

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

February 15, 2026, 'Kothine'- Wedding at Cana (Great Lent Season)

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 9:12-21, Exodus 20:7-22, 1 Kings 18:29-46, Joel 2:12-20, Isaiah 58:6-14
- NT: Acts 11:19-26, Ephesians 4:17-32, Holy Gospel St John 2:1-11

Holy Gospel: St John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; **2** Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **6** Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. **9** When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." **11** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflections:

Great Lent begins with the wedding at Cana. What is intended? It's going to be a party with Christ. Lent is not for feeling sad, gloomy, burdened, low, pressurized or being pushed, by no means should it be felt as may or may not. All are invited to the wedding of the Lamb as the Book of Revelation says. Who doesn't feel to not to go?! It begins with a joyful banquet and to conclude with a greater joy of victory of resurrection. It is the way to resurrection. Who would not want to be raised from the current state of being fallen due to various reasons? We all need some hype, right? The text starts with mentioning the wedding day as 'the third day'. What preceded? According to Johannine gospel, one the first day, John the Baptist was crossed by the priests and Levites sent by authorities from the Temple City asking about his role and identity (Jn 1:19-28). They were curious about him, thinking that he could be the Messiah. John denied it and said, he was only the way maker for the 'One' who would be coming. On the second day John declared on seeing Jesus' walking to him, that he was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29-34). He witnessed about how this mystery was revealed to him while he was baptizing Jesus. So, this was after the baptism of Christ. Other writers have narrated the baptism in detail while John gives the revelation the Baptist received about the Messiah. On the third day, John again made a declaration that Jesus was the Lamb of God. On hearing this, two disciples of John followed Jesus and stayed with him during the day. Their time with Jesus made them his disciples! Andrew and Simon Peter joined him soon (Jn 1:35-42). On the fourth day, Jesus called Philip to follow him. Towards the end of the conversation, Jesus promised him that he would see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (Jn 1:43-51). Angels are there to serve their Lord and Master. After this meeting of Philip with Jesus, the next day was the 'Third Day' as referred by the gospel writer on which the wedding at Cana took place. Here the Third Day refers to the third

day of the Jewish week, which could be Tuesday. Saturday is Shabbat, Sunday is first day of the week, Monday the second and Tuesday the third day. Prior to this, John the Baptist has already witnessed to the world that Jesus was the expected Messiah. And as Jesus revealed to Philip, he was to see heaven opened and angels serving upon their Lord. On the next day, the third day of the week, the world has started seeing heaven opened and angels serving at the command of Jesus. They saw the first mysterious sign of heaven; water turned to wine! It never happened before. Who knows whether the servants at Cana, were they angels in disguise?!!

This is a true sign of the Great Lent, the journey with our Lord and Master would be miraculous and joyful. We are to see heaven open and angels serving in our life situations on His command. We should not miss it. As the wedding house had invited Jesus and His Mother, let us plead them to be with us on this journey. Whatever we lack, He would fill. Wherever we fall or fail, He would rectify. We look for victory through the saving hands of our Lord. We pray, Maranatha, Lord, come!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- February 09, HG Mathews Mar Epiphanius Metropolitain, 17th anniversary, entombed at St Thomas Cathedral, Kollam
- February 13, Mar Ignatius Elias III, 94th anniversary, entombed at Manjanikkara Dayara, Pathanamthitta
- February 15, Pethurtha Sunday

Clergy Demise:

Rev Fr S Isaac, 85 years, (Plavila Peniel House, Kundara), a senior priest of the Diocese of Kollam has been taken to heavenly abode on Wednesday Feb 11. He was a teacher at MGDHS Kundara till his retirement. Achen had also served parishes in the Dioceses of Trivandrum and Niranom. The funeral service shall be conducted at St Thomas OC, Kundara. May his soul rest in peace. We thank God for Achen's ministry and life.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. New Acolytes shall be ordained on Sunday Feb 15. Please pray for the children who are ready for ordination.
2. 'Shubkono' service shall be conducted along with the Holy Liturgy on Sunday. Please be prepared for the service of reconciliation.
3. Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04
4. Easter: April 05, Sunday

Vicar is back after Holiday:

The vicar is back after his India visit. I would like to thank Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thampan for his service and pastoral support during the period, especially in an unfavourable weather condition. I thank all our members and the parish office for their support and cooperation. We missed each other. See you all on Sunday.

Attention Please:

Parking: Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles. **AREA PRAYER**

MEETINGS: Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services
Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church. A few concerns.

- Due to safety concerns and for assuring an undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It would be a bit difficult for our volunteers to suggest moving to the front during the service as it would cause distraction and noise. We need to avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas as this has raised safety concerns.
- Please be considerate to our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.
- Please be watchful at the shoe rack area which is also the entrance to both washrooms.
- We request our parents to attend our children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

The hand waving machine has been installed at the church entrance for taking count of the communicants. Whoever wishes to take Holy Communion, upon entering the temple, please wave your hand once at the machine. Please be aware that after the Nicene Creed, the machine shall be disabled. Absolution shall be done during the morning prayer.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:**February 15, Sunday – in-person monthly meetings after refreshment**

- Sunday School.
- OCYM monthly meeting after refreshment
- All services' Live Streaming is now available.
- **LIVE streaming has been reactivated:**

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksá of St James this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

Next Week

February 22, 'Garbo', Healing of the Leper

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 7:6-19, Jeremiah 50:4-7, 15:15-21, Isaiah 33:2-9
- NT: Acts 9:22-31, Romans 3:27-4:5, Holy Gospel St Luke 5:12-16, 4:40-41

Yours in Christ

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