



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - AUGUST 07, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

09<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Gospel Reading, St Mathew 21:28-32 RSV

28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. 30 And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

### Reflections:

It has been said that it is “not ability but availability that matters”. Here a father had to suffer shock from his son’s response of indifference where he expected a ‘yes’. The reason for the son to refuse his father was his preoccupation with other commitments. In those days, for the children, their lone focus was on the responsibilities given by the parents. They were never expected to give way to any commitments other than familial. Children had to be there always for their primary duties towards their own family, especially towards their father. Whatever the fathers had as belongings were meant to be inherited by their children. They had to work hard to develop them further. Every family would have more than one child and they had to multiply their properties for the sake of sharing among their children so that every child would get a sufficient portion for survival. It was their life and they all knew it. In that case, a son who has already given his time for something else will disappoint his father. The disappointment will be huge because the irresponsible behaviour comes from someone who knows his life, primary duties and responsibilities.

After his rethinking, he resumed his position as a dutiful son. The second has worsened the suffering of the father by giving him hope then breaking it by not doing the task. Jesus after telling the parable asked the disciples who obeyed their father. Disciples had given an answer, but Jesus didn’t nod in approval. Instead he brought harlots and tax collectors with a clear pointing towards their obedience held higher than that of ‘God’s own people’.

This parable is about us. Even while knowing our primary responsibilities and duties, we disappoint God the Father with our negligence and preoccupying without considering His will. We diplomatically deny him even in the Temple. Either we pretend to be busy or we really yield to evil practices leaving God aside. We are His children who knows His mind better through the revelations given to us by His Only Begotten Son. He stands there as the perfect example of obedience. Are we really busier than Him? Are we doing greater things than what he did? It is really challenging. We need to find an answer. This is the right time for it.



## Feasts

09 August- Feast of St Mathew, Apostle of Christ. He is also called Levi, the author of Matthew's Gospel. He is believed to have begun His ministry in Judea. His gospel was intended for Jewish audience and hence it is full of Scriptural references which affirm that whatever predicted in the Old Testament had actualised in Christ Jesus. It is good to write something down on our witnessing of the Lord in our own life. This would be a document for our children and grandchildren. Would anybody keep on writing a diary these days? If not, better start now. Let there be gospels said by us.

07 August- Feast of St Demetrios of Thessaloniki. He is revered as a military saint who got martyred in 306 AD in Thessaloniki, Greece. He was trained well and elevated to major positions which invited displeasure of pagans. They plotted against him and put him in prison using their influence. Emperor Maximian encouraged pagan sacrifices and games to which Demetrios responded indifferently due to his Christian morale. He had also encouraged the Christian faithful to practice faith life even under many threats. He got killed while holding fast to his devotion to Christ His Saviour.

09 August- Feast of Arch Deacon Geevarghese the Great, entombed at Angamaly Cheriapally. One of the most famous archdeacons in the history of the St Thomas Christians is the Archdeacon Geevarghese of Christ (also known as 'George of Christ; died 1585 AD). He was a biblical expert and a master of Syriac language and literature. He was considered a holy person and extremely efficient in administration. He was contemporary to Bishop Mar Abraham of Persia who lived in Angamaly. He is credited with the new construction of Marth Maryam Church Angamaly. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

## Soonoyo Perunnal, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August

As we are in the Lent of Mother Mary, let us keep watch over how to observe her feast with our willingness to transform to her likeness in virtue and way of life. There will be evening prayer at church on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 6:00pm followed by Devotional Talk. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be Holy Liturgy with morning prayer at 9:00am. Intercessory prayer, Holy Procession to St Mary's Shrine and Incense prayer shall be conducted after the Qurbana. No RSVP necessary for attending the service.

## Parish Directory

The Parish office is still waiting for remaining members to send their updates. Please send these updates. <https://www.cognitofirms.com/StGregoriousOrthodoxChurchOfToronto/ParishMembershipUpdateForm>



## Virtual Meetings

Friday 07 August, 08:30- 09:30 pm, MMVS Canada Region Monthly Meeting  
Saturday 08 August, 10:30am, Sunday School Liturgical Session  
Saturday 08 August, 11:00am, Sunday School Liturgical Session- Holy Qurbana (Anaphora)  
Saturday 08 August, 07:00- 08:30pm, SGOCT Prayer Meeting  
Sunday 09 August, 06:00pm, SGOCT MMVS Meeting, Discussion- Genesis chapter 4  
Friday 14 August, 06:00pm, Evening Prayer at church followed by Devotional Talk (Live-Streamed)  
Saturday 15 August, 09:00 am, Morning Prayer followed by Holy Qurbana, Intercession, Raza, Incense prayer at St Mary's Shrine (Live-streamed)

## Sad Parting

In deep grief, may we announce the sad parting of Ealias Chaly, 79 years, father of Preeya Chaly, father in law of Alex George (K 01) has passed away on Tuesday Aug 04 in Chennai at 7:30pm (Indian Standard Time). His burial service was conducted at 4:30 pm (IST) on August 5, at St. Peter's & St. Paul's Orthodox Church, Koyambedu, Chennai. Ealias Chaly was the youngest of 5 children in the Chalil family. He was the Head of Department of Physics at St. Agnes College for 36 years in Mangalore. He was born in Malaysia, and was brought up in Mulanthuruthy, Kerala. He has left behind his wife Annie Chaly, 2 daughters Preetha and Preeya, 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Alex George is the son of K T George. As we could imagine, this will be really hard for the family to accept, especially as they were unable to go and to attend the service. Please keep the departed soul and the family in prayer. May the Lord console and strengthen everyone.

## Please Pray for Kerala

It is really a hard time for the State of Kerala with an increasing number of COVID cases, heavy downpour, landslide in Munnar, flood alert in northern parts, and today's flight crash at Karipur which has caused anguish. Let us hold the State Government, various departments and all people in our daily prayer. Let us strongly invoke God's mercies to intervene.

## Liturgical Text for this Sunday

Last Sunday we had the Liturgy of Mar Mathai Royo. This Sunday we will use the Taksa of St Isaac which has a prayer for those who travel by air. We dedicate it for the Airline crash victims.

Please find the link of live-streaming of Holy Liturgy [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1\\_yCG9AWStA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA)

Holding you in prayer

Yours in Christ  
Thomas John Achen  
Fr Thomas P John  
[fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com](mailto:fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com)  
+1 (416) 570 5610