



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MARCH 06, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

### **Third Sunday of Great Lent - Healing of the Paralysed – Mark 2:1-12**

God has His wonderful ways for reaching His people. Humans have their ways to access God. When both come together, miracles happen!

Here in the text, we could see Jesus either on a house visit or at a house prayer like we have on weekends. Because of His Charismatic presence, a huge crowd came into the house. The hosting family had no control over the count of people who were stepping in. There was not even a ‘pin-space’ left in the rooms. Late comers had to stand outside. Imagine if it happens in any of our houses while conducting prayer meetings! We prefer to have manageable attendees.

#### ***Where the Lord is, things unexpected could happen!***

It was just a gathering of families and friends. They never knew anything was about to happen that could leave them in awe! Word of God was preached there. It points to the possibility of wonderful things to occur. Four people dared to carry a paralysed man who has been on bed for years. Human attempts of faith can cause God to act on lives and situations. They didn't wait for a provision to get open, rather they made a provision. It was quite unlikely for people to enter a house from the top. But they dared to do it. It was a ‘breaking-in’! What made them to take that risk and the blame of unauthorised entry? Mark the writer says, it was their strong faith.

***Rights, Duties, Responsibilities:*** We would always be aware of our rights- both citizen rights and ecclesial rights. We claim them and never feel anything unreasonable about it. The Government, State, Judiciary and the law system would always affirm it. But what about our duties and responsibilities? How much we keep ourselves dutiful? As members of the Church, what we really contribute towards the progress and growth of it? How much we get involved in bringing healing to people through acts of our faith like the four friends we see in this Gospel text? It is not the life of an average church goer Christ expects of us. He would be more keen on faith brought into actions. We even simply refrain from attending prayer meetings. We should think more on what benefit others would have through our presence and prayer. At workplace, public place, public space of movements and transportation, various gatherings and popular spots of visits, everywhere we could act as tools for God to intervene into situations. In short, because of our strong faith in God, miracles could happen!

### **Parish General Body Meeting on Sunday 15 March**

The Parish General Body Meeting will be held on March 15, 2020 at church after Holy Qurbana, scheduled to start at 01:30pm. Agenda: 2019 Accounts & Annual Report, Presentation of 2020 Budget, Matters approved by the Chair. The Final List of Eligible Members shall be posted on the



Notice Board this Sunday. Please uphold the GBM in your valid prayers. May I request all the eligible members, please ensure your participation in the meeting.

### **St Paul's Area Prayer Meeting**

The next Area prayer meeting would be on this Saturday, March 7 at the residence of Lalu Varghese & Ponnamma Varghese at 04:00 pm. Address: 87 Wolf Trail Crescent, Richmond Hill, L4E 4J7. All members live in that area are requested to participate.

### **OCYM Lenten House Prayer**

This year's third Lenten prayer will be held at the residence of Mr Manu Abraham & Mrs Elizabeth Abraham. Address: 970 Bristol Road West, Mississauga, ON. Contact #: (416) 953 9686. Date & Time: 2020.03.08 (Sunday), 5:00pm. Lenten house prayer is not limited to any area. All Parish members are requested to join. Last two meetings were well attended by our members. Both meetings were highly energising and spiritually nourishing. We keep the timing sharp for ensuring early finishing. Please note, evening prayer begins at 05:00 pm followed by devotional singing, Scriptural reading, Intercessory prayer and Lenten message.

### **Joshua's Clock!**

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! (Joshua 10:12, 13).

Canada Clock would go one hour forward to adjust with the 'Spring Forward/ Daylight Saving Time/Summer Time'. When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 8, 2020, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 8, 2020, **3:00:00 am** local daylight time instead. Please bear in mind, we would have one hour less for keeping ourselves under the quilt. Please change the alarm accordingly. We do hope, there wouldn't be members coming late 'DUE TO FAILING IN ADJUSTING OF CLOCK'!

### **Feast of Anthrayos Bava**

This Sunday there would be memorial prayer and offering of incense on the Feast day of Anthrayos Bava, called as Kallada Appooppa or Kallada Bava, entombed at St Mary's Orthodox Church, West Kallada. May his intercession be a fortress to us.

### **MMVS**

Monthly MMVS (Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam) meetings are scheduled to be held on 2nd Sunday of the month. This month's meeting will be held on this Sunday, March 8th after the Holy



Qurbana. March 08<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day. All respected Ladies are requested to attend the meeting. And to observe the Special Day.

### **Corona!**

There are alerts of the Pandemic. Please be vigilant on taking precautionary measures to ensure driving out of this threat. Let us be prayerful for the victims. There is nothing God finds impossible. When there was an epidemic in Kunnankulam, Pampady Thirumeni went and stayed with them. His prayerful presence kept the sickness away from the people. Let us be strong in Spirit and faith.

### **Friday Lenten Retreat at Church**

Today our beloved members came in to attend the Lenten Friday Retreat at Church. We started at 10:30am with singing of Devotional songs, followed by Scriptural reading, Intercessory prayer, chanting of Kurielaison (ancient orthodox practice), Noon Prayer and 40 kneeling down. Refreshment was served after. It was really an illumining experience for all of us. Those who find it convenient, please come to church on Fridays. Those who wish to attend the noon prayer, taking lunch break from workplace, they could also join at 12:00. We finish by 12:30pm.

### **Holy Confession, Do it at the earliest please**

Please feel free to call the Vicar (Mob: (416) 570 5610) to make appointment for Holy confession. There would be time after evening prayer on Saturdays. May it be reminded, please don't wait till Holy week.

### **Email**

Please send Email contacts of your family members for including in the Parish mailing list. Only a few of our members get the Email updates currently. Many of our members are kept ignorant about parish updates. Please cooperate.

Holding you all in prayer

Yours in Christ

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