

## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JULY 09, 2021

Dearly beloved,

**Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Epistle Readings: Acts 4:32-37, Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Holy Gospel: St Mark 3:20-30**

3.20 Then Jesus entered a house, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.  
 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for people were saying, "He is beside himself." 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Be-el'zebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23 And he called them to him, and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may plunder his house.

28 "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

### **Reflection:**

One should refer to Beelzebul as exactly that! There is nothing wrong in it if somebody dares to. However, calling good as evil is not a silly matter. People can be judgmental about many things. Before judging, one should verify on what basis the judgement is made and what for. In this instance, Jesus came to a house and even the family members couldn't eat due to the mess. His relatives had to find a way to get rid of any blame coming upon them and they tried to tell that he had lost his mind. Calling someone insane can ease the social pressure or guilt as mental conditions and associated problems are not punishable. They might have wished to keep him from getting accused of intentionally manipulating the minds of people for him to assume power. Here the knowledgeable Scribes intervened to blame that he was possessed by Beelzebul. Jesus wanted to clarify this blame because for him, he did everything as God the Father willed and it was the Holy Spirit who worked through him. He was doing all the possible good works through the Holy Spirit and they were trying to downplay the involvement of the Spirit of God. Every good thing comes from God through the Holy Spirit and whoever does good deeds are inspired by the Spirit. Because of wickedness, one might fail to see the presence of the Holy Spirit in others which can be counted as negation of God. We need to grow to accept the good in others or we risk that good gets destroyed, giving way to evil. It is like when there is no light, everything will be put in dark. Jesus taught us to be the light of the world.

### **Feasts:**

**July 05, Feast Day of 72 Preachers**

In the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of St Luke, Jesus is found appointing 70 preachers and sending them out two by two to places he wanted to go. They were given instructions for keeping them with minimal things and doing their work depending absolutely on God's grace. Verse 17 gives a joyful feedback where they all come back to Jesus saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Jesus replied to them that he had seen Satan falling. What Jesus commanded and whoever obeyed, wonders

happened through them. While remembering the 72 preachers, let us renew our spirit and attempt wonderful works for the Kingdom.

### **July 05, Marthoma VII, 212nd anniversary, entombed at Kolenchery Church**

He was the Malankara Metropolitan. During his time, there was a financial shortage in the state and the church was able to help the Travancore government by depositing an amount (3,000 ‘Poovarahan’) as fixed deposit with the agreement that the interest amount should be paid to the Malankara Metropolitan. This deposit was later known as ‘Vattipanam’ which had a decisive role in the history of the Malankara church.

### **July 07, HG Zachariah Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Pathanapuram Tabor Dayara**

He was the first Metropolitan head of the newly formed Madras Diocese from 1 January 1979 and under his leadership the diocese prospered and especially in mission work. He started outreach programs in cooperation with Madras Medical Mission which was a point of hope to cardiac patients from lower economic backgrounds. He initiated ‘Sneha Bhavan’ guidance centre at Vellore to provide lodging and necessary assistance to the poor patients coming to CMC Hospital Vellore. His skill in Tamil language made him to translate the Qurbana Taksa into Tamil and conducted Tamil liturgy.

### **Pray for Baba Thirumeni**

Let us continue praying for our Holy Father Baba Thirumeni who is at Parumala Hospital on ventilator support. We believe that God has His plan and purpose for everything. The whole Malankara Church now longs for a miraculous healing for our beloved Thirumeni. May the Holy Spirit heal him and bring him back to shepherding his flock.

### **Condolence**

We deeply grieve on the passing away of Rajan Abraham, aged 66, our former member, in India on Sunday July 04. He was unwell. He is survived by his beloved wife Rani, son Renish, wife Neethu, their child Abram, daughter Roshney, husband Ajil and their child Tiana. Family members have managed to travel to India. The funeral service shall be conducted at St George Orthodox Church Anchal on Saturday July 10 at 10:00 am. May we keep the departed soul and family members in our daily prayer. May the Lord comfort his soul and strengthen the family members. We do thankfully acknowledge all the benefits this parish community has received through his presence and involvement.

Please see the link to funeral service live-streaming:

Live streaming - [www.youtube.com/c/SLiveMedia](https://www.youtube.com/c/SLiveMedia)

### **Rev Stan Swamy**

The people all over the world now mourn the passing away of Rev Stan Swamy, aged 84, who was in prison in India. He was a Jesuit priest who left all his possessions and office to live with ‘Adivasis’, the tribal community in India who were refused basic rights and dignity. He loved Christ and lived for the needy. His life will raise challenges to convenient preachers who fear to raise their voice for the voiceless and to leave their comforts for the downtrodden. We salute you, Rev Stan for what you have stood for and the fight you have fought. We truly believe, the promised crown will be yours and you will see the people for whom you worked will be lifted up to a dignified living.

### **Padmabhushan Dileep Kumar**

Dileep Kumar, the legendary actor of India has passed away at the age 98. He was loved for his unparalleled brilliance, his love for everyone, his philanthropic services and for his evergreen films like Devdas, Mughal-e-Azam, Ganga Jamuna and Madhumati to name just a few. He was a man of great honor and endowed with many awards. He holds the Guinness World Record for winning the maximum number of awards by an Indian actor.

### **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)

### **Covid Charity**

We do sincerely thank our members who have contributed towards the Covid charity initiated by the NEA Diocesan MMVS. May God graciously accept our benevolence and shower endless blessings on both the benefactors and the beneficiaries.

### **Virtual Meetings ahead**

Friday, July 09 – NEAD MMVS Friday Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday, July 09 – OCYM Meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

Saturday, July 10 - SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday, July 11 – SGOCT MMVS Meeting, 06:00 – 07:30 pm

### **Church General Cleaning on Saturday July 17**

There will be a general church cleaning on Saturday July 17 starting at 09:00 am. All the organisations are requested to participate. The cleaning areas include church interior, sanctuary, shrines, basement, rooms, store rooms, parking area, garden and the stone cross station. Acolytes, Choir, Senior Citizens Forum, OCYM, MMVS, MGOCSM and Sunday School are requested to kindly assure their participation, especially responsible members of organisations shall be expected to be there while cleaning specific areas where they have their office accessories and utilities kept. We will have a Barbecue to conclude with the cleaning program. Please join on time. Let us together make it a memorable day!

### **Town Hall Meeting on Sunday July 25**

We will be conducting an ‘in-person’ Town Hall Meeting on Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> after the Holy Liturgy. There will be RSVP mail sent out from the parish office this Sunday. Our beloved members who wish to join the meeting are requested to send an RSVP before Friday July 16 midnight. If our members find any difficulty in sending an RSVP, they can send a message or call Thomas Joshua on (647) 887 4010 or Manu Abraham on (416) 953 9686. Mails or messages sent after the time shall not be included as we would require the total number of participants for ensuring the Covid protocol. The Annual Report and Accounts shall be sent to our members a week before the meeting. Those who have any questions or require any clarifications, please send their names and questions via email or text on or before Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> midnight as it would give time for us to attend to it properly. Those members who send questions in advance can ask in the meeting. Please keep the meeting in our prayers.



### **Weekly Choir Practice moved to Wednesday**

We have rescheduled the choir practice on Wednesdays from 08:00 to 09:00 pm. We request choir members and Acolytes, especially those who are scheduled to take part in Holy Liturgy on respective Sundays, ensure their participation, please.

### **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Julius.

### **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,

Thomas John Achen

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