



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JULY 10, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Sunday 12th July 2020, 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel Reading- St Mathew 15:32-39 RSV

32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days, and have nothing to eat; and I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." 33 And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get bread enough in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" 34 And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." 35 And commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And they all ate and were satisfied; and they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 38 Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 And sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Reflections:

This miracle of the bread occurs on the third day of their coming together. This is after Jesus calls the crowd to Him and begins preaching (Mathew 15:10). According to Mathew, Jesus was preaching on the other side of the lake after the brutal killing of John the Baptist. There he had a huge crowd, about five thousand men and their families to listen to him. He had to provide food for them and miraculously multiplied the five loaves and two fish to feed the entire audience (14:15-21). After this gracious feeding, He sent the disciples ahead of him to the other side and he went up the mountain for prayer. While the disciples were on boat, he joined them walking on water. After they reached Gennesaret, Jesus called the crowd and started teaching them. Pharisees came there to ask him tricky questions to manipulate him. He was 'Word became Flesh'! He had the best of answers too.

According to Mathew, two miracles of multiplying of bread occurred. The first one happened on the eastern side of the lake of Galilee. The miracle narrated in Chapter 15 happened on the western side. In between these two miracles, there was walking on water (Mt 14:25,26) and faith pronounced by Canaanite woman (Mt 15:21-28).

How beautifully Jesus has been pictured in various works of art. Can we imagine a Christ who was always in work, walking, talking, helping, caring and healing? Think about an elder of the house who works at every moment for the family! He was such an untiring worker. He never got fed up with his labour. He never complained or worried about the result. His sincerity and honesty always brought results. He was a man of dedication. He always cared for his people.

People were after him for his soothing words and for healing. He stood with them. On the other side, he was always chased and somewhat bullied by the leaders. These included the Pharisees, Scribes and Sadducees. While he was performing miracles, the leaders were sadly engaged in criticising, blaming and trying to belittle him. People who had faith in him received many blessings while the critics



always received blows on their faces. It is the two different approaches we need to think about. He is ready to bless us. On both sides of the Lake, he helped out people. He had no barriers. It is the absolute submission in faith he approved whereas it has been written, He couldn't perform great things because of their lack of faith (Mt 13:58). He is still multiplying our few loaves into many. Let us be the flock who claim nothing but Him. Let us be the seekers always looking unto his gracious face with humility and submission.

Feasts:

Tuesday 7th July- 27th anniversary of parting of HG Zachariah Mar Dionysius, entombed at Tabore Dayara, Pathanapuram

Friday 10th July- 247th anniversary of parting of Yuhanon Mar Gregorios, entombed at Mulanthuruthy Church

Sunday 12th July- 111st anniversary of parting of Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II, formerly called 'Ittoop Ramban' later named 'Sabha Thejas' which means radiance of the church, founder of MD & Parumala Seminary, entombed at Pazhaya Seminary Chapel, Kottayam. He was the 14th Malankara Metropolitan succeeded by 'Sabhabhasuran' Vattasseril Gevarghese Mar Dionysius, the canonised saint of the Malankara Orthodox Church. MGOCSM had its first meeting initiated by his approval. It was not MGOCSM then but Students Christian Movement, meant for organising students in diaspora.

Sunday School Liturgical Sessions

Our parish Sunday School will have virtual Liturgical lessons with the first session on Holy Qurbana this Saturday at 11:00 am. It will be open to all who are interested. Whoever wishes to join, please contact Elizabeth Vaidhyan on +1 (647) 984 3258.

MGOCSM Virtual Choir

MGOCSM is planning to organise a virtual choir as it becomes difficult for the members to meet in person. All are welcome. Participants should have their WhatsApp contact ready for all communications. Whoever wishes to join, they can access a link which has been circulated among the members.

Peace Garden

We are going to implement the project during the 3rd week of July. We have plans for Phase I & II for the Peace Garden. We request all our members to support this project. Please contact Seniors Forum Coordinator Mr G George on +1 (416) 738 7765 or the parish office for details.

Sad Parting

May it be informed with profound sadness that Mr K K Kuriakose, 62 yrs, beloved elder brother of Beena and brother in law of Vinod Mathews (Dir Ref: V 05) has been taken to heavenly abode on Saturday 04th early morning at 01:30 Indian time. He was professor (Dept of Commerce) at Baselios College, Kottayam. Funeral service was conducted on Monday at 02:00 pm at Pampady St John's Cathedral. It will be really hard for the family, especially at this time of restrictions. Vinod and Beena were fortunate to have met him on their visit to India before the Pandemic and he had driven them



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

6890 Professional court, Mississauga, Ontario, L4V 1X6, Canada



back to the airport. May I request your valid prayers for his soul. May the Lord comfort everyone in the family who are at loss.

Welcome Newborn

Renin & Reena have been blessed with a baby boy on 07th July. They have named him Hezekiel. Hearty Congrats to the blessed parents and grandparents! Welcome Hezekiel to this wonderful world!

Virtual Meetings scheduled for this weekend

Friday 10 July, 08:15 pm, MMVS Canada Region Teleprayer, HG Dr Gevarghese Mar Yulios Metropolitan of Ahmedabad Diocese would be the speaker.

Saturday 11 July, 11:00 am, Sunday School Liturgical Class, Part I on Holy Qurbana

Saturday 11 July, 07:00 – 08:30 pm, SGOCT Prayer Meeting

Sunday 12 July, 06:00 pm, SGOCT MMVS Meeting

Parish Directory Update

Please send back the online form (emailed earlier) to update information of all members in your family. More information can be added through this new form (e.g. email of all family members including children). Latest family photo could be uploaded. Please respond even if there are no changes to update.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

The Taksa for this Sunday will be of Patriarch Mar Osthathos, highly touching prayers of humility and repentance. Please be keen on it.

Please access the link for live-streaming

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

+1 (416) 570 5610