

Dearly Beloved,

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

March 15, 2026, 'Kpiptho' – Healing of the Crippled Woman (Great Lent Season)

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Jeremiah 51:1-9, Sirach 51:17-30, Isaiah 49:25-50:5
- NT: 1 Peter 3:8-16, Romans 12:1-15, Holy Gospel St Luke 13:10-17
- **Holy Gospel: St Luke 13:10-17**

As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.¹⁷ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"¹⁶ Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it?"¹⁵ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day."¹⁴ And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God.¹³ And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity."¹² And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.¹¹ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

Reflections:

This Sunday we have a reading from the book of Sirach. This book was written in the 2nd century BC, bridging the Jewish wisdom and Greek culture of that time. The writer introduces him as Jesus the son of Sirach. This book is included in the Catholic and Orthodox Bible and not included in the Protestant Bible. The author speaks about the need to acquire wisdom that only can lead life to success and achievements.

Sirach 51:29-30 says, 'May your soul rejoice in God's mercy, and may you never be ashamed to praise him. Do your work in good time, and in his own time, God will give you your reward.' If we connect this to the woman who was healed at the synagogue by Christ, we could infer that she was crippled for eighteen years, and despite her physical condition, she had been searching for God while keeping herself active with her work. She managed her spiritual practices and was frequent to the synagogue. If she was taking part in the synagogue worship, we can assume that she was active on other days doing her work. Here the Lord rewarded her for her work and for her earnest spiritual practice. Sirach talks about an earnest search for wisdom and addresses wisdom as a female personification (her). 'While I was still young, before I went on my travels, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. Before the temple I asked for her, and I will search for her until the end' (Sirach 51:13).

The crippled woman was a strict practitioner of faith while doing all her good work. The life she might have lived aligns with 'For I resolved to practice wisdom, and I was zealous for the good, and I shall never be disappointed. My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct, I was strict' (Sirach 51:18-19). She was bent in stature as a long-term physical condition. What brought her healing and

what liberated her from her infirmity could be another bent that she opted intentionally: her bending to God. Sirach's teaching fits here well about her, ' **Put your neck under wisdom's yoke, and let your soul receive instruction' (Sirach 51:26)**. Hear but a little of my instruction, and through me, you will acquire silver and gold (Sirach 51:28).

For the crippled woman, through her practice of faith, she achieved more than silver and gold. She got the touch of the Son of God that healed her, freed her, and she was able to experience the miracle of God in her personal life. With the healing she could do more good work, come to the temple with more conviction and energy, and live in the world as a witness of God. This is what God wants us to be. ***This Lent is meant for renewing our spirit that always searches for wisdom from God, to experience the Lord's miraculous touch and to live as true witnesses to the Kingdom of God.***

May the Holy Spirit guide us through.

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- March 09, Commemoration of 40 Martyrs of Sebaste
- March 09, HG Geevarghese Mar Coorilos Ambattu, 135th anniversary, entombed at Angamaly Cheriapally
- March 11, Mid-Lent, Holy Liturgy and Installation of Cross, Mar 10 Tuesday, evening prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy
- March 11, Commemoration of King Abgar of Uraha
-
- **Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf.**
We continue praying for re-establishing of peace and concord in the war affected lands and regions. Our prayers during these days of Lenten fasting may work miracles through Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and save the world from further injuries.
- **OVBS 2026 - Mar 18 Wednesday -22 Sunday, Theme: Walk in Purity**
- We look for the full participation of all our children in the upcoming OVBS. All our students are to be registered. Please keep the OVBS in our daily prayers and offer all support required.

MMVS Canada - Lenten Prayer Meeting on Friday March 13 at – 08:00 pm via zoom.

The Lenten prayer meeting organised by MMVS Canada will be on Friday March 13 at 08:00 pm via Zoom. The link has been shared in our WA groups. Please access the link and join the meeting.

Diocese of Canada General Assembly on March 22 Sunday @ 04:00 pm

The Diocesan Assembly would be on Sunday March 22, 2026, at 04:00 pm held virtually. All the vicars and the Diocesan Assembly delegates from all parishes are to participate. Please keep the meeting in prayer.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04
2. Daily Lenten Noon Prayer 12:00 noon -12:30pm online
3. Daily Lenten Evening Prayer @ 06:30 pm followed by Devotional Talk
4. 4.March 22, Catholicate Day
5. March 25, Feast of Annunciation to St Mary, Holy Liturgy on March 24 Tuesday - Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana
6. March 27, 40th Friday- Holy Liturgy on Mar 26, Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy
7. March 27, Consecration of Holy Mooron at Devalokam Aramana Chapel, Kottayam
8. March 28, Lazarus Saturday
9. March 29, Palm Sunday
10. April 02, Passover, Holy Liturgy on April 01 Wed, Evening Prayer at 06:30 pm followed by Holy Liturgy
11. April 03, Great Friday, Morning Prayer at 08:30 am
12. April 04, Gospel Saturday, Morning Prayer at 09:00 am followed by Holy Liturgy
13. Easter: April 05, 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:

March 15, Sunday – in-person monthly meetings after refreshment

- Sunday School & OVBS Teachers Meeting after refreshments
- SGOCT Parish AGBM for Report & Accounts 2025, Budget 2026 after refreshments
- No monthly meeting of organisations due to GBM after refreshments

LIVE streaming has been reactivated: All services' Live Streaming is now available.

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Julius this Sunday.

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

Next Week

March 22, Sixth Sunday of the Great Lent, 'Samiyo', Healing of the Blind Man (Sabhadinam - Catholicate Day)

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Deuteronomy 25:13-26:5, Judges 6:11-24, Job 42:1-8, 1 Kings 3:5-15, Ezekiel 13:1-16, Jeremiah 51:10-19
- NT: 1 Peter 4:12-19, Romans 14:10-23, Holy Gospel St John 9:1-41

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

Email ID: fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610