

**Dearly Beloved,**

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

**February 08, 2026, 'Aaneede' Sunday (All the Departed)**

**Scriptural Readings:**

- OT: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Joshua 24:29-33, Ezekiel 37:1-14, 2 Maccabees 12:38-45, Isaiah 38:10-20
- NT: James 4:6-5:6, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Holy Gospel St Luke 12:32-49

**Holy Gospel: St Luke 12:32-49**

<sup>32</sup>“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroy. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he<sup>[a]</sup> would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

<sup>41</sup>Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” <sup>42</sup>And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. <sup>44</sup>Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish<sup>[b]</sup> him, and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup>And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup>But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more. <sup>49</sup>“I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it was already kindled!

**Reflections:**

On the ‘Remembrance Day’ of all the faithful departed, the church leads us to the gospel text that speaks about responsible stewardship. Is it because those who we remember have proven their perfect servanthood? Or is it to show us that as stewards, they may have failed in their responsibility and ministry? St Paul speaks about the huge cloud of witnesses standing around us. It is a clear indication of the exemplary lives that the early church had to claim.

Here the text is intended to teach about the ministry to which we all are called. ***Our role in the world is responsible stewardship.*** The job description is to serve in the Master’s household properly and in a timely manner. Who is this Master? It is none other than God the Father. The Son

of God came to serve the Master. He came to serve the household of the Creator. Household here refers to the whole creation. Everyone is responsible for everything happening in the world and thus **we function not in isolation but through connectedness**. It is not only humans but also the rest of creation that comes within the category of service users or customers. Without a clean customer care system, any project can fail or collapse, due to a lack of understanding of what exactly is needed.

The secular concept of 'customer (service user) is king' is acceptable to most of us. Wherever we render our service, that would be our ministry to the Lord. All the faithful share this responsibility in everything that they do. *It is said, never bring office to home and never take home to the office.* Keep work and home apart because they have their own burdens and bliss. Here, according to the Lord, home becomes the workplace. At home, we take up different roles as dad, mom, brother, sister, son, daughter, grand dads and moms. Whatever role we have, we must see it as roles assigned by the Lord because in each role there is an intended purpose for fulfilling which we need to hear His calling. If we are aware thus of this servanthood to the Lord then at home, there won't be any abuse or domestic violence. There would not be violations of any sort. As we grow in our responsibility at home, we would become good stewards at the workplace, both in public and private spaces. Everything we do would be transformed as service to the Lord. **We would eventually understand that the World is our home. Universe is our service space.** In such a space of freedom with accountability there would be no discrimination, violation, bribe, arrogance or irresponsibility.

Our ancestors had fewer resources, technology and facilities than us. Yet they ministered with all their might. Even if they failed, there was honesty and dedication in everything that they spoke and did. On the day of remembrance, we are reminded to be free from prejudice and judgement. We are called to pray for all the ancestral souls and for all the departed, no matter whether they belong to our culture, language, community, family or faith. The departed never leave us. They are with us all through, in all spaces. Especially in the church, before we reach there, they already are there, represented by the red carpet always and they join us in worship serving the Lord closer than us, at the altar.

We pray that the Lord comforts them and pardons any offence they might have committed during their life on earth. **Prayer cleanses. Prayer heals.** Before we pray for them, we must reconcile with them. We forgive them if they have erred to us in any way and we seek forgiveness from them for anything we have offended them. We go to their tombs and offer our prayers; we get to sense their spiritual presence. It is not only because of the guidance given by the church but also because we are able to feel them alive and active. We do not doubt their existence or the continuity of life that they live after departure. As they experience the great Light in eternity, may its rays touch our hearts and souls so that we may seek to experience His Light more in this world.

On this great day of remembrance, let us be aware that we are connected to the vast ocean of souls who have physically departed from us but are spiritually active and present with us and it is, together with them, that we prepare to enter the Great Lent. May we feel their abiding presence with us more with each passing day. May their souls bless us through their prayers.

### **1.FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:**

- February 02, Maeltho (Entry of our Lord into the Temple)

- February 03, Mar Barsauma, Mar Anthonios
- February 08, Commemoration of Mar Abo, entombed at Marth Mariam Church, Thevalakkara
- February 08, Aneede, All faithful **departed**

## **2. Condolences:**

**A.** We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Anappara Varghese Yohannan (86) on January 31, 2026, in Kerala. He was the father of Vincent Yohannan, father-in-law of Jessy Vincent and loving grandfather of Marshalene, Kevin and Joanna

We humbly pray that the Almighty God grant eternal rest to the departed soul and comfort, strength and peace to the bereaved family

**B.** With profound sorrow, we inform you of the passing of Mr. T.M. Varughese (95) on January 31, beloved husband of Annamma Varughese; father of Omana John (Directory B01) and Ponnamma Varughese (Directory L01); and father-in-law of Babu John and Lalu Varghese.

He was the loving grandfather of Justin John, Sheba John, Alisha Ann Varghese, and Ashby Mathew Varghese.

Let us uphold the grieving families in our prayers during this difficult time. May Almighty God grant eternal rest to the departed soul

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

1. **Great Lent: Feb 16- April 04**
2. **Easter: April 05, Sunday**

## **4. Vicar on Holiday:**

The vicar is away on an India visit until Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, but is available on phone, mail, WA or text. Please feel free to connect for any pastoral assistance. Rev Fr Geevarghese Thampan has kindly agreed to cover all Sundays and other feast days. If we have any clergy support in person required, pls reach out to the parish office. Please keep the vicar's travel in your prayers.

## **5. 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.

**6. AREA PRAYER MEETINGS:** Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

## **7. 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.

### **8.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.

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

**February 08, Sunday** – in-person monthly meetings after refreshment

- Sunday School
- MMVS after refreshments

Organizational secretaries to advise on in-person meetings depending on weather conditions.

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

### **11.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.

### **12.Next Week**

February 15, Sunday: 'Kothine' Sunday (Wedding at Cana), Pethurtha Sunday of Great Lent

### **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
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Yours in Christ

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