

Monthly newsletter of Kuwait St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church

നവതി ആഴോഷിക്കുന്ന അഭിവന്യ ജഡാ. ജോസഹ് മാൻ മാൻഭരരാന്മാ മെത്രംപ്രോലീത്രാഖ്ക്ക് കുമെവറ്റ് സെന്റ് ബോമസ് മാൻഭതാന്മാ ഇടവകഖുടെ ജന്മഹിനാശാസകൾ



സഭാ വിശേഷ ദിവസങ്ങൾ

03	വെള്ളി	മാർത്തോമാ ശ്ലീഹാ നാൾ (St. Thomas Day)		
05	ഞായർ	ദശാംശ സമർപ്പണ ഞായർ		
12	ഞായർ	പട്ടത്വദിനം		
19	ഞായർ	പെന്തിക്കുസ്തിക്കു ശേഷം ഏഴാം ഞായർ		
25	ശനി	മാർ യാക്കോബ് ശ്ലീഹാ നാൾ		
26	ഞായർ	പെന്തിക്കുസ്തിക്കു ശേഷം എട്ടാം ഞായർ		

Kuwait St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church. P.O. Box 25562 Safat 13116 Kuwait St. Thomas Centre - Tel : 2564 7060 rev.jijimathew@gmail.com E-mail: st.thomasmtcq8@gmail.com Rev. Jiji Mathew Vicar Parsonage : Flat No.14, 1st Floor, Bldg # 20, Street 10, Al-Dhahok Bin Qays Street, Block 10 Salmiya. (Opp. Bestow Super Market) Tel : 25635253 (Res.) Mob: 67671210 www.st-thomasmtckuwait.com

(For Private Circulation only)





From the Vicar's Desk

Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ! For the last 4 months we are not having our community worship. In one dimension, Worship shall

be at a place where we can meet and converse with our Lord. It need not be within the framework of the four walls of a building. It can be anywhere we can spend some time concentrating, free of other distractions. If we can come to His presence on a one-to one basis in our loneliness, in our moments of despair and freely talk to him and listen to him that is true worship. Many times we may think that God has forgotten us since we have drifted far from him due to increased worldly attachments resulting from our inability to worship him in truth. But the truth of the matter is that we have a God who sees us as we are and where we are and is ready to listen to our supplications and answer. No matter how deep the stains of our sins are, our loving God assures us that He can make it clean as a freshly fallen snow. Restoration is always possible with our God only on one condition that we have to be in His presence with a contrite heart and tearful eyes. When we are able to meet God in the worst of our situations and establish a contact with Him, we have succeeded in our act of worship and there is room for celebration.

The world is going through a rough period now due to Covid-19. We don't have lot of reasons to be happy but we have every reason to worship the omnipotent God with joy. Paul is exhorting us to be rejoicing always in Him. He is compassionate, merciful and faithful. His love towards us never runs out even if our situations are bad and look bleak. Jeremiah 20:13 says, "Sing to the Lord! Give Praise The Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked." Everyone in life is faced with failures and mistakes. But the resilience that comes out of faith gives us the ability to see God and praise Him at all times. Worship shall be our choice irrespective of the circumstances. Paul was able to sing and praise in chains in the prison cell. Habakkuk says even though the fig trees do not bud, olive crops fail, no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will praise the Lord.

We are in the summer season and many of us were planning to go to our respective homes but due to the present situation we couldn't make it. This situation has affected our children's education also especially higher studies. Many of our children went to India for entrance exams for professional courses. May God be with them and help them in this crisis situation. Last month also many dear ones of our parish members were called to the heavenly abode. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

Combined and area prayer groups Zoom meetings were conducted last month also. Our organisations also met through various new media. Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos, Rev. Sunny Thomas, Rev. Boby Mathew (our former vicars) Rev. Sam Thomas (Ahammadi Parish), Mrs. Alice Koshy (our former parish member) gave messages in those meetings. Our Edavaka Mission conducts chain prayers daily.

We are all very proud of our Metropolitan Dr.Joseph Mar Thoma. His Grace celebrated the 90th (Navathi) birth day on June 27th. May God give him sufficient health and wisdom to serve His Church. On behalf of our Parish I extend birth day greetings to dear Thirumeni.

We hope to start worship service this month at NECK. Kindly pray for this. May God keep us all safe.

Yours lovingly

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	

Jiji Achen



CROSS: A MODEL FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Mark 10: 42-45

Introduction

'The Cost of Discipleship,' a famous and popular book written by Detrich Bornhoffer tells us that if Christ called a person that is a call for dying. Jesus died on the cross: therefore it is a call for commitment to live for Christ which means we have to bear the cross Napoleon Bonaparte once conquered Russia and looted all its wealth. Once when his army marched in to a Russian village they spotted a wood cutter there. Almost all the villagers had fled from their homes to other locations, fearing Napoleon. But this man stayed fearless. A soldier placed his gun on the forehead of the wood cutter and wanted to know why he was not afraid in the least. He fearlessly replied that he was a servant of the 'Sir' (the Russian ruler was known as 'Sir' then) and he showed his left hand which had the mark of 'Sir'. The soldier was amazed at the fearlessness of the man and instead of killing him a mark of 'N' for Napoleon was engraved on his right hand. The soldiers also declared that from then onwards he was not a servant of the Sir but a subject of emperor Napoleon. The wood cutter took out his axe and without hesitating for a moment cut away his right hand and cried aloud 'I am a servant of the Sir and not of Napoleon'. Discipleship demands commitment and readiness to face death. A true disciple follows the meaning of the cross in his day to day life. The Cross is not a symbol only but a way of life also -- of sacrifice. love and humbleness.

Disciple: The Oxford dictionary defines disciple as "a follower of Jesus during his life, especially one of the twelve apostles". We may say, one who learns under a guru is a disciple. A disciple's life ambition is to become like his guru. The real guru enjoys his disciple becoming like him. Like a soldier marching behind the team leader or an ant following the ant in the front, a disciple follows the master.

Context of the given passage

The incident which was reported by Mark happened five days before Jesus' crucifixion, four days before his betraval and trial, one day before the clearing of the temple, and a few hours before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. But even at the last moment of his earthly life, the disciples were not able to grasp the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. At the very crucial moments in Jesus' life there were disagreements, quarrelling, and petty behaviour. The reason for the guarrel was the difference in their qualifications and their greed for the highest positions in Jesus' Kingdom. Jesus' life and ministry challenge each one of us to follow him. We cannot separate the cross from His life and ministry. If anyone wants to follow Him 'bear his cross and follow'. Through the given passage Jesus taught us

the true meaning of discipleship. Cross should be the centre of discipleship.

True greatness lies in serving others.

In verse 41 we read that the other ten disciples were angry and jealous when they thought that James and John might get the greatest positions. Actually the ten who were jealous were no better than the two who were selfish; they all made the same mistake. Therefore Jesus taught them what true greatness was. The teaching consists of three things. 1) We must be willing to think and act differently from the rest of the world. 2) The person who serves others the most is the greatest person. 3) Jesus Himself was the greatest servant, more than a servant.

Usually the world gives greatness to those who have the most power over others. Today we admire and give greatness to the corrupt and unjust people, but this is the opposite of what it should really be. In a certain bookshop each book had a label with the price written on it. When the owner of this shop went out for a moment a mischievous boy interchanged the labels so that the big, valuable books were labelled as very cheap ones and small and little known books were labelled as very expensive ones. We behave like this boy. We call the rulers great and the servants lesser ones, but in God's eyes those who serve others are the greatest and those who are in power but do not serve others, are the least.

For serving others, Mark here used the word doulos which means "slave". Christians are often called slaves in the New Testament when they have willingly given themselves up to serving God and other people. Paul himself says that he is a slave of God (Phil. 1.1), a slave of others (1 Cor. 9.19). From this it is clear that Christians are slaves by choice. In Jesus' time Jews were slaves of the Roman emperor and they were forced to serve him.

Instead, today we forget that we are the servants and crave for money, power and fame. "Minister" means "servant" but we are often tempted to seek power over others and expect to receive honour in public. We are installing crosses everywhere not for sacrificial work but for grabbing properties and power. Christians are on the streets, not for mission work and service but for fiercely fighting their court cases.

Once a priest was posted to a village church. There the parish provided a big parsonage that was much bigger than any house in that village. Looking at the large house the priest remarked to the parishioners, "You are kind enough to provide such a big house



but it makes it hard for me to be the slave of all." We cannot be a slave of all until we are called by God and live a life in tune with His life style. Those who serve others are the leaders of the world.

True greatness is abstention from position, prestige and power

The disciples, especially James and John, were ruled by temporal happiness than the spiritual and permanent happiness of the Kingdom of God that the Lord Jesus wanted to implement through them. Here we can identify three poison pills such as position, prestige and power that literally ruled them.

First, James and John wanted positions. They had a misconception that they were better leaders and Jesus would agree with their view. They were arguing their case to be in the first and second positions in the Kingdom which Jesus was going to establish soon. They were crazy about positions and wanted to exercise authority over others.

Napoleon once boasted that Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and himself founded great empires. Yes, he and his counterparts established kingdoms by using force. But Jesus Christ founded His Empire upon love. Therefore millions of people were following Him and would die for Him. If we need allegiance and devotion of people, don't be like Napoleon. Don't fight to be the leader of all; opt for the least position of all. Be a servant. A true leader should not seek position, prestige and power, he should be willing to serve and heal others.

Secondly, James and John seek prestige. Recognition and honour are the by-products of prestige. Prestige is not of the true disciple. It is a passion. The first and second positions are out of question. 'Least of all' is the only option or nothing at all.

Thirdly, James and John wanted power. The other disciples were also greedy for power. Their dissatisfaction was not because of their goodness but due to their jealousy about others. But Jesus through His life shows the disciples that real power rests in the humble acts of service.

True greatness is found in giving one's life

Jesus used to introduce himself as 'son of man' which meant that he was going to serve others by suffering and by dying. So the name denotes "servant of the Lord" in Isa.53. While he is nearing Jerusalem he says his death is very near. Here we are given to understand that Jesus was preparing for his death, a predestined death, not an accidental one. In His earthly ministry He did not only teach what "greatness" was: He showed it by the way He lived and died. The KJV verses are "to be ransom for many". Here the word 'ransom' means the money paid to the owner of a slave to set him free. We are by nature under the influence of evil such as power, position and prestige, but need to be freed. This is something which we cannot do for ourselves. He died for us. We cannot earn our freedom by trying to do good as some slaves could earn their freedom by giving money to his master. Jesus paid a ransom for us because we could not pay it ourselves. Jesus' passion and death should make a difference in us. He chose not to explain but to do it for us to understand.

We have many examples in this world for giving of life for others. The famous novel "Tale of two cities" is about a story of a young man, Charles Darny, who gave his life for saving his friend, Sydney Carton. There is another story about what happened in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland in 1941. One of the inmates escaped from the concentration camp and Colonel Frish got furious. The Colonel ordered to kill all the ten fellow inmates if the one who ran away did not return within 24 hours. But he didn't come back. Colonel Frish ordered all the ten to stand in line. One of them started screaming 'my child...my child.....' A young man from the spectators stepped forward and told the Colonel that the man was crying to see the new born baby his wife had delivered in the camp a little while ago. The young man pleaded with the Colonel to let the desperate man to see his child and instead he was ready to die for his release. The young man, later identified as Max Millian Cobu, was instantly shot down along with the other inmates and the father of the new born was released. If the desperate inmate is indebted to Max Millian Cobu, the entire humanity is indebted to Jesus Christ for its salvation Jesus loved us and dave his life on the cross.

Conclusion

A poem of Kahlil Gibran goes like this. All say there is one holy saint on top of that mountain. But I do not consider him a saint. When he climbs down and sings a sorrowful song with those who are mourning for their departed ones and dances with those who are happy, then only I will recognise him as a holy saint.

Jesus was with the marginalised and oppressed during his earthly ministry. He taught and practised who was the first and the great. By humbling himself to the level of a slave and a servant he became a role model to his disciples. He taught some simple equations like 'greatness is equal to servant', 'first is equal to slave' and 'true service is equal to giving one's own life for the redemption of one's brother'. Our greatness lies not in position, prestige, and power. Our greatness lies in our goodness, humility, service and character. Are we great?

DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
2	JACOB JOSEPH VELLOOR	01831	GETHSEMANE
2	ALEX M. GEORGE	02501	CANAAN
2	MATHEW C. ABRAHAM	04801	JERUSALEM
3	ABEY P. THOMAS	03581	CANAAN
3	SAMGEO PHILIP	04501	EMMAUS
3	ASHA MATHEW	04802	JERUSALEM
4	JIJI IDICULLA JOHN	01361	HERMON
4	SEEMA RAJESH VARKEY	01932	EDEN
4	MOBI MARIUM CHANDY	04212	GETHSEMANE
5	BETH JOSEPH KOLLAMALA	00734	EMMAUS
5	NANMA MARIAM MATHEWS	01743	JERUSALEM
5	AARON MATHEW MATHAI	03244	MAHANAIM
5	STEFFY MERIN SUNIL	04103	MIZPAH
6	SUNIL PHILIP	00811	MAHANAIM
6	ALEYAMMA ISAAC	00972	ARARAT
6	ANNE THOMAS	01052	CANAAN
6	CHACKO PHILIP	01561	ARARAT
6	ANGEL MARIAM SUNNY	03433	OLIVET
6	ABEL JOSE SUNIL	03703	JERUSALEM
6	JEFFREY RONI JOHN	04083	MIZPAH
7	MARIYAMMA SAM	00212	OLIVET
7	MARIAMMA VARGHESE	06152	JERUSALEM
8	DEEPTI SUSAN VARGHESE	05332	MAHANAIM
9	ANU THOMAS	05342	MIZPAH
10	DANIEL THOMAS KOLETH	00493	EMMAUS
10	RON PHILIP IDICULLA	00984	JERUSALEM
10	RUTH ELSA NISHAD	04974	HERMON
10	BIJESH THOMAS	05591	MAHANAIM
11	BLESSEN BOBAN VARGHESE	00113	OLIVET
11	SEENA M. MATHEWS	01742	JERUSALEM
11	VARGHESE PHILIP	02874	MIZPAH
12	PRAKASH JOHN MATHEW	00284	OLIVET
12	REVITHA THANKOM GEORGE	00623	ARARAT
12	SMITHA THOMAS	02392	MAHANAIM
12	JERRIN VARUGHESE	02611	ARARAT
12	ANNIE SHYLA PHILIP	04221	JERUSALEM
12	SIJU THANKACHAN	05561	GETHSEMANE
13	REUBEN RENJI VARGHESE	00944	OLIVET
13	ANN MARY SAJI	02134	HERMON
13	RIYA GEORGE MATHEW	03154	EPHRAIM
13	JACOB P. JABBU KOSHY	03181	MAHANAIM
14	JEFFREY GEORGE MATHEW	00244	EMMAUS
14	ASHLY SHIBU CHERIAN	00414	HERMON
15	ELIZABETH JESSY MATHEW	00032	GETHSEMANE
15	TOBY GEORGE MATHEW	01515	MIZPAH
15	SHIJU MAMMEN GEORGE	02821	JERUSALEM
16	KEZIA ALEXANDER	00782	MIZPAH
16	SLINJU MONCY	04032	EPHRAIM
16	ABEN BIJU VARGHESE	04002	MAHANAIM
16	AGASTYA RAJAN AVINASH	04203	EDEN
16	SANJU MATHEW VARGHESE	04304	GIHON
17	SUSAN JACOB (DR.)	03091	OLIVET

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DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
17	ALEXANDER ABRAHAM	05521	GIHON
18	KRIPA ELSA VARGHESE	01393	HERMON
19	SHIBU THOMAS JOHN (DR.)	01261	EMMAUS
19	SINI SOJI PHILIP	01522	OLIVET
19	VINCE VARGHESE	04111	GETHSEMANE
20	MOLCY RACHELABRAHAM	00443	GETHSEMANE
20	PREETHI JAMES	01982	MAHANAIM
20	ABEL SAM MATHEW	01902	GIHON
20	RAJI SUSAN JOY	03024	EDEN
20	EVAN MATHEW JOSEPH	05894	MAHANAIM
20	NEVIN MATHEW JUSEPH	01603	OLIVET
	JACOB MATHEWS KOROVILLA		
22		01544	GIHON
22	CIBI AJU SANDRA BIJU VARGHESE	02322	MIZPAH
22		02394	MAHANAIM
22	ABRAHAM T. MATHEW	02421	ARARAT
22	ANNETTE THOMAS	05442	MAHANAIM
23	MATHEW P. ALEXANDER	00031	GETHSEMANE
23	SARAH GRACE MATHEW	01104	MIZPAH
23	MATHEW CHERIAN	04431	MIZPAH
24	DIYA SUSAN VINOD	04383	CANAAN
24	ALINA MARIAM MATHEW	04854	CANAAN
25	GEORGE KURIAN	00641	MAHANAIM
25	DANIEL MATHEW GEORGY	03104	ARARAT
25	ALVIN ABRAHAM MATHEW	05856	EMMAUS
26	ANN SUSAN PHILIP	04863	GETHSEMANE
27	ANDREWS CHERIAN	00401	OLIVET
27	ROHAN JACOB MANI	02073	OLIVET
27	ASHA MARIAM JACOB	02074	OLIVET
27	MATHEW JOHN	02081	MIZPAH
27	ROBY D. MATHEWS	02661	EMMAUS
27	MADATHILPARAMPIL VARGHESE JOHN	04321	GETHSEMANE
27	JOJU P MATHEW	04661	HERMON
27	ABEL SAM JOHN	05303	GIHON
28	KUNJAPPAN ALEXANDER	00781	MIZPAH
28	MATHEW K.C.	00971	ARARAT
28	IRENE MARY KURUVILLA	01604	OLIVET
28	TOJAN VARGHESE MATHEW	03973	CANAAN
28	JONN JACOB KOSHY	04354	MAHANAIM
28	SARAH JACOB	06014	GIHON
29	MILAN KOSHY PHILIP	02493	CANAAN
29	ALAN THOMAS BINOY	03714	HERMON
29	SABU GEORGE	04071	HERMON
29	ABIGAIL GRACE MATHEW	05855	EMMAUS
30	SHARON ELIZABETH MATHEW	00245	EMMAUS
30	JIJI MATHEW GEORGE	01711	CANAAN
30	JACOB MATHEW CHUDUKATTIL	03091	OLIVET
30	MATHEW KOSHY CHERUKARA	04823	MAHANAIM
31	IAN ALEX SUBIN	05133	MAHANAIM
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BIRTHDAYS

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

►	1.		
WEDDING ANNIVE	RS A	RIES	

DATE	NAME	MEM. NO	PRAYER GROUP
5	THOMAS PHILIP KOLETH & SHERIN THOMAS	00049	EMMAUS
5	JIJI ISSAC JACOB & SHINU MATHEW	00013	CANAAN
7	TOBBY MATHEW VARUGHESE & BEENA ANN TOBBY	00397	CANAAN
7	GEORGE MATHEW & SUMA P. EAPEN	00199	MIZPAH
8	SAM RAJAN & SUBI PAPPACHEN	00529	MAHANAIM
8	ROSHAN P. JACOB & JISHAMOL KURUVILLA	00289	EMMAUS
8	JAMES NATHANIEL & SHEEBA JAMES	00335	ARARAT
9	BLESSON DANIEL PHILIP & SHERLIN MARY VARGHESE	00409	MAHANAIM
9	SAJI VARGHESE SAMUEL & LOVELY CHACKO	00320	HERMON
10	JACOB CHACKO ABRAHAM & SUBY M. VARGHESE	00416	HERMON
11	JOSEPH ABRAHAM EAPEN & PRITTY MARKOSE	00499	HERMON
11	RONI THOMAS JOHN & SHERIN ANU RAJU	00408	MIZPAH
14	JIJO G JOHN & BINCEY BABY	00525	GIHON
15	BIJU GEORGE THOMAS & SEEMA ANNIE JOHN	00149	MAHANAIM
17	SAJI MATHEW GEORGE & SOSAMMA CHACKO	00151	MIZPAH
21	SUDEEP ABRAHAM VARGHESE & LIVYA MATHEW	00587	JERUSALEM
23	CHACKO DANIEL & LISSY DANIEL	00023	EDEN
23	ALEXANDER DAS & MARYKUTTY ALEXANDER	00108	EPHRAIM
26	SUNIL PHILIP & RENJINI SUNIL PHILIP	00081	MAHANAIM
27	SANTHOSH PHILIP & LINCY SOSA VARGHESE	00113	GIHON
30	SUBIN MATHEW THOMAS & BINCY ANNA JACOB	00513	MAHANAIM

"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.Chinnamma Chacko(88) Shalom house, Kattadi P.O, Pooyappally, Kollam (Dist), Mother of Mr. John Yohannan, Family #116, CanaanPrayer Group.
- Mr. Prakash George(60)Vellarethu house, Naranganam west P.O, Kozhencherry,Brother of Mr. Mathew George Abraham, Family#044, Gethsemene Prayer Group.
- Mr. Joy Lukose (78) Koippallazhikathu Sunil Nivas, Chengamanadu P.O, Kottarakkara, Father of our former Vicar Rev.Sunil Joy.

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.

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



