



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 08, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, April 10 Sunday, ‘Hosannah’- Palm Sunday

Epistle Readings: 1 John 5:1-12, Romans 8:18-25, Ephesians 6:1-24

Holy Evangelion: St John 12:12-19 (Holy Qurbana), St Mark 11:1-11 (Blessing of the Palm Leaves)

^{16, 12} The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written,

¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass’s colt!”

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see that you can do nothing; look, the world has gone after him.”

Reflections:

Hosannah is a prayer or cry for help. It means ‘save us now’. The feast of Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entry of the Lord to the City of Jerusalem and to the Temple. Jesus never claimed himself as king. But the crowd including children shouted that He is the king coming in the name of the Lord. The prime position of David in the social psyche of God’s people was unquestionable and highly authoritative. The name of David was of great command. When they called him king, the glorious throne of David must have been in their minds. His Davidic lineage was known to them? We have no idea though the gospel authors attributed it to him.

Why is Hosannah important for us? It is the declaration of God’s kingdom on earth, every time we celebrate the feast. God is the author, owner and the sovereign ruler of the entire universe. Through our words and deeds, being His faithful children, we try our best to bring heaven into our life and to our surroundings. We follow the children who welcomed the Lord of the lords into the city. It is through our prayers and Christian living, we further establish His kingdom. As St Paul says, we become His warriors and soldiers who are armed to fight against all sorts of evil interventions. When we declare His supreme authority, we also get a share of His strength and the sense of belonging to His kingdom. Joining the trails of Hosannah would give us a sense of responsibility and a reassurance of His call as His ambassadors. Let us take up our cross, the true armour against evil forces and follow the trail. Hosannah, save us O Lord!

Feasts:

April 05, HG Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan (Pampady Thirumeni), 57th anniversary, entombed at Pampady Dayara Chapel

Pampady Thirumeni was considered a saint while he was alive. There are a lot of instances which reveal his sanctity and the power of his intercession. He had the compassionate heart of Christ the Lord. Such was his compassion and love towards everyone. He loved and cared for not only humans but also birds, animals and plants. His care for the poor and needy was of no comparison. His flock keep the hope that the church will declare him a saint sooner or later. We have an icon of Pampady Thirumeni at the Shrine Area in our church. Next time



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we come to church, let us go to the front, look at it for a few seconds, then we will see a true saint gazing at us with affection and love. May his healing presence always be with us, comforting and strengthening us.

April 07, Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, 6th Marthoma, 214th anniversary, entombed at Puthencavu St Mary's Cathedral Church

Mar Dionysius Valiya Metropolitan was the 6th Marthoma of the Malankara Orthodox Church. He was a powerful leader who took courage to tell the Church of England that we will adhere to the ancient true faith and no more encourage any deviation or diversion.

Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks

We are in the last lap of Great Lent. We managed to conduct Noon Prayer every day at 12:00 – 12:30 with 40 kneeling down. We had evening Prayer and devotional talk for the last forty days. We do acknowledge and thank all participants for their dedication and submission. It was really a spiritually strengthening experience to all of us. This time more members have come forward to strictly observe fasting and prayer and joined the noon prayer from home or work place. All the devotional talks were so enlightening and divinising. Our members took strength and courage to preach in public. They did research, took effort to ponder, found time to come to church in person and to speak for God through the Holy Spirit in Christ. We have almost 40 talks available online based on various themes and texts. It is a rich resource for the coming generations. Thank you all.

Holy Confession every evenings

Sincere thanks to our members for taking time to officiate Holy Confession during Lent days. We are entering the Holy Week which will be more busy and tight with Hasa Services. We may not be able to conduct confession every evening in the Holy Week as we did on Lenten days. If our members wish to do confession, please feel free to call (416) 570 5610 to see if there will be a time available.

40th Friday & Lazarus Saturday

Holy Liturgy was celebrated on Thursday evening on the 40th day of Lent (Naalpathaam Velli).

Holy Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday will be celebrated on Saturday April 09 with Morning Prayer starting at 08:30 am.

Holy Week: Palm Sunday April 10 – Easter Sunday April 17

Detailed schedule for Holy Week has been sent to our members. Please look for the timing of Holy Week services. We request all our members to attend the liturgical services in person.

Good Friday Night Vigil

Google sign-up sheet for Good Friday Night Vigil coordinated by OCYM is open now. We are going to have an in-person vigil. To include senior members, there will be 08:00 – 10:00 pm slot open. We request our senior members who find it inconvenient to join in person, please look for the time to sign up. The Good Friday vigil is adopted from the practice we have at home when a member of the family passes away. We sit close to the mortal remains of the deceased until the body is taken out for funeral service, reading from the Holy Scripture, singing of devotional hymns and chanting of prayers. Holy Week is the time we remember the closest and immediate member of our family, the family of God in which Christ is the First Born and we are His siblings. We reflect on His life and person and be united in the wonderful fellowship we have in the Lord.



Ordination of Acolytes

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wishes to join the Acolytes, please feel free to reach out to the Vicar on (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

New Comers WhatsApp Groups initiated by OCYM supported by volunteers from parish spiritual organisations

Canada finds new immigrants and students from India. We receive new comers every week. To coordinate and organise them, our parish OCYM has started two WhatsApp Groups. We have volunteers representing various organisations to support. New comers are getting added to the group every day. We request our members to connect newcomers to both students and young couples we come across and we will be glad to offer them guidance and support. We will be organising various online and in-person meetings for them including spiritual sessions.

Newcomers Virtual Meet & Greet held on Tuesday April 05

OCYM-initiated Newcomers WhatsApp Forum had convened a virtual Meet & Greet on Tuesday April 05. Over 40 members participated. The meeting went well. We sincerely thank the forum volunteers and members for their participation. Further plans shall be updated in due course.

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request our members who may be interested in donating books to contact the vicar at (416) 570 5610. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.

Parish Journal

The Parish journal is in process and expected to be out on the day of Easter. Our editorial board is working on it. Articles have been received. Name suggestions and cover icons are also already there on the editing desk. Thanks to all the contributors.

Spiritual Organisations and WhatsApp Groups

All the spiritual organizations of our parish have created WhatsApp groups for regular communications and updates. We request all our members to join corresponding groups. If you are not already in, please reach out to organizational secretaries.

Gregorian Seniors Forum, G George: (416) 738 7765

MMVS, Beena Mathew: (647) 835 1521

OCYM, Suna Cherian: (647) 818 9376

Choir, Anand Joseph: (416) 276 5021

Acolytes, Cleemis Vaidhyan: (647) 308 2135, Anish Mathew: (647) 818 6125

MGOCSM, Emil Mathew: (647) 877 9272, Sandra Shaji: (647) 551 6563

Sunday School, Santhosh Varughese: Please note that Santosh's contact number has changed to (416) 937 8595. Please save the new contact.



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MGOCSM Alumni

Our parish MGOCSM would like to reach all members who had any association with MGOCSM in India or elsewhere. Please inform whoever worked with MGOCSM. You can either send an email to mgocsm.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

40th Anniversary of the Diocesan MMVS in North America

The Diocese has planned the following events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the MMVS in North America:

1. 40th-anniversary ceremony will be held on October 1, 2022, at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Unruh, Philadelphia.

2. Women who were a part of the MMVS prior to 1982 are being honoured.

3. Provide educational assistance to 40 children for a year. A raffle voucher sale will be held for this purpose.

Each family can purchase a raffle ticket for \$40. Please save a dollar every day during Great Lent and participate in the raffle coupon sale. There's also the option of sponsoring a child for a year. The expense for this is \$1500 US dollars.

The raffle coupon draw will take place on October 1st, 2022 during the anniversary ceremony.

1st Prize: iPhone 13 2nd Prize: iWatch

Communicants Counting Machine, Wave your hand 'ONCE' please

All Sunday participants are requested to register their names at the entrance and as we enter the church interior. Please wave your hand once between the sensor poles of the counting machine if you are to take Holy Communion. Please do not wave if you are not taking Holy Communion. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

April 09, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

April 09, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 07:00 – 08:00 pm

April 10, Sunday, Church Cleaning after refreshment. Requesting voluntary support.

April 10, Sunday, SGOCT Choir practice for the Holy Week.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Mathai Royo

Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy

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,

Thomas John Achen

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