



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - SEPTEMBER 03, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, September 05, Third Sunday after Soonoyo

Epistle Readings: St James 5:1-6, 2 Corinthians 10:1-7

Holy Evangelion: St Matthew 17:22-27

17. 22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

24 When they came to Caper’na-um, the collectors of the half-shekel tax went up to Peter and said, “Does not your teacher pay the tax?” 25 He said, “Yes.” And when he came home, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their sons or from others?” 26 And when he said, “From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. 27 However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook, and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel; take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.”

Reflection:

Many men and women - whom Jesus represents - have been tortured and detained for their beliefs or other reasons. It could be based on gender, race, skin color, or any reasons that are provided by abusive people in power. What Jesus predicted of his future was not an exception in history. Rather, it happened throughout the times by rulers. Colonization, invasion, ethnic cleansing, discrimination, denial of rights and justice, systematic exploitation, suppression, and oppression have taken away millions of lives. This brought down communities under dictatorship.

Jesus was always with ordinary people and stood for social justice. He preached love and compassion. This did not consist of discussing emotions. Rather, it was a fight where he had to stand up against hypocrisy and inequality. He was the voice of the downtrodden which became a movement and the authorities wanted to silence the cry for justice. They thought the shouting of Hosannah (means ‘save us now’) was an outbreak of a new freedom movement initiated by Jesus, led by a group of twelve who had a fast-growing influence on people. Jesus was an obedient citizen who advised his people to pay taxes and not to rebel against the government. His discussion of the Kingdom of God brought suspicion and fear in the hearts of leaders and rulers. Even the religious leaders could not accept his preaching of the Kingdom though they were expecting Yahweh’s rule established through the Messiah. Jesus and his apostles were killed by authorities for their preaching. This was followed by deacons, elders, monks, and priests throughout the centuries. As Jesus promised, there will be the resurrection point too.

Feasts:

August 30, Mar Gabriel Episcopa, entombed at Cheriyaapally Kottayam

August 31, HG Parettu Mathews Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 41st anniversary, entombed at Pampadi Dayara

HG Mathews Mar Ivanios Parettu was the successor of Pampady Gregorios Thirumeni who led a strict spiritual life and always stood for the freedom and liberty of the Malankara church.



September 02, Yuyakim Mar Koorilose Metropolitan, 147th anniversary, entombed at Mulanthuruthy Mar Thoman Pally

HG Yuyakim Mar Koorilose was a monk from Turkey who came to serve the Malankara church. He led the church during challenging times. Many forces were trying to subdue the Malankara church and he took the challenge to stand firm against them in the love of Christ. He had to face many threats. However, his vigor and determination only grew further while encountering difficulties.

September 01-08 'Ettunompu'

September 01-08 are days of lent connected to the birth of St Mary, though non-canonical, observed by the majority of faithful in the church. The intercession of Mother Mary is so powerful. Let us observe the lent with prayer and fasting. May we pray for the whole world. Please remember to send names for intercession.

Prof K M Kuriakose passes away

Prof K M Kuriakose was the former central secretary of OCYM, who passed away at the age of 84. He was a post-graduate in History, Hindi, English, and Malayalam. He was an acclaimed teacher who served at MD Seminary HS Kottayam, MGD HS Kundara, MG HS Thumpamon. He was also a professor at Catholicate College Pathanamthitta, Baslios College Kottayam, Principal at St Thomas College Bhilai, Professor at Nagpur Seminary, and retired as the Principal of Mar Dionysius College Pazhanji. He translated the Qurbana Taksa and other sacramental texts to Hindi which is used in North India. He always stood against the use of drugs in educational institutions. He initiated awareness programs and for prevention, formed 'Anti Narcotic Cell' on campuses. He also initiated pre-marital counseling on campuses. He also served in various admin and organizational committees, published books, and won various awards of recognition. May the Lord comfort his soul in heaven's court.

Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, August 29

The Parish Town Hall meeting was conducted last Sunday at church after the Holy Liturgical service. We do sincerely thank our beloved members for their participation and for sharing their valuable thoughts and suggestions.

Laughter is the best medicine, laughing gas is not!

There is a growing concern about the unlawful possession of laughing gas and its use which is available in small containers. The UK Government has declared it a crime that will be punishable. The Department of Health has said that the regular use of laughing gas has caused many deaths. Sometimes the things we expect to help us can cause great harm. We should be careful and use the power of discernment for sustainable healthy living on earth.

Evening Prayer on Saturdays in September

Virtual Evening Prayer shall resume from Saturday, September 11th. This Saturday evening prayer shall be conducted at Church at 06:30 pm

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 02

Annual Conference: Saturday, October 09

Bible Study: Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem)



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Virtual Meetings ahead

September 05 Sunday, SGOCT Choir monthly meeting, 06:30- 08:00 pm

September 08, Wednesday, SGOCT Choir Weekly Practice - 08:00-09:00 pm.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St Peter.

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

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

Yours in Christ,

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