

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and My God". (St. John 20:28)



ST. THOMAS messenger

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Monthly newsletter of Kuwait St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 5

WITH GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE

MATTHEW 19:26

സഭാ വിശേഷ ദിവസങ്ങൾ

07	ഞായർ	ത്രിത്വ ഞായർ, വൈദിക ഞായർ സ്മോത്ര കാഴ്ച, വിദ്യാലയ വർഷാരംഭം.
14	ഞായർ	പരിസ്ഥിതി ഞായർ.
16	ചൊവ്വ	ശ്രീഹാ നോമ്പ് ആരംഭം.
21	ഞായർ	പെന്തക്കുസ്തിക്കു ശേഷം മൂന്നാം ഞായർ.
28	ഞായർ	പെന്തക്കുസ്തിക്കു ശേഷം നാലാം ഞായർ.
29	തിങ്കൾ	ശ്രീഹാ നോമ്പ് വീടത്ത്. (പത്രോസ്, പൗലോസ് ശ്രീഹൻമാരുടെ നാൾ)

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(For Private Circulation only)



From the Vicar's Desk



Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ! Recently I was watching a video clipping on what's App. It was about the positives of Corona. The negative energy the word corona sends out can be converted into positive energy. The very word corona frightens us, makes us anxious and panicky. Today corona is the most frequently used word on earth whether it is in the personal conversations or on social media like Facebook, twitter and instagram.

It is scientifically proven that each word has a frequency and an energy quotient. It sends impulses to the brain which will in turn produce corresponding chemicals. The alchemy of our body changes and we start to feel happy, sad, disturbed or panicked. Now, can you imagine what the word corona is doing to our body on a daily basis these days? We can change the negative energy and the frequency of the word corona. The actual meaning of the word corona is crown. The virus has crown like spikes on it, and hence it is called corona virus. The outer layer/ atmosphere of the sun is also called the corona, stellar corona. It has a beautiful golden ring which we cannot see because the sun is so bright that we are blinded by its light. But when the sun goes through the solar eclipse- complete darkness, we can see its beautiful stellar corona in its golden light. We humans are going through exactly the same thing. We are going through complete darkness and if we allow ourselves we can see our true light. We have been blinded by our life styles, our pent houses, our cars, the fast paced life, our bank accounts. We have been blinded so much to felicitate the wrong heroes the wrong heroines. Have we ever stopped and felicitated the ones, who truly matter, our farmers, our health care providers, our doctors, our nurses, our police, our teachers, our elders, our seniors. So, instead of fear and anxiety, the word corona can kindle in us kindness, care, love, generosity, oneness and simplicity. Think about the crown and the stellar corona.

Certain recent news from Kerala is more shocking than the Covid 19. Some people are more venomous than cobra. A man used a cobra to kill his wife for grabbing wealth and in another two cases children killed their

parents. A large number of murders take place under the influence of liquor. People are queuing up to buy this venom which is injurious to health and the society. Rebuilding our small state which has been affected by flood, soil erosion, epidemic and pandemic diseases is to be one's priority than engaging in / encouraging consumption of liquor.

Our edavaka attempted to reach out to all members of the parish through phone, zoom, Skype, and WebEx. Our Diocesan Episcopa Rt.Rev.Dr. Mathews Mar Makarios, Rev. Thomas Koshy P., Rev. Bobby Mathew and our lay leaders led these meetings. Sevikasangam, Choir, yuvajanasakhyam are also conducting prayer meetings through zoom. Edavaka mission is conducting chain prayer every day from 6 pm to 11 pm. On Fridays I am sending evangelion messages through what's an app group.

Passing away of our beloved ones are painful for us particularly during these difficult days. Our parish member Mrs.Annamma Chacko was called to the heavenly abode on 24th May 2020. It was shocking news. She was buried on 25th May 2020 at Sulaibhikat cemetery. The municipality permitted us to conduct a short service there. The St. Thomas family pray to God to give His peace to those families who are going through severe agony as they are not able to give the last kiss to their beloved ones because of the pandemic situation.

Our parish is trying to help the needy through cash and food items through our organisations and individuals. If anybody in our parish is facing food problems kindly contact me or office bearers so that we will be able to help them. Please try to share your personal problems with me or the counsellors whose names have already been already given to you. You can find their contact numbers in this messenger also. Beloved brothers and sisters don't panic in this difficult situation because our Lord has control over all situations. You are not alone, we St. Thomas family is with you to overcome all difficulties with the help of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

May God bless and take care of us all

Yours lovingly

Jiji Achen

Organizations - Schedules at St. Thomas Centre

Sunday School	Friday 2.00 to 4. 30 pm	Yuvajana Sakhyam	1st Friday and 3rd week of Monday cottage prayer
Junior Choir	Thursdays 6.00 to 7.30 pm	Sevika Sanghom	Saturdays 5.15 pm
Senior Choir	Thursdays 7.30 to 9.30 pm	Edavaka Mission	Saturdays 7.00 pm

EUCHARIST:

Fellowship in the suffering of Christ

The official emblem of the Irish Kings was "Monkey". Below this emblem it was written, "I will not forget what you did for me". We may wonder why the monkey was adopted as the official emblem after all. There is a story behind this. During a severe summer season the king and his palace officials went on to stay in a forest to escape from the heat, but his child was left behind in the palace because of its serious ailments. The child was entrusted with the palace nurses. When the king was away in the forest there was a fire outbreak in the palace and in the melee the nurses forgot about the child while trying to save the valuables of the palace. But the king's pet monkey in the palace sacrificially saved the child from the fire. In grateful commemoration the Irish king made monkey as the official emblem of the kingdom.

Jesus Christ humbled himself and became obedient to death. He gave his body and blood for our salvation. The thankful commemoration of this salvific act is called Holy Qurbana or Eucharist. It is not in remembrance of a man lived centuries ago, but it is in remembrance of the continuous presence of Jesus Christ after death and resurrection. This sacrament is considered the central part of our worship. It is a fellowship with Christ himself and also fellowship with our fellow believers.

Historical Implication of Eucharist:

The Book of Exodus tells us about the deliverance of the people of Israel from the oppression in Egypt. God delivered them in the very night all the first born of the Egyptians were executed, but the people of God were saved because of the blood of the lamb displayed on their front doors. Passover is celebrated annually to commemorate this great deliverance by the mighty hand of God and remind themselves of the Law to strictly obey it. Every Passover became an occasion for the renewal of their faith and obedience to the covenant of God. According to the Synoptic Gospels (Mathew, Mark and Luke) Passover happened on the next day of the Cross. But according to John, Christ died when the Passover Lamb was slaughtered in the Jerusalem Temple.

Eucharist is declaring the grace that Lord has given us. On the same night when he was betrayed Jesus Christ decided to celebrate the Pessaha along with his disciples. The Lord's Supper is also called Eucharist. The word Eucharist has come from the Greek word Eucharisteo. It is explained in the following way also : Eu means well / good, Charis means gift/grace. Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare for Passover feast during the feast of the unleavened bread when the Pessaha lamb was being slaughtered. The feast was arranged in an upper room. The meal that Jesus had on that day is later on observed as a sacrament by the church.

Eucharist gives opportunity for confession

It gives us an opportunity for confession from the depth of our heart. It also calls for leading a quality life. Before eating the Passover meal Jesus revealed the heart breaking betrayal story that one of his dear one would betray Him. All the disciples including Judas Iscariot became sad and one by one said to Him "Surely not I Lord". Judas called Jesus as Rabbi but all other disciples called Jesus as Lord. Here we see the understanding of Judas about Jesus, he saw Jesus as a Rabbi not as Lord. Lord gave equal opportunity to all the disciples to confess. Eucharist should not cause us to betray our Lord and God. Peter also betrayed Jesus but he repented and partook in the Lord's fellowship and ministry. We are participating in the heart pain of Jesus so that the partaker also should have a heartfelt repentance to follow a new way of life for others. We may do wrong things but there will be golden chances for repentance as well. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was going to deceive Him. But here Jesus partakes in the table with the deceiver. This would be an irony of life. Judas Iscariot took part in Lord's Table and also betrays Jesus. Sikhs all over the world fell suspicious in the eyes of the people after the assassination of the former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The Sikh body guards who were supposed to provide security assassinated her. The people who have protected her killed her. Before the Lord we can only deceive or repent.



Eucharist gives us an opportunity for new being

There is no making without breaking. Breaking is painful. During Holy Qurbana when the celebrant holds bread, the congregation's response is 'Lord blesses the bread'. Then the celebrant blesses and breaks it. Breaking for others is real blessing. After blessing the bread, it loses its old form and becomes a new one. When our Lord blesses and sanctifies a person, s/he will be ready for breaking and sharing his life for others. Like bread and wine in the Eucharist, after the blessing we will lose our old form and will become a new being. In the Holy Communion service the celebrant and the congregation transform themselves into a dedicated, broken and renovated new being. This is the great mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

The difference between Jesus and Budha was explained by Osho once. Anand, a disciple of Budha asked for something to keep with him to remember the master after he was gone. Buddha gave him a jasmine flower. Anand took

great care of it and kept it but in a day's time the flower had lost its beauty and fragrance, dried and decayed. Peter, a disciple of Jesus asked Him for something to remember in life. Jesus gave him bread. He ate it and it became part of his body and thereby part of the generations. The generations cannot forget the man who has given them bread.

Conclusion

Today, as we partake in the Lord's Supper we remember Christ. Pessaha points to the death of Jesus on the cross and the redemption that humanity has received through it. Paul explains the meaning of Pessaha as follows: "Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed" (1 Cor. 5:7). Thus, whenever the bread is eaten and the cup is shared, till the coming of Christ, we declare his death (1 Cor. 11:26). We remember the vicarious sufferings that Jesus underwent for the world and his death on the cross and thank God for the plan of salvation that God has given for humanity.



"Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

CONDOLENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF:



Annamma Chacko (59)

Puthukulathu House, Malayalapuzha Eram
Puthukulam P.O., Pathanamthitta
(W/o Late P.T. Chacko, Thankachan)
Family #055 Eden Prayer Group.

St. Thomas family express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members on the sad demise of their beloved ones. May Lord strengthen and comfort them.



BIRTHDAYS

DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
1	THOMAS P. ABRAHAM	1071	CANAAN
1	JACOB PHILIP	1441	OLIVET
2	SUSY RAJAN	332	CANAAN
2	MEGHNA ELIZA PHILIP	2494	CANAAN
2	JOMON M.BABY	5931	OLIVET
4	JEEVAN ALEX MATHEW	34	GETHSEMANE
4	JOHN VARGHESE (Reji)	201	CANAAN
4	JINI ANN ISSAC	1962	CANAAN
4	JIBU JACOB THOMAS	3371	GETHSEMANE
4	LITTY JACOB	5432	JERUSALEM
5	AVINASH RAJAN DANIEL	4901	EDEN
5	NISHAD THOMAS	4971	HERMON
5	GIGO ABRAHAM ALEX	5523	GIHON
5	DAN JACOB JOHN	6164	EMMAUS
6	NEBU JOHN	1421	MIZPAH
6	KEVIN JOHN JACOB	1444	OLIVET
6	THOMAS MATHEWS	3491	HERMON
6	SIBI GEORGE	4182	JERUSALEM
7	LARON VARGHESE ABRAHAM	1934	EDEN
8	EMIL MATHEW VARGHESE	2293	JERUSALEM
8	SAJI BABY	3051	GIHON
8	EMANUEL EAPEN	4984	HERMON
9	JESTIN JOE GEORGE	763	MIZPAH
10	BINU THOMAS	3012	MIZPAH
10	AARON MATHEW	4853	CANAAN
10	ASHA ANNA ZACHARIAH	6121	CANAAN
11	IVA NAVEEN THOMAS	343	EMMAUS
11	ABRAM NAVEEN THOMAS	344	EMMAUS
11	SHEEBA JAMES	3352	ARARAT
11	SIBU CHACKO	5791	MAHANAIM
12	TITUS MATHEW	994	JERUSALEM
12	STEFFI BIJU VARGHESE	2393	MAHANAIM
12	RACHEL JACOB	3182	MAHANAIM
12	BRIJITH THOMAS PETER	3413	MIZPAH
13	EAPEN THOMAS	2801	JERUSALEM
14	CHRIS MATHEW BIJU	1784	OLIVET
14	SARAH MARIAM SHIBU	1964	CANAAN
14	ROYCE RINU	3653	GETHSEMANE
14	Sarah Ann Blesson	4095	MAHANAIM
14	WILLY MATHEW	4491	EMMAUS
14	ROSHIN THOMAS	5592	MAHANAIM
15	CHRIS SHIBU CHERIAN	413	HERMON
15	THOMAS PETER	3411	MIZPAH
15	SAM MATHEWS	4021	EPHRAIM
15	TIJI ANS ABRAHAM	4142	EMMAUS
16	ALVIN C. VARUGHESE	3304	ARARAT

DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
16	MERIENA RAJESH	4152	OLIVET
16	JENEY ANN JACOB	5022	EPHRAIM
16	BINCY ANNA JACOB	5132	MAHANAIM
17	MATHEW V. ABRAHAM	1541	GIHON
17	RUTH MARY JOHN	1634	MIZPAH
17	RHEA SUSAN THOMAS	3494	HERMON
17	NITHA MATHEW	4852	CANAAN
18	JOHN YOHANNAN	1161	CANAAN
18	RENU ABRAHAM KOSHY	4352	MAHANAIM
18	SERAH MARY SHIJI	4963	CANAAN
18	RINU ALEX	5542	HERMON
19	SUSAN IDICULA MATHAI	452	MAHANAIM
19	JOSHUA JACOB	5094	OLIVET
19	ROGIE NINAN SAMUEL	5241	GIHON
20	GEORGE THOMAS	1091	MIZPAH
21	BINU THOMAS KORUTHU	2951	MIZPAH
21	EVANAMARY MATHEW	5333	MAHANAIM
22	SWAPNA ELIZABETH JOSEPH	4052	EPHRAIM
24	SUSAN RINU	2092	HERMON
24	RICHARD THOMAS MATHEWS	3493	HERMON
24	SOSAMMA JOHN	5681	HERMON
25	KRISTIN MANOJ MATHEW	1103	MIZPAH
25	ALAINA THOMAS JINU	1233	GETHSEMANE
25	JIKKY SANJAY KURUVILLA	2461	MIZPAH
25	KEVIN SKARIA CHACKO	3503	EPHRAIM
25	JERRY GEORGE OOMMEN	3991	JERUSALEM
26	ABIYEL JOSE SUNIL	3704	JERUSALEM
26	MOSES KURIAN MATHEW	3974	CANAAN
27	ASHISH TOM MATHEWS	2573	GIHON
27	SHERLIN MARY VARGHESE	4092	MAHANAIM
28	SHIRLY SUSAN ZACHARIAH	922	GETHSEMANE
28	VARGHESE VARGHESE V.	1151	JERUSALEM
28	JEFFRIN GEORGE MATHEW	1713	CANAAN
28	BIJINU K. BINU	2382	OLIVET
29	NIKITA ELSA VARGHESE	693	EMMAUS
29	ABRAHAM NOBLE JOSEPH	5411	MIZPAH
29	THOMAS MATHEW	5441	MAHANAIM
30	JOEL VARGHESE JOHN	203	CANAAN
30	SUJA KURUVILLA	1602	OLIVET
30	PRAISE ELSA BINU	2703	EDEN
30	SNEHA GEORGE	3273	MIZPAH
30	JOLLY RENJIT (DR.)	4522	JERUSALEM

*Thanking God Almighty for His mercy.
May Lord God Bless you abundantly.*

Happy Birthday

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
1	JACOB PHILIP & MERCY JACOB	144	OLIVET
3	JAMES THOMAS & PREETHI JAMES	198	MAHANAIM
10	JINU CHACKO THOMAS & PREETHA M.M.	123	GETHSEMANE
14	JOSE BABY SIMON & ANNAMMA JOSE	66	ARARAT
15	SOJI PHILIP ZACHARIAH & SINI SOJI PHILIP	152	OLIVET
15	ROBY D. MATHEWS & MILI ROBY MATHEWS	266	EMMAUS
16	VARGHESE VARGHESE V. & CICILY VARGHESE	115	JERUSALEM
16	AJESH MATHEW & JULIE M JOHN	568	HERMON
16	JUNY THOMAS MATHEW & NEENA ANN VARGHESE	481	OLIVET
16	JOE PHILIP & JINU MARY MATHEWS	586	EMMAUS
17	GEORGE KURIAN & JENY GEORGE	64	MAHANAIM
20	CHRISTY THOMAS & RENU CHRISTY	128	EDEN
22	PHILIP K.THOMAS & TEZY JOHN	580	EDEN
22	KOSHYCHERUKARA KOSHY & JOSEY CHERUKARA KOSHY	573	GIHON
23	SAMUEL MATHEW & MERCY MATHEW	93	GETHSEMANE
24	JOSE KUTTY KUNJAPPAN & ANNAMMA JOSE	267	MIZPAH
24	THOMAS CHACKO & JESSY THOMAS	26	EMMAUS
26	SHIBU CHERIAN & MARY MATHEW	248	EPHRAIM
26	MANOJ PHILOPOSE & MARYAM MANOJ	59	MIZPAH
26	SAMSON JOSEPH & MARIYAM ABRAHAM	185	MIZPAH
27	GINU JACOB & SHEMA EAPEN	599	CANAAN
28	MATHEW C. ABRAHAM & ASHA MATHEW	480	JERUSALEM
28	SUBIN THOMAS (DR.) & JUMA JACOB	294	JERUSALEM
29	MATHEW PHILIP CODIATTU & NANDITA SARA VARGHESE	19	EDEN

Thanking God Almighty for His mercy. May Lord God Bless you abundantly.

Happy Wedding Anniversary

Telephone Numbers of Counsellors

1. Rev. Dr. T. J. Thomas : +91 9495555050
2. Rev. Kurien George : +91 9745524362
3. Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla : +9 19645373213
4. Rev. K. Shibu (Kuwait) : +965 65848421
5. Rev. Dr. George Varghese : +91 9447400740

"Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

CONDOLENCE ON THE SAD DEMISE OF:

† Mrs. Thankamma Philip (92), 13B Presidency Homes, PF Road, Kaloor Ernakulam-17, Mother of Mr. Philip C.M & Mother in law of Mrs.Sarah Philip, Family# 019, Eaden prayer Group.

† Mrs.Elizabeth Koshy (72) A-19 Kowdiar Gardens, Pullavalil House, Kowdiar P.O, Thiruvananthapuram, Mother of Dr. Manoj P. Koshy & Mother in law of Dr. Anju Ann Philip, Famil y#249, Canaan Prayer Group.

† Mr. Mathew Varghese (62) Detroit, Michigan, USA, Brother of Dr. George Varghese & Brother in law of Dr. Susan Mathews, Family #317, Emmaus Prayer Group.

St. Thomas family express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members on the sad demise of their beloved ones. May Lord strengthen and comfort them.

I am with you
and will watch over you
wherever you go.

-Genesis 28:15