328001 Email: [thlanpuia@rediffmail.com](mailto:thlanpuia@rediffmail.com)



Dear Family of God at St. Mary's,

October 1<sup>st</sup> is International Day of Older Persons and in our church the Senior Citizens' Fellowship celebrated this occasion this year by going for an outing to Deep Griha Society's 'City of Child' centre at Kasurdi. There were 16 senior citizens who had a wonderful time of being together and sharing in time of seeing the place, prayer and testimonies, eating and resting, laughter and improving one's Bible knowledge. It was a day different from the usual for these older members of our congregation and they had a blessed time of being reminded that one's body may be old and frail but one's heart and mind can still be young. They all learnt that life at this stage can be lived to the fullest with God's enabling as our Lord Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October the Church gives thanks to God for the life of St. Francis of Assisi who was a monk and an evangelist. Francis was born into a wealthy family in Assisi in Italy and was brought up in the lap of luxury and extravagant living. But at a certain point he had a life-changing experience of Christ and he went on to give up all his wealth and voluntarily took up a life of poverty and service to humanity. He was called the 'little poor man of Assisi' but his life and message of the love of God and of kindness and humility spread all over Europe and touched many lives to the extent that the Church considered him to be a great man of God. His most well-known words are the words of the hymn that we sing 'Make me a channel of your peace.'

The apostle of our Lord who came to India, apart from Nathaniel/Bartholomew and even more well-known, is Thomas and the 6<sup>th</sup> of October is the day when we give thanks to God for his life and for how his doubt turned to faith. Thomas has become an unofficial patron saint for all doubting Christians but we must thank God for a person like him that our Lord chose to be his disciple. It is hard to hang on to faith when we cannot trace God's purpose and presence in our situation but even under strain faith makes a difference and the life of Thomas teaches us that. Thomas committed himself to follow Jesus and surely wanted to do so but he often missed what Jesus was saying and struggled to understand. Finally we find him after the Lord's resurrection doubting its reality because he was filled with grief at the death of his master. Then Jesus appeared to Thomas in a way that he could understand and with that he needed nothing more to understand, he had no need to touch but simply worshipped Jesus. Don't our lives too reflect the same in difficult times of uncertainty and disappointment? May we be encouraged by this apostle who managed to remain faithful to his Lord in spite of his doubts and also from the lives of Simon and Jude (October 28<sup>th</sup>) of whom we know virtually nothing but were chosen and used by the Lord for his Kingdom.

The Gospel-writer Luke, the physician, and a companion of the apostle Paul also gave us the book of the Acts of the Apostles. His account of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus has much detail and focuses on Jesus' reaching out to the neglected of society—the poor, women and children and this makes his Gospel quite unique. He also gives us the history of the beginning of the Church and how it grew in an explosive manner and reading it one would rather say that it is the 'Acts of the Holy Spirit.' October 18<sup>th</sup> is St. Luke's Day when we give thanks to God for this evangelist.

Reformation Sunday is on October 30<sup>th</sup> when we give thanks to God for the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation of the Church in the West and remember with gratitude the reformers like Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Martin Bucer, Huldreich Zwingli, John Calvin and others. Our church tradition stands within this God-directed event and the challenge for us all is

to continue to allow God to reform us to be even more true to him and his word.

May we through this month open our hearts and minds to be inspired by God through the great people who have gone before us and may all who come after us find us faithful.

Revd. Sumesh Jacob

Presbyter-in-charge

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 PratibhaShinde; Joshua McKenzie; Samson Victor Paul
- 2 Ketty Forrester; Althea Henderson; Lt. Col. JayantBarla
- 3 Maj. Gen. Sandip Biswas; Conrad Massey; Lorraine Turner; Sherwin
- 4 Desiree Young; Jean Innis
- 5 Rajendra Jadhav; Sanjay Pandit; Vanita Salvi; Gayatri Tate; Rev. Mrs. Ranjana Gaikwad; Honorene Johnson; Frank Wilson
- 6 Suman Patole; Jacqueline Parmar; Ujwal Birnur
- 7 Birty Forrester; Utkarsha Ranbhise; Prabhat Andrew; Carol Devraj; Mavis Philip
- 8 Christopher Philip; Timothy Jacob
- 9 Mr. Joseph Devappa;
- 10 Lt. Col. Nilesh Salvi; Amit Singh; Sagar Shinde; Sachin Shinde; Angelina Chilver; Sunaina De; Shayna Joshi
- 11 Mrs. Nishi Lall; Kingsley Joseph; Sabita Kacchap; Abraham Samuel
- 12 Edwin Patole; Ravikumar Joseph; Sunit Gaikwad; John Amalraj; Kelly Karkaria
- 14 Janet Sapaliga; Ashwini Das Gupta;
- 15 Vijaya Rathod; Manisha Joseph; Dr. M.N. Sampath
- 16 Mr. Stephen Wharton
- 17 Air Marshal S.S. Ramdas; Sandeep Lazarus; Shailesh Patole; Neeta Pardhe; Roopnanda Salve
- 18 Samara Sonawane
- 19 Joanna Waikar; Kshitij Pathare
- 20 Deepti Banijwadkar; Jon Ledlie
- 22 ShimronWaikar
- 23 Pradeep Abhane; Meenaksh iPathak;
- 24 Inayat Ramdas; B.W. Roberts; Bruce Henderson; Catherine Ramdas; Anish Barla; Ronen Banerji; Raja Kishor Bathula; Devashish Choudhari; Gp. Cpt J.I. Jason
- 25 Ronald Smith; Nilina Pardhe;
- 26 Arun Tate; Nagma Sagalgile
- 27 Niket Pathak; Brijesh Suryavanshi; Gp. Cpt. Chris Fernandes; Venu David; Reshma Beatty
- 28 Doreen Scott; Alex Suryawanshi; Shanavas Kunju; Arushi Chopde
- 29 Nishant Andrew; Joel Moses
- 30 Deepika Solomon; Vijay Salvi; ShailajaKotak; Gaynor Borade
- 31 Tanmayee Pathak; Natasha Pawar; Moumita Bhonsle

*A Very Happy Birthday!! May God Bless you !!*

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Derek & Sharon D'Rozario
  - 3 Amit & Juhi DasGupta;
  - 8 Arush & Smita Barla
  - 9 Anil & Jasmine Anchan;
  - 10 Jamal & Kiran Masih
  - 12 Rev. Dr. Theodore & Sheela Joseph
  - 14 Shailesh & Tripti Bhonsle
  - 19 Ronald & Shobhana Naik
  - 26 Augustine & Jacqueline Parmar
  - 28 Anant & Rekha Pathak  
Romel & Nilima Joseph
  - 29 Rahul & Archana Shinde
  - 30 Lt. Col. Anil & Preethy John  
Renin & Chandni Meprath
- Wishing you a Long & Happy Married Life!!!*

### **Special Days of the Church Calendar in October 2011**

- 4 Oct - Francis of Assisi, Monk and Evangelist
- 6 Oct - **Thomas, Apostle of India**
- 15 Oct - Teresa of Avila, Nun and Mystic (1582)
- 16 Oct - Henry Martyn, Evangelist (1812)
- 18 Oct - **Luke, Evangelist**
- 27 Oct - Frumentius of Ethiopia, Evangelist
- 28 Oct - **Simon and Jude, Apostles**
- 30 Oct - *Reformation Sunday*

Once a poor lady wanted to join a church. The priest in charge said, "This church is for the rich and the royal. You have to pay Rs. 1000/- a month". She walked away and stood sadly at the gate. One gentleman came to her and asked why she was sad. She told him the whole story.

The man laughed and said, "Don't feel so bad, they don't even allow me inside!".

"Who are you?" she asked!

The man answered, "I'm JESUS!"

### Worship Services Schedule for October 2011

Date & Time	Worship Services & Bible Readings	
Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Morning & Evening Worship Service Theme: <i>The reward of persevering in faith.</i>	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>Genesis 32.22-30</i>
10.30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion	Psalm: <i>Psalm 34.3-9</i> Epistle: <i>Hebrews 11.1-6</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Gospel: <i>Matthew 15.21-28</i>
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Morning & Evening Worship Service Theme: <i>The Way of the Cross.</i>	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>Isaiah 53.1-4,10-11</i>
10.30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 88.13-18</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 4:7-14</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Gospel: <i>Matthew 16.13-24</i>
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Morning & Evening Worship Service Theme: <i>Though we have to face temptation, it is God's will that all should be saved.</i>	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>Deuteronomy 13.1-5</i>
10.30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 91.1-12</i> Epistle: <i>1 Corinthians 8.1-13</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Gospel: <i>Matthew 18.7-14</i>
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Morning & Evening Worship Service Theme: <i>Those who refuse to forgive cannot be forgiven.</i>	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>Genesis 45.1-8,15</i>
10.30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 86.1-6,14-17</i> Epistle: <i>2 Corinthians 1.23—2.11</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Gospel: <i>Matthew 18.21-35</i>
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Morning & Evening Worship Service Reformation Sunday Theme: <i>Thanksgiving to God and remembrance with gratitude for the Reformation and its reformers.</i>	
8.00 a.m.	The Lord's Supper (Sung Eucharist)	OT: <i>2 Kings 23.1-9</i>
10.30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Psalm: <i>Psalm 81.8-14</i> Epistle: <i>Romans 11.1-6</i>
6.00 p.m.	The Lord's Supper (Said Eucharist)	Gospel: <i>Luke 11.33-53</i>

#### LAUGH A BIT .....

A young Chartered Accountant working in a prestigious firm was lured by another company, which was offering him the opportunity to make at least three times more than his present salary. The only hitch, he was warned, was that he would have to use unfair means. The lad asked his mother for her opinion. After a moment's silence, she replied "Son, you know when I come to wake you in the morning, I shake you hard and you don't stir. And I shake you even harder and you give a little moan. And finally I shake you as hard as I can and you open one sleepy eye. I'd hate to come in morning after morning and find you awake."

The young lad turned the job down and has been sleeping soundly since.

## HAPPINESS IS .....

Somewhere I read a story of a happy and busy man. As I remember, Jim was an old man and had been a stone mason all his life. Shortly after he retired, his wife passed away and he donated his time to a church youth camp to help build cabins and other buildings that were needed.

During the summer some of the older teenagers had a chance to work with this man and learn to lay bricks and mix mortar, but they also learned from him how to live.

One of the things that Jim taught the kids in the youth camp was that in this crazy, mixed-up world of ours, everybody needs a little time to be alone. Time to think and to rest; to catch up with oneself. It is like a plan that was practised by Christ, who made it a habit to be alone at times to think, to pray, to rest.

Jim also taught the young men at the camp that everybody needs to have some kind of satisfying work to do, the kind of work a man can look back on and feel that he has accomplished something. Perhaps that is why Christ himself was a carpenter.

He further taught his young men that they needed a set of rules to live by, a set of values that would help them face up to life. A stone mason has ways of measuring rocks and knowing what is square and what is true. He learns what should be thrown away and what should be kept. He also learns that rocks and stone and bricks that are thrown away sometimes can be used again in another spot. Perhaps he even knows the truth of the saying that is found in the Bible "that what was rejected has become the corner stone."

We are all too busy and we often ignore these basic needs that Jim taught his young men; the importance of being alone to rest and to think; the importance of doing something worthwhile and of having rules to live by.

**Prayer:** Jesus help us to really live, and in living to find happiness.

Taken from Don't turn me off, Lord!  
By Carl Burke

*(This article was contributed specially on account of Teacher's Day and was to appear in the September issue of the Churchman. However due to an oversight, it was not included in the said issue and hence is being included in this issue.*

*My apologies to the contributor. - Editor)*

### **JESUS, The Model Teacher**

When Jesus walked on the earth He had a three fold ministry-teaching, preaching and healing. He had a lot to teach in a limited span of just over three years. The main focus of His teaching was the kingdom of God. By kingdom of God we mean the rule or the will of God. His thrust therefore was how we are to mould our lives to be worthy and sure of entering God's kingdom.

The methods He employed were very unconventional but highly effective. In those times the religious teachers (*rabbis*) sat on a raised and exalted place and when the people gathered around them they narrated to them from the Scriptures. They were very judgmental and took pleasure in ridiculing the common people, often scaring them away from the true knowledge of God. Very contrary to this Jesus mingled freely with ordinary people at the places of their convenience like Mathew at his office, Peter, Andrew, James & John at the sea shore, a woman at Jacob's well, etc. He never sent anyone on a guilt trip but rather with love and compassion brought them to repentance and commitment. He empathized with them and told them the good news of salvation.

The Pharisees and scribes used difficult words that left the people confused. However Jesus used everyday examples like the sower sowing seed, the virgins with lamps and the marriage feast. These parables explained to people what voluminous sermons with repetitive words could not. Finally the religious teachers were hypocrites since their lives did not reflect what they taught. In sharp contrast Jesus lived a life that was exemplary and perfect. Many times He was accused but He came out unscathed. He was tested with tough questions but He gave the most fitting reply. Jesus indeed was the model teacher.

We read in **James 3:1**(The Message), *"Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held in the strictest standards."*Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, our second president and a great philosopher and teacher himself, had once famously said "Christians are ordinary people who make extraordinary claims." He said this because he noticed that Christians do not 'walk the talk'. On Teachers' Day, as teachers, let us rededicate ourselves to this high calling and noble profession to which we are called and model our lives on the life of Jesus. **Matt. 5:16** says, *"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven ."*

*Contributed by: Mrs.Manisha N. Joseph*