



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 04, 2021

Dearly beloved,

**Sunday June 06<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 4:23-31, Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Holy Gospel: St Matthew 10:5-16**

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay. 9 Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food. 11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, salute it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of the judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

### **Reflection:**

With Jesus commissioning the twelve, there began the greatest mission initiated in history and to date. It was the beginning of a new world order and became the pivotal point of organised religio-spiritual establishment which was later adopted or followed by many faith communities. Ancient Greek, Roman, Indian philosophical schools had their ways of propagating their teachings through disciples, however none of them achieved such a systematic way of preaching as Christianity developed. Certain religions professed faith only among their own people to keep ethnic purity. Gospel ministry had found its unique character through intending to include all peoples in the world irrespective of their faith and culture.

The disciples were sent out to the open world without having them carry heavy luggage or life’s burdens. They had to have nothing but a real enthusiasm and a true search for souls - lost souls, those lost from God’s presence. Despite the presence of many religions in the world with their practices and cults, most of them could not save the souls from going astray. They were more focussed on following of certain rules and keen on establishing with acquiring of wealth and building of more structures. Christ sent his disciples unarmed, without wallet, not assuring any luxury and by virtue keeping themselves as sheep to bring change to wolf-like-minds. They had to preach about the presence of heaven and to summon everyone to get transformed to fit into the Kingdom of God. They were not allowed to assure any prosperity or promise any material gains to the listeners. Their mission was to heal, assist, serve and help using their authority and not to earn anything other than human lives. They had to be carriers of peace and executors of words that console and empower everyone. As guided by the Spirit of God and through witnessing the Risen Christ, church has developed the gospel ministry by establishing hospitals and hospices (centres for healing), various uplifting projects of charity (to raise the dead-like), equal approach to everyone without excluding on the basis of their physical conditions or social status (ruling out any disregard for people who were banned due to social taboos like leprosy, classism or castism), emotional/ psychological support to



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save from being haunted by any fears or anxieties (exorcising) and spreading love and fraternity in a clashing and threatening world (as if sheep among wolves) and by setting a new example of quality living through higher thinking (Kingdom of God). When we realise the real call of Christ, we would never be idle or self centred but always be engaged in the ministry with the same enthusiasm and zeal the apostles had. May we be empowered by the Spirit of the Lord and serve the purpose of our call. Hallelujah!

## Feasts:

### **June 06, Yuakim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Parumala.**

He lived a saintly life and stood for defending the faith during turbulent times. He is buried close to and on the right of the tomb of Parumala Thirumeni. May his intercession be a fortress for us.

### **June 06, HG Augen Mar Dionysius, 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Vallikkattu Dayara.**

He was a devout clergy of the church who became Ramban and served at Vallikkattu Dayara where his service transformed the place to a pilgrim centre. He made use of his aesthetic sense to create an environment at Vallikkattu Dayara where everyone would feel heaven on earth. He got elevated to Bishop and served the Diocese of Idukki only for a short term until his sudden passing away after having met with an accident. He was on way to Idukki and his vehicle was full of study materials to be distributed to the poor children in various areas of Idukki District. He was highly charitable and took care of the needy and was ready to help anyone out of his pocket. May his memory be a blessing for us.

## **Rev Fr Jacob Manayath passes away**

Rev Fr Jacob Manayath, senior priest of the Diocese of Sultan Bathery, the beloved father of Rev Fr Eldo Jacob has left for his heavenly abode. The funeral service has been conducted at St Peter's & St Paul's Orthodox Church Koliyadi on Thursday June 03<sup>rd</sup>. Our prayers for his soul.

## **World mourns over the 215 children buried at the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc School site**

The world is at shock after learning about the uncovering of the remains of 215 children buried at the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc residential school site in British Columbia. It is believed that for more than 150 years, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation children were taken from their families and communities to attend schools and many never returned. This was possibly carried out by an official policy which intended to separate these children from their families to destroy their cultures and languages. It is called as 'cultural genocide'. We will remember them this Sunday and there will be offering of incense and prayers for their souls. May the survivors and the families of all the victims be strengthened by the merciful God.

## **OCYM Webinar on 'Art of Parenting'**

Our parish OCYM will be conducting a webinar on 'Art of Parenting' on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 07:00 - 08:30 pm. Mr Prasad Nair, MSW RSW, Director at Children's Aid Society of Toronto will lead the session. We believe that this seminar will be of great help to our young parents. The meeting will be open to all. Please assure your participation.

## **MGOCSM Spring Fellowship today**

MGOCSM Toronto has hosted Spring Fellowship event this evening. Mrs Ceena Varghese led the session on the theme 'The Role of an Individual in the Church' which was highly illuminating. All the parish units in Canada Region participated and complemented with their inputs. We do thank our



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parish MGOCSM unit members for their fruitful cooperation.

## **Sunday Service Timing**

As we switch to summer, we move to summer timing for Holy Liturgy too. From second Sunday of June (13<sup>th</sup>) onwards, Morning Prayer will begin at 08:00 am followed by the Holy Liturgy. We will continue this timing until the church gets open. Please be aware of the time change and join the service on time.

## **Virtual Meetings ahead**

Friday June 04, NEAD MMVS Friday Payer, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday June 04, MGOCSM Spring Fellowship 06:30- 08:00 pm

Saturday June 05, SGOCT Choir Practice, 04:30 – 06:30 pm

Saturday June 05, SGOCT Prayer, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday June 06, SGOCT Choir monthly meeting, 06:00 – 07:30 pm

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St James the Apostle. It is the prime text for all the ancient churches. Please listen to it carefully. The grandeur of liturgical language is awesome.

**Please see below the Link for Live Streaming**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](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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