



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 03, 2020

Palm Sunday (Hosannah)

Holy Scriptural Readings:

John 12:12-19, Luke 19:28-40 Other Readings - Mathew 21:1-22, Mark 11:1-26

OT Readings - Genesis 49:8-15, Job 26:1-14, 2 Samuel 6:1-7, Daniel 3:7-11, Isaiah 52:7-12

NT Readings - 1 John 2:7-17, Romans 11:13-24

Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendour. “You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.”⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say, “Your God reigns!”⁹ Burst into songs of joy together...¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.¹² The Lord will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard. (Isaiah 52:1-12 – only chosen verses)

Dearly Beloved,

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

We are entering the most intense phase of Great Lent. 40 days fast has completed with 40th Friday. Now it is time to enter the deepest and darkest of Lenten period regarding its spiritual experience. These days would be remembered not for the fasting done, but for the visual and liturgical enactment of Christ's sufferings, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection. Nothing could be compared to it. If we review our past years for the Holy week, we would find, every year we had experienced various dimensions of Pascha. As we grew, our experiences also grew with us. This year, we are going to have a unique Pascha. We will not be able to enter the temple to see Christ striding on the colt, children shouting Hosannah and throwing flowers, to face the dark curtains, kneeling on knees for Holy Confession, to feel the reduced voice and melancholic tone of Hasa, singing Pesahaayal Pesahaadine..., join Him walking with Cross, listen to the ‘Two Thieves Samvadam’, taste the bitter drink, Kanji & Payar (the tastiest food of the year !) and to shout joyfully ‘Indeed He has Risen’ and to kiss the Cross singing Jaathikale modippin. We would miss all this. But we can experience everything at home. Let us keep a strong desire to feel Christ, His Mother, Disciples and the Women who cried on Via Dolorosa. Make our home the Church for a closer experience of His ascending to Calvary. He said, “Wherever you gather in two or three, I would be there in your midst.” We have at least two at home! More than the required number we have at many houses! Do we have at least one flower to pick from our garden? Keep it on the prayer table symbolising a whole garden of our submission! If not, offer our heart which is the best and most beautiful flower bud! Make a prayer table, place a cross on it, keep a candle lit. We have a Sanctuary and Altar ready in our living room! Involve our children to read and sing. After finishing our services, please spare a few minutes to reflect upon our childhood and later Pascha days. Share our thoughts on how we have been brought up by the Lord. Every year there would be something new happened in our life. If we write it down, it would be the continuation of the Holy Bible for our forthcoming generations! No wonder. The Holy Bible is nothing but reminiscence of a ‘people’, ordinary people like us. We are more fortunate than them with respect to technology, facility and quality. If possible, let us strictly observe fasting,



keeping the vegetarian and light diet, make Kanji and Payar on Good Friday and serve it only in the afternoon. If we could sit on the floor, please enjoy Kanji and Payar likewise. Make Pesaha Appam and Easter Recipe. We could keep a diary of Holy Week, either a common one kept open for all family members to jot down their experience of these days or individual ones for each member. It can be a reflection of how the Lord had lead us these days! Bring the Social Media usage to essential and to a minimum or even a total break for one week. Try to practice kneeling down as much as possible. Say bye to entertainments for the whole week. Let us focus, focus and focus unto the Lord! May we all resurrect to a new life of joy and Spirit.

Holy Week Service at Church

Having received Kalpana from His Holiness and a memo from our Diocesan Bishop, adhering to the Ontario guidelines, we would conduct Holy Liturgy at Church on Hosannah, Pesaha, Great Friday, Gospel Saturday and Easter. Services shall be Live-Streamed. Rest of the days, daily offices of prayer shall be conducted at Vicar's residence and shall be live-streamed. No participation of our members at church shall be anticipated. May we all keep the church and the services in prayer.

Please follow this link for the services.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_vCG9AWStA

Timing of Holy Week Service:

05/04/2020 - Palm Sunday (Hosannah)

Morning Prayer - 09:00 am Holy Qurbana - 10:00 am

08/04/2020 Wednesday - Passover (Pesaha)

Evening Prayer - 06:00 pm, Holy Qurbana - 07:00 pm.

10/04/2020 - Great Friday (Valiyavelli, Dukhavelli)

Morning Prayer - 09:00 am

(Followed by third hour, sixth hour, ninth hour and Veneration of the Cross)

11/04/2020- Gospel Saturday (Dukhasani, Ariyippinte Sani)

Morning Prayer - 09:00 am, Holy Qurbana 10:00 am

12/04/2020 Sunday - Easter (Kyomtho)

Night Prayer (Liliyo) - 07:00 am followed by Easter Announcement, Morning Prayer, Easter Liturgy & Holy Qurbana

Please send names to be remembered in Holy Qurbana (Blessings, Birthday, Wedding Anniversary, Sick, Departed) to Vicar fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com

Sad Parting

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

6890 Professional court, Mississauga, Ontario, L4V 1X6, Canada



(Revelation 21:4)

With profound sadness, may we announce the passing away of Mr P O Abraham, 83 years, (Parackamannil Baby Villa, Manjadi P O, Meenthalakara, Thiruvalla), beloved father of Bindu Mathew and father-in-law of Mathew Thomas (Directory Ref –M08 Address: 63 Greyoak Dr, Guelph, ON, N1L 1R2. Mob: (226) 979 3177, Res (519) 265 1849) in Kerala, on 2nd April at 4:30 pm IST. He was predeceased by his wife Kunjumol Abraham and is survived by his two children Balu Abraham, Bindu Mathew, daughter-in-law Sheela Abraham, Son-in-law Mathew Thomas, grand-children Jubin, Yohann, Ann and Lael.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday 4th April 2020 at 7:00 am IST. May we all uphold the departed soul and the grieving family members in our prayer. Mathew and Bindu cannot travel to India now. Relatives and friends would also be unable to join the service. It is a tough time indeed. May the Spirit of the Lord fill everyone with Peace and Hope. May the Lord comfort everyone.

Support our Parish

In response to request for financial support from the Parish Office, our members have started making contributions. Sincerely thanking them for their kindness. We would need everyone's support. May we request our members to respond wholeheartedly at this time of need. Please contribute \$100 towards Great Lent/Holy Week and another \$100 towards Sunday offertory. You can e-transfer to: treasurer@sgoctoronto.org

MMVS Tele-prayer

Canada Region MMVS is continuing the tele-prayer. There will be prayer this evening Friday 3rd April from 8:30 pm to 9:45 pm. Please note that we will be using **Zoom** Service for this prayer. Please find the info for joining the prayer conference:

Open Zoom app in your phone or laptop. Click on "Join a Meeting". Enter meeting ID (589 960 171) and click "Join". Enter meeting Password (002105) and you will be directed to MMVS Toronto Region – Prayer line.

or

Copy the link below and paste it on to your browser's address bar and hit enter
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/589960171?pwd=UVZQNIE0Y005S2RMRFVDN3ITUnhIdz09>
Meeting ID: 589 960 171
Password: 002105

If you come across any technical difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact Rev Fr Sam Thankachen on [\(647\) 515-7231](tel:6475157231).

General Etiquette to follow:

Please announce your name and name of parish you are joining from.

Please mute your phones to ensure no disturbance.



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Keeping you all in prayer. Let us believe, God is giving us a chance to see His wonderful way of taking care of the world.

Yours in Christ
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