

Dearly Beloved,

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

April 19, 2026, Post Easter Appearances, First Sunday after New Sunday

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 14:26-31, Joshua 6:9-16, Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-8, Isaiah 63:8-14
- NT: Acts 13:26-29, Ephesians 6:10-24, Holy Gospel St John 21:1-14

Holy Gospel: St John 21:1-14

21 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards^[a] off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflections:

Sundays are meant for seeing the Lord and finding peace in His presence. After a week's toil and trials that wear us down, Sunday is meant for our rejuvenation and renewal.

According to the Book of Exodus, God asked Moses to make the tent for their meeting. It was in practice, the meeting of God and His children, all through their journey until they reached the promised land. In the Old Testament, the people of God met Yahweh by seeing and feeling His presence through relatable and reliable manifestations. He provided manna for their hunger, and He let the rocks burst forth with water to quench their thirst. Although it was not so possible for human to see God in person, it is written that they shared a face-to-face meeting. We can assume it as an expression of the intense experience that one would feel in His presence. When it comes to the New Testament,

God became flesh for humans to see, touch, and feel. Since Mary received the 'Word' into her womb, His presence was a human presence in flesh and blood. The world could see Jesus since Mary delivered him. He walked with them and among them always.

Jesus' ministry was about Him being available to everyone who wanted to experience His physical reality. He was the Human God/God Human! While Christ moved among them, they were willing to accept and believe in Him as the Messiah with the freedom and free-will to either accept or reject him. Because He was word in flesh, it was not possible to deny His physical presence. To nullify this, they killed Him. His enemies thought that through His death and burial, He was wiped away as a chapter that could be closed forever. But to those He loved and who searched for Him, Christ appeared. First, to Mary, then to the apostles who could also see Him after they reached Galilee.

Christ appeared to His flock who missed Him terribly and wanted Him back. It was their longing that made Him appear to them each time. Christ was omnipresent. He was everywhere. But only those He chose could see him. Or those who desired for Him with such love and hope. He was able to get into a closed room without opening the door, however, was seen by a few in the room and they could touch him. He was concrete and virtual at the same time! He was available to those who waited for him.

Every eighth day Christ appeared to His chosen few in their closures. He was not visible to the worldly people, priests and religious leaders. Those who believed in Him saw Him. Hence the hymn, Mystery, Mystery, for Me and for My Household! He was Heaven's Mystery given to the whole world, but the world had to be receptive to see and experience Him.

In every appearance after resurrection, Christ fulfilled their needs. In the first gathering where the disciples were despondent after His crucifixion, Jesus appeared to them with the hope of resurrection. In the second gathering, when Thomas was keen to be convinced of Christ's return, Christ appeared to them and offered His hands to Thomas to touch and believe that his Lord was alive. In the third instance when the disciples were desperate from not getting enough fish, Christ appeared to them just as day was breaking, to give them the strength and power to catch a net full of fish like they had never seen before.

When we are in expectation of Christ and are in a real keen desperate search for Him, He will appear to us with what we were searching for. Until His ascension, He was available as before, to His beloved flock. After Ascension, He became the abiding reality within every believer.

On Sundays, we meet Him, we touch him, we receive him through the Eucharistic offering and through His Body and Blood. He appears to those who wait upon Him, to those who come with heavy hearts needily looking for him. He opens Himself for us to touch His holy wounds pierced out of love for us, and we smell his divine aroma of Holy Mooron, the fragrance of His Spirit. This fragrance we sense at our baptism, as Adam sensed it when God breathed into His nostrils. Since the Holy Chrism, this sweet fragrance never leaves and should never leave the believer. It is our faith, trust, complete and absolute reliance

that enables us to see Him during the Holy Liturgy.

Christ is Risen. He is with us. He is Immanuel! We go to church only for this real Christ Experience. If we miss it, we should cry aloud like Thomas, screaming and rolling on the ground asking for Him coming to us, for us to see, touch and shout: '**My Lord and My God!**'

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- **April 14, Marthoma II, 330th anniversary, entombed at Niranom Church**
- **April 17, HG Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos Metropolitan, (Catholicate Ratnadeepam), 75th anniversary, entombed at Puthencavu Cathedral**

OVBS Closing Ceremony

We had a wonderful closing ceremony for this year's OVBS. We thank everyone who worked hard and supported through these days especially. May our children carry the learning of the OVBS wherever they go.

Thanks to Rev Fr John Samuel

We thank Rev. Fr. John Samuel (Roy Achen) from Mylapra Asram for joining us and offering the Holy Qurbana on 12 April 2026. Achen's sermon, messages and meeting with our members truly encouraged us all. His talks and hymns are available on 'Orthodox Praises' YouTube. May God bless him and his ministry always.

Artemis II

The first crewed mission of NASA's Artemis project with four astronauts completed its lunar mission on April 10, 2026, after a 10-day loop around the Moon, setting a new human distance record of 252,756 miles from Earth. They, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen are back home after this great mission. They were able to see the other side of the Moon! Science has proved again the best use of it through this mission.

Faith and prayer can take us to the other side of life and human existence. Both science and faith are for the well being and development of humans and of the whole creation. Both must be used and to be used the right way only.

Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 on April 12, 2026

India has been treasured and blessed by many great gifted people. Among them the name of the legendary playback singer, cultural icon, Asha Bhosle would be echoed for ever. She was the sister of Lata Mangeshkar, the nightingale of India, the legendary singer. She has 12,000 songs across various languages in her credit, taking her to the Guinness World Records as the most recorded artist in music. India has honoured her with Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Padma Vibhushan. The world will miss both sisters, and their heavenly and melodious voice. Asha Bhosle's songs through several decades will remind us of her cheer, humility, and sheer will that she wore and sang through despite several difficult

experiences in life. May her legendary voice live among us. May her soul rest in peace.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf.

We continue praying for re-establishing 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 injury.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. **April 18, Saturday-** MMVS Blood Donation Drive, Location: Canadian Blood Services, 765 Britannia Rd W, Mississauga. Please join and support
2. **April 19, Sunday- OCYM 'Nadan Bites':** Ela Ada and Nadan beef and chicken Cutlet Sale. Prebooking was closed on Thursday 10:00 AM. Please support
3. **April 26, Sunday- SDOF Toronto's Grill-N-Chill BBQ Event.** Pre-order is open and be aware that there will not be other food than BBQ. Please be ready to buy food on that day and support the event.

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:

April 19, Sunday – in-person meetings:

OCYM Food: Pre-order delivery

SDOF: A quick meeting to discuss on the BBQ arrangements for Sunday April 26

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 St John Chrysostom this Sunday.

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

Next Week

April 26, Second Sunday after the New Sunday

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Exodus 40:1-16, Joshua 2:1-6, Hosea 8:1-8, Isaiah 65:1-7
- NT: Acts 4:8-21, Hebrews 3:1-13, Holy Gospel St Mark 2:13-22

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

Email ID: fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com

Mobile: (416) 570 5610

