

**Dearly Beloved,**

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

**June 07, 2026**, Second Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

**Scriptural Readings:**

OT: Leviticus 19:1-8, 2 Samuel 5:1-10, Song of Songs 2:15-3:6, Sirach 46:1-6, Daniel 6:25-28, Isaiah 61:10-11

• NT: Acts 4:24-28, Ephesians 2:11-18, Holy Gospel St Matthew 10:34-11:1

**Holy Gospel: St Matthew 10:34-11:1**

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup>and a man’s foes will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup>“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. <sup>41</sup>He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

11 And when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

**Reflections:**

In this passage, Jesus speaks in a manner which His followers didn’t expect to hear. He said that he had come to bring a sword. However, He never used it. Neither did His disciples use it except for Peter who used it in the garden of Gethsemane against a soldier who had come to take away Jesus as he was anguished to see His Lord arrested. Yet, even at the brink of such suffering Christ did not consent to Peter’s action, rather He healed the hurt soldier.

Here Jesus says, those who take the sword will fall by it. Until we join the Sunday service, let us ponder a few thoughts: What was the sword that Jesus was referring to? Why did He bring it? How was His flock meant to understand it?

Another point to reflect on would be: Whoever receives others in Christ’s name, would be counted as receiving the Lord. Why did Jesus say this? It was a time when Christ and His followers faced a lot of rebellion and rejection from their own people. It was rare for them to enjoy welcome and hospitality. Religious leaders hated Jesus and his friends for the reason of their increasing popularity, the free life they lived, the love they enjoyed, the miraculous powers revealed through Him and the way they accommodated everyone irrespective of caste and profile, in addition to their opinion that they had that Christ was not following the Scriptures and its script to the dot. Religiosity was blurring as spirituality was taking birth. People in power did not want to be replaced by a carpenter’s son.

While they faced swords of hostility everywhere, when confronting the enmity of rulers and leaders, Christ told the disciples to be ready for anything. Safety was not guaranteed in His ministry. In

exchange for love, they were to expect lashes. Christ knew that they would send soldiers for Him anytime. He was equipping them to expect the worst, while carrying out their mission without worrying about the responses. If they are welcomed, they had to remember how their Lord was welcomed. They would not be accepted for their reason but by the reason of their Lord. So, they had to be responsible during their visits to houses or any places. They were to be there as Jesus would be. Their behavior, conversations, actions and thoughts were to be like that of Christ. Such families, houses, and places would get blessed for their hospitality. In short, they had to be mirrors of Christ in the world. If those who received them were to get heaven's rewards, how were they meant to find themselves in the attire of ministers? Jesus wanted them to feel dignified and act on behalf of God. Fear or worry could not influence or impact their duties. In teaching them so, Christ was certain that they would be changing the world.

As His faithful, we are to follow the same command of Christ, to give our all to His ministry and never expect any reward or laurels on earth. We are entrusted to be responsible workers in His vineyard. We need to see Christ in the faces around us. Christ is the perfect image and likeness of God the Father. Being created in His image, when we see each other, talk to each other, we must feel as if we are talking to images of Christ. We all have been accorded such dignity by God, and we must acknowledge this about every human being we come across. So, when guests visit us, we must welcome and accept them with such reverence and respect. When we treat others with much regard and love, every interaction with them would turn out to be a taste of heaven! In a congregational setting, when we come together to worship, it would be the gathering of many images of God. Together, we experience the transforming presence of one another in the magnificent presence of our Lord!

#### **FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:**

- June 05, World Environment Day
- June 06, HG Yuyakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan (Karottuveetil), 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary, entombed at Parumala Seminary
- June 06, HG Augen Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Vallikkattu Dayara, Kottayam

#### **Obituary: Prof Joseph K Alexander**

Prof Joseph K Alexander, 102 years, former senior vice-president & former treasurer of MGOCSM has passed away on June 02 at Jubilee Hospital, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram. He was instrumental in shaping MGOCSM by organizing many programs for the benefit of its young members. Pre-SSLC orientation camp was one among such. Prof Alexander had authored many books (100 years' history of MGOCSM is a book that talks about the growth of the church through youngsters) and had written several articles that inspired many youngsters to join the MGOCSM and work for it. In his retired phase of life, he decided to spend more time with youngsters which turned out to be highly motivational to many.

The funeral service was conducted on Friday at St George Orthodox Church Cemetery, Pattoor, TRV. We thank God for the blessed life he lived and the ministry of the Lord he carried out well. May his soul rest in peace.

### **MMVS Bake Sale was a grand success. Thanks to all**

The MMVS Bake Sale organized on Sunday May 31 was a grand success. The event managed to make a profit of about \$ 4,500. We thank the MMVS team and all volunteers for their hard work and dedication. We thank the parish MC, organizations and all the members of our parish for their support. Whenever we teamed up for a good cause, God has always blessed us. We keep the spirit of unity and fellowship for the glory of God, for the progress of our community and for the wellbeing of everyone around.

### **June 05, World Environment Day**

A friend of mine had sent a message on WhatsApp chat about the World Environment Day. Taken from the Sedra of Qyomto morning prayer, it goes like this:

*O Lord, when you were nailed on the cross naked, you darkened the sun in its place, left the moon discolored, and made the stars fall from their ranks. You sanctified the defiled air by extending your hands....You freely granted new life to all creation. You filled the whole world with peace and tranquility.*

This prayer affirms that God is the creator, sustainer and perfecter of the universe. Replacing Him with anything can be disastrous. Negation of God can impact the rest of creation.

On this day, we thank God for creating this beautiful universe. We consider all human actions that impacted the environment and the life of the whole creation, offer repentance and take a pledge to make every effort to keep the universe clean and divine. As a parish with much potential, we can find ways to incorporate environment protection in every program we plan and individually we will all pledge to make amends in our lifestyle in accordance with the Salvation plan of God that includes every creation. May God bless the universe!

### **OCYM Sports Tournament: Sunday, Jun 07**

Please join the sports day organised by OCYM Toronto on June 07, Sunday after the Holy Liturgy. Please register online.

### **MGOCSM Canada 5K Walk: Saturday, June 13**

Please join the Fund Raiser Race/Walk scheduled to be on June 13, Saturday, at 11:00 am. Venue: Lake Aquitaine Park, 6655 Glen Erin Dr, Mississauga

### **Food & Clothe Donation Drive**

This year our church will join hands with the Coptic Orthodox Church to reach out to the needy. We request all our members to support this initiative by donating gently used clothes in good condition along with nonperishable food items.

The drive was conducted throughout the month of May. We may be able to visit our brethren in Toronto on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. All are welcome to join us when we will distribute the donated items. Details shall be announced soon. Please keep the drive in prayer.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada: Thursday, July 02-Saturday, July 04**

Preparations for the first Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada, scheduled to be held at Georgian College, Barrie from July 02-04, 2026, are progressing well. The organizing team including the clergy, diocesan council members, spiritual organizations' leaders are working hard to make the

event fruitful, beneficial and memorable.

Registration numbers have nearly hit our target,150, so far!

HG Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan, Rev Fr Dr Timothy (Tenny) Thomas and Rev Fr Dr Abraham (Abey) George will be the main resource persons. Our families are encouraged to please assure full-time participation in the event. A registration campaign was held in our church. We keep the event in prayer.

For any enquiry, kindly reach out to Diocesan Council Members Manu Abraham and Vivin Thomas Vettiyil.

### **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 may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and to bring an end to the war.

### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar**

- June 06 Saturday, SS Annual Competitions for grades JK to 12, 09:00 am -02:00 pm @SGOCT
- June 07 Sunday, OCYM Sports Tournament
- June 13 Saturday, MGOCSM Canada 5K Walk
- June 14 Sunday, OCYM Thattukada
- June 16-29, Feast of the Apostles
- July 02-04 (Thu -Sat), First Diocesan Family & Youth Conference of Canada

### **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 of 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 to 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 to record the number of communicants. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion are requested to wave their hand once at the machine upon entering the church.

Please note that the machine will be deactivated after the recitation of the Nicene Creed.

Absolution will be administered during the morning prayer.

### **WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:**

June 07, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

- Sunday School
- OCYM Sports Tournament Inauguration
- SGOCT Choir Monthly Meeting

**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 Osthathios this Sunday.

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

Next Week

June 14, Third Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 42:18-25, Judges 1:8-11, Jeremiah 2:35-3:5, Daniel 3:21-23
- NT: Acts 13:26-29, Galatians 6:10-16, Holy Gospel St John 6:35-46

Yours in Christ

Thomas John Achen

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