

Dearly Beloved,

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

July 27, 2025, Seventh Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

OT: Leviticus 16:29-34, 1 Samuel 4:18-22, Hosea 5:1-5, Isaiah 57:15-19

NT: Acts 4:24-31, Ephesians 2:11-18, Holy Gospel St Mark 3:20-30

Holy Evangelion, St Mark 3:20-30

²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for people were saying, “He is beside himself.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Be-el’zebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has revolted against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Reflections:

‘Use evil against evil’ could be a widely accepted or popular thinking. Movies based on wars, crime-thrillers and combat genres would prefer such themes for commercial success. A hero/heroine who cannot fight back with more lethality may not be found appreciable in today’s world where no one is second to anyone. What one learns for self defense can be used as a tool to return evil against another evil in either the same or more measure. One might tend to justify by saying, “when all are doing this, why can’t I?” Or they may refer to past events of wrong actions for self vindication.

In several instances, Jesus could have chosen to destroy his opponents. ***But His life and mission were about love and reconciliation to transform the world from evil inclinations to divine. Jesus came to make humans tune themselves toward God’s reflections.*** In His era, wrong doers were often stoned to death or crucified. The extent of torture had to tally with the depth of the sin. Forgiveness was unimaginable as society was

unable to think of good winning over bad. Jesus' approach of dealing with hostile or challenging situations through faith, prayer and fasting was unheard of. People were conditioned to believe that He was using demonic powers to win. Choosing good over evil was not an option as they were taught to kill and destroy. Maybe they had never thought of other options. Even after being with Christ for so long, His disciples found it normal to pray for fire to burn the people of Samaria when they were refused access for a night stay.

Incarnation was a complete identification of God with creation. He came to a world which was unable to identify with those who were thrown to colosseum to be brutally preyed by wild beasts. The only identification for such spectator psyche was of the beast, viewing any human thrown to them, as their prey to be killed and fed. It could be the mind set of a hunter and consumer. When an individual is conditioned this way, every other person could be treated as his or her feed. When a community or a nation is conditioned this way, genocides and Auschwitz camps would become a normal life setting. With such a social psyche, feeling of guilt would never be a possibility. Repentance and reconciliation would never be looked as acceptable or normal. Hence, they all said, he was out of mind, and he was using demons to drive out demons. So, there can be situations, we may get conditioned to opt for evil ways, wrong ways, without feeling any prick of conscience, to assure winning and success or to bring solutions. After every war, if there is a victor, if taking a glimpse of the battlefield, only would see corpses scattered around, deformed, soaked in blood, without any identity of either of a foe or a friend, enemy or of same blood, and the victor would be a loner without anyone to see and appreciate the victory. Such a victor can only realize as a loner and a loser. Gains may only become defeats and losses. Jesus was a fighter against evil, without using lethal tools. He was to win souls by making everyone win, not by making them feel lost. In such a fight, no blood shall be shed. Nothing to lose. ***It was by transforming minds, he won souls. Nobody felt hurt or failed. His tool was love and compassion, devoid of ego and hatred.*** When we choose tools of God to address challenges, we get freed from evil clutches. If we use evil ways to win, we get yielded to evil, become tools in the hands of Satan, become slaves to demonic forces. We lose the sense of discernment where repentance and admitting of mistakes would be far from reality. Satan only wish to bury us in our sins whereas God chooses to see us in His manifestations and to resurrect us from fall and death. Ultimate victory will be for good over evil. ***Only a free mind, freed from evil inclinations can see good in others, good in any given situations.*** The same way God looked and said, everything is good, we may also see and speak. ***Church should be a space free of scandals, allegations, blame games, hatred, divisions, polarization, fights, plotting, scheming, acts of vengeance and undivine alliances.*** If church can practice heaven within its space, and if church becomes the fishers of men/women in the world, the world will become the Kingdom of God. For this

we have been called. We pray fervently for Holy Spirit to transform our minds to transform the whole world.

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES:

- **July 22**, Feast of St Mary Magdalene
- **July 23**, HG Geevarghese Mar Dioscoros Metropolitan, 26th anniversary, entombed at Holy Trinity Ashram Chapel, Ranni
- **July 23**, Rev Fr Roque Zephrein Noronha, ‘the Blessed’, of Brahmavar
- **July 25**, Feast of St Epiphanius of Cyprus
- **July 27**, Feast of St Simon the Stylite
- **VS passes away**
- Starting from the pre-Independence period, his career was closely interwoven with the socio-political history of modern Kerala. [Achuthanandan became known as an icon of relentless fighting spirit](#). A dominant figure in Kerala politics for several decades and a founding member of the CPI(M), former chief minister Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, popularly known as Comrade VS or just VS, died at a hospital in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He was 101 years old. In his political life spanning eight decades,

A politician shaped by struggles and agitation, the Communist luminary donned different mantles in the Left movement and society at large. At different points in his life, he was an organizer of grassroots workers, an underground revolutionary, an election manager, civil society’s conscience keeper, his party’s crowd-puller, a public interest litigant, an anti-corruption crusader, and a voice for green movements. (Courtesy: Indian Express). Salute to a non corrupt and committed public servant and leader!

Clergy Demise: Very Rev Fr Thomas Abraham Cor Episcopa

We express our deepest condolence on the passing away of Very Rev Fr Thomas Abraham Cor Episcopa, a senior priest of the Diocese of Kottayam on Monday July 21st. The passing away happened while he was visiting his relatives in the US. The funeral service will be conducted in India later. He was serving as Headmaster at TM UP School Thottackad till his retirement. We pray for Achen’s soul and thank the Lord for his life and ministry.

FROM OUR LAST UPDATE:

- **KCEF St Thomas Day celebrated on Saturday July 19.**

The St Thomas Day celebration organized by KCEF was an excellent tribute to the Apostle of India. All presentations by parishes were beautiful and enlightening. Our parish had a presentation of hymns by our Sunday School. The hymns were taken from the Feast of St Thomas, beautifully sung by our students. We thank and congratulate the students, teachers, trainers and parents for their participation and support.

- **Pray for peace in the Middle East** – We keep praying for peace in the Middle East and wherever it is threatened. When there is no peace, everybody would live in fear and suspicion.
- **St Joseph's Elders Forum** - The next gathering will be on Thursday July 31st at 12:00 noon at the SGOCT Parish Hall. All our respected SJE members are requested to participate.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. **HH Baselios Marthoma Paulose II Memorial Food Drive** is open with a view to finish on Sunday Aug 10, organized by SGOCT MMVS. Please bring nonperishable food items - canned or packed, assuring at least three months before date of expiry.
2. **Celebrating 1700th year of the Nicene Creed:** Our parish will be organizing an event including elocution competition connected to the theme and choir presentations involving the Malankara Orthodox Church parishes in Toronto Region. Probably in the Fall season. Date, time and other details shall be announced soon.
3. **August 1-15**, Soonoyo Fast
4. **August 14, Thursday:** Conclusion of St Mary's Lent: Evening Prayer- 06:30 pm, followed by Holy Qurbana and Intercessory Prayer
5. **August 15-18:** Kanesh Retreat 2025 @ Anchor Retreat Centre
6. **August 16, Saturday: Feast of Theotokos:** Evening Prayer @ 06:30 pm followed by Devotional Hymns by Parish Choir, Devotional Talk, Holy Procession, Benediction & Nerchavilampu.
7. **August 17, Sunday,** Feast of St Mary, Holy Qurbana, Intercessory Prayer, Nerchavilampu.

8. **August 23, Saturday:** Parish Picnic
9. **September 01-08,** Ettunompu
10. **September 07,** Sunday: Onasadhya
11. **September 07, Sunday:** Feast of Theotokos, Holy Qurbana, Intercessory Prayer, Nerchavilampu.
12. **September 14, Sunday:** Feast of the Cross. Morning prayer at 08.30 AM followed by Holy Qurbana and liturgy of the Cross.
13. **October 12, Sunday:** Parish Nite 2025
14. **October 19, Sunday:** Harvest Festival – 2025

MGOCSM Canada- Kanesh 2025; Aug 15-18

MGOCSM Canada will be organizing Kanesh Retreat 2025 at Anchor Retreat Centre from August 15-18. Please assure maximum participation from our young members. Please keep the event in prayer and offer all support possible.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS:

Details of upcoming meetings shall be announced later.

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:

July 27, Sunday –

MGOCSM, OCYM will have their monthly meetings after refreshment.

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

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the English Taksá of St James this Sunday.

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

Next Week

Aug 03rd, Eighth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Scriptural Readings:

OT: Exodus 3:9-15, Job 23:1-7, Jeremiah 7:21-25, Isaiah 52:1-8

NT: 1 Peter 2:6-10, Hebrews 4:14-5:5, Holy Gospel St Mark 4:1-20

Yours in Christ

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