**Dearly Beloved,**
Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

**November 08, 2026, Hudos Eetho (Dedication of the Church)**
**Scriptural Readings:**
• OT: Exodus 31:18-32:6, 1 Kings 6:1-8, Jeremiah 31:10-14, 22-26, Ezekiel 9:11, 10:1-5, 18-22, 1 Maccabees 4:52-59
• NT: Acts 7:44-53, Hebrews 9:4-14, Holy Gospel St John 10:22-42

**'Sumoro' of the Gospel reading:**
*'Remember your church that you have owned and redeemed by the scepter of your inheritance.' (Ps 74:2)*
*'How lovely is your dwelling place O Lord of hosts. My soul longs and desires for the courts of the Lord.' (Ps 84:1)*

**Holy Gospel: St John 10:22-42**
22 It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the
temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered round him and said to him, "How long
will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told
you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me; 26 but
you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know
them, and they follow me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one
shall snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me,[a] is greater than all, and
no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."
31 The Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many
good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is
not for a good work that we stone you but for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself
God." 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? 35 If he called them
gods to whom the word of God came (and scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of him whom
the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son
of God'? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even
though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father
is in me and I am in the Father." 39 Again they tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.
40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John at first baptized, and there he
remained. 41 And many came to him; and they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said
about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.

**Reflections:**
We are in the second week of the new liturgical year. Last week we spoke of the Light. This week we are celebrating the dedication of the church. All this leads the way to the Nativity. The faith we have, how we define and experience Christ and our relationship with Him are our cleansing factors.
On the feast of dedication, we also commemorate Mar Gregorios of Parumala, our patron saint. In the Sunday's gospel text, Jesus is confronting leaders who looked for reasons to kill him. They asked for clearer signs, not because they wanted to believe, but to bring upon him more blame.

They blinded themselves to the many good things He did, while amongst them. They were picky about what He said about His relationship with God the Father. They looked to find fault in everything He did. While questioning Christ and attributing blasphemy to His words, they forgot that they as well were the sons and daughters of God the Father, the maker of heaven and earth. Being the strongest adherents of the Holy Scripture, they kept aside the first verse of the Genesis account that in the beginning God created heaven and earth. They also forgot the cry of God through Isaiah- "I reared my children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib, but my people do not understand." (Is 1:2-3). The Messiah was revealed through prophesies. But they failed to recognize Him while He was with them. Rather they rebelled against him just as Isaiah had foretold.

We celebrate the feast of Parumala Thirumeni for his devotion and prayer that kept him pure in his relationship with God and with the rest of creation. Logical enquiries, genuine reasoning, critical approach, checking credibility etc. are to be done for everything before we adhere to anything. God has given us the wisdom to probe into things to save us from getting deceived. But it should be for seeking truth. The book of Acts of the Apostle acknowledges the credibility check by the believers in Beroea- ...these were more noble than those in Thessaloni'ca, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (Acts 17:11).

Only pure devotion can keep one genuinely faithful to God. For all questions of faith, it is better to submit them in prayer to seek answers from God while checking with spiritual guides also.

Parumala Thirumeni was an earnest seeker of God. Prayer was his way; it was his navigator. He learned faith from his family and from his community. He practiced what he learned. God was his refuge since childhood. Prayer was his conversing with the loving God. He found in Christ - his Lord and his guide. He enjoyed the company of the Lord and saints. When he was sick and was at the verge of death, he had the vision of Mother Mary. After the vision, he got healed. He continued his prayer and devotion with more intensity.

The Church calls Parumala Thirumeni a saint because of his unpolluted dedication to God. It was a one-to-one relationship like Moses had with God. There is a beautiful expression of Moses praying- 'Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tent.' (Exodus 33:11). By seeing that relationship, Joshua, then a child, also enjoyed spending time in the Tent of Meeting, the tabernacle. Church is the continuation of the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting. It is dedicated to remaining as the meeting spot for God with his children.

Days spent in prayer and on Sunday in the temple make the week meaningful and complete. For a dedicated mind, doubts and challenges could occur. However, unwavering devotion would allow the faithful to have all doubts cleared and challenges be addressed. Doubts may not arise from a pharisaic attitude that looks to mask any real experience with the Light. That should never be so.

All the saintly people who ever lived - prophets, apostles, martyrs including Parumla Thirumeni, all of them faced challenges and adversities. However, they never allowed doubt to impact their continual journey with God. Rather they classified their doubt as their sinfulness that could cause calamities, hardships, sufferings and persecutions, to them and to people around. They handled it through repentance, penitence, more prayer and increased enthusiasm. Their lives thus inspired generations for centuries later to keep returning to their hometown, to that altar – where once such precious humble lives lived and worshipped the Lord who was their refuge, their fortress and their love.

When we celebrate the feast of dedication of the Church, we rededicate ourselves to God with a renewed spirit and with a desire to move forward prayerfully. God will never fail us. Pray that we get revelations and visions about everything that burden and stress us out. Nobody and nothing in the universe can be above or greater than God. There is no tool bigger than faith for solving problems. With faith, we realize that He who is in us is greater than the boulders that bother us. **May the intercession of Mar Gregorios empower us.**

**FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCE:**

- November 02, 124th Dukrono of Mar Gregorios of Parumala
- November 02, HG Paulose Mar Athanasius Metropolitan (Kadavil), 119th anniversary, entombed at Thrikkunnath Seminary, Alwaye
- November 05, HG Stephanos Mar Theodocius Metropolitan, 19th anniversary, entombed at St Thomas Asram, Bhilai
- November 06, HG Geevarghese Mar Gregorios Metropolitan (Vayaliparampil), 60th anniversary, entombed at Thrikkunnath Seminary, Alwaye
- November 08, Hudos Eetho, HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews I Catholicose, 30th anniversary, entombed at Devalokam Aramana Chapel

**Dukrono of Parumala Thirumeni**

- **Saturday, 07-November:**
    - 04:30 pm- Meeting of Acolytes
    - 06:00 pm- Receiving of Pilgrims
    - 06:30 pm- Evening Prayer
    - 07:15- Hymns by the Parish Choir
    - 07:30 pm- Devotional Talk by Rev Fr Geevarghese Thampan
    - 08:00 pm- Perunnal Procession
    - 08:45 pm- Benediction
    - 09:00 pm- Nerchavilampu
- **Sunday, 08-Novemebr:**
    - 08:30 am- Morning Prayer
    - 09:30 am- Holy Tri-mass
    - 11:30 am- Intercessory Prayer & Benediction
    - 12:00 pm- Nerchavilampu

**Sunday Morning Prayer starts at 08:30 am.**
According to the semiannual GBM decision, morning prayer will start at 08:30 am on Sundays.

**Wear a Poppy, Revere the Veterans**
Poppies are available at both church entrances, with collection boxes. Please pick one and wear it in honor of veterans. Please donate. We are here to support veterans and their families.

**UPCOMING FEASTS & EVENTS:**

- November 07 Saturday & 08 Sunday, Feast of St Gregorios
- November 08, Hoodos Eetho Sunday, Dedication of the Church
- November 22, Sunday, Parish Annual GBM (Tentative), Please reach out to the parish office to see any payment due, Holy Confession validity for eligibility

**Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf**
The recent developments have caused more worries and fears about the long-lasting impact on life in the West Asia region. It has already affected thousands of people working there. Many have lost jobs, cost of living is going high with the oil price hike, companies are issuing termination letters, the situation is becoming scarier. We fervently pray for peace and cessation of attacks. Our prayers may work miracles through the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit intervene and transform the minds of people in power.

**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 MEETING:**
If any family is willing to host prayer meetings, please reach out to the area coordinators or the parish office.

**FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:**
**Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services.**
**Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church.**
For assuring safety and 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 could be uneasy for our volunteers to guide them to the front during the service as it might cause distraction and noise. We avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas due to 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 parents to attend to their children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

**WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:**
November 08, Sunday – in-person meetings/Events

- Sunday School
- MMVS Monthly Meeting & practice for Diocesan Carol Service. All women members are earnestly requested to join the song practice.

**LIVE streaming:** All services are Live Streamed and are 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**
November 15, Revelation to Zachariah
**Scriptural Readings:**
**• OT: Genesis 17:15-22, Numbers 8:1-20, 1 Kings 8:13-20, Isaiah 41:8-16**
**• NT: 2 Peter 1:1-15, Romans 4:13-25, Holy Gospel St Luke 1:1-25**

**'Sumoro' of the Gospel reading:**
*'Then he speaks to his righteous in visions and He said: I have set helps for the mighty.' (Ps 89:19)*
*'I shall see your face in righteousness, and I will be satisfied when your faith wakes up.' (Ps 17:15)*

Yours in Christ
Thomas John Achen
Email ID: fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com
Mobile: (416) 570 5610