



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 10, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

June 12, First Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost

Epistle Readings: Acts 17:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:9

Holy Evangelion: St Luke 7:27-35

²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹ (When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹ "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the market place and calling to one another, 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.'

³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

Reflections:

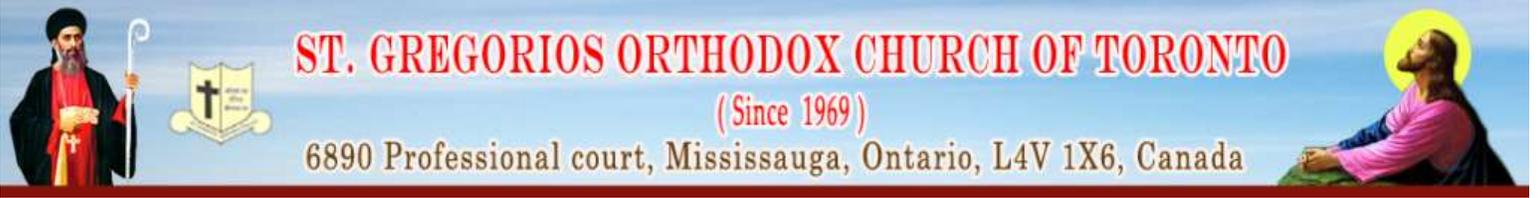
This text conveys two aspects of human presence in the world.

First - is the idea that a person is sent to the world by God with a mission and purpose. John was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah, to prepare the ground for salvation. Jesus was sent by the Father to redeem the whole creation. Likewise, we are also sent by Him. If we look at the preparation before our birth, our early years and our progress until now, we can see this divine planning in the backdrop. For each of us, there was a plan, a purpose and a path. For Jesus' arrival, John prepared the way. For us - who was there to long for us, to wait upon and to guide? And, for whom are we preparing now?

The second aspect is of acceptance. John was a unique and strong ascetic. Jesus too; however, he blended with the local life and culture. The leaders rejected them both. Accepting an idea, person, thing, or situation in its right and true form can be decisive. If rejected, it does not yield any good result.

The comment made by Jesus is worth understanding. "But wisdom is justified by all her children" (Lk 7:35). According to Rabbinic tradition, wisdom is the way of God. It is more personified. The Greek term is Sofia. Wisdom is a mother whose portions are there in each of us. It is the human will that decides whether to use it or not. Whoever uses wisdom, their subsequent actions will prove the reason and significance of it. Wisdom is freely given from above, for us to fully utilise. Religious leaders in Jesus' times also had wisdom, but they couldn't use it for the right purpose. They failed in recognising the Messiah and God's will. In them, wisdom became barren. We all have wisdom given by God. Being His children, we cannot let it go futile. A word of support can go a long way. Many useful projects have been aborted by not using wisdom.

How can we be ready to discern, spot and accept good in anyone, in anything? About us, how will the Lord respond?



Feasts:

- **June 06, HG Yuyachim Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 97th anniversary, entombed at Parumala Seminary**
- **June 06, HG Augen Mar Dionysius Metropolitan, 15th anniversary, entombed at Vallikkattu Dayara Chapel**
- **June 06, Mar Aaron the Great Monk**
- **June 10, Golden Friday – Acts 3:1-10**

This day is called Golden Friday because of the announcement made by Peter “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk.

This was the apostolic mission. To enable everyone to walk. The man who got healed was lame and was pushed to begging. We are aware that there is organised begging in certain cities. It is another form of mafia and is coordinated as a business. People either join it on their own or are dragged into it by a corrupt system. Those who beg will get only a menial share and the major collection will be taken away by the companies involved.

In the post Pentecostal days, observing of this day is highly significant. When somebody receives Holy Spirit, their world gets transformed. All other riches and positions become insignificant. What the person holds - will be Christ, nothing else. He is all that we need. Peter asked the lame to look at them. What is a believer expected to hold for others? Attires can deceive. It will be too bad to appear in assuring clothing and being unable to meet people’s expectations.

The name of Christ is so powerful. There have been situations in the past which proved the futility of monetary and material richness. Money and power can’t always bring healing or any required transformation. Jesus said, “Without Me, you can do nothing.” St Paul said, ‘with Christ, everything is possible. Were they lying? Have we ever noticed, when people look unto us with certain expectations, and if we fail them, their reaction?

The very name of Jesus Christ is transforming. Let us abide in Him, be healed and start healing others.

June 11, St Bartholomeo Sleeho

June 11, Simeon Mar Athanasius Metropolitan, 133rd anniversary, entombed at Kottayam Puthenpally

June 16-29, Apostles Lent

Lent of the Apostles will begin on June 16 to conclude on June 30th. It will be a time for us to ponder on the life and work of the Apostles and to seek their intercession. We are here to witness the Lord as they did. We know where we fail. Let us look unto them and take courage to follow their path of witnessing the Lord. If a group of twelve could change the world, how much more it would be with us millions?!

MMVS Bake Sale – Sunday, June 12

Everything is ready for the MMVS Bake sale this Sunday, June 12. We request participation and support from all our members. Please don’t miss it.

Church Picnic - Saturday July 09

Our Church picnic will be on Saturday July 9, 2022, at Heart Lake Conservation Park, 10818 Heart Lake Rd, Brampton, ON L6Z 0B3. The location is nice and beautiful. It provides the best in outdoor entertainment. Our parish members and friends are welcomed. Everyone will have a great time to rejoice



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and spend memorable time together. There will be a variety of sporting events, as well as food and BBQ. The cost per family will be \$40 and individuals \$15, which includes entrance fee for all confirmations received online. Please register by visiting the link given below:

Link to the sign up form : <https://forms.gle/EQZZ56PL18VGfgEz9>

Link to the flyer : https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/files/65f47ce9-bde0-016b-ce73-3117677867bf/SGOCT_Picnic_2022.pdf

Let us be ready for a great time together.

KCEF St Thomas Day Celebration on Saturday July 16

KCEF has scheduled to celebrate St. Thomas Day on Saturday July 16, 2022. The event will take place in hybrid mode from CSI Church, Toronto starting at 6.00 pm. The program will be livestreamed via YouTube, a link to which will be made available a few days before the event. KCEF coordinators have invited us to the event. A video presentation can be made by our parish. The last date to receive the program video will be 5th July, 2022.

Link to the flyer : https://mcusercontent.com/4b0245a10b23c3826466d9a97/files/86c453c9-b788-2ef3-3379-54b2f3c1e506/KCEF_St_Thomas_Flyer_2022.pdf

Please find update from the Sunday School Principal

OVBS 2022 is planned for August 10, 11, and 12th. Requesting the participation of all students.

Sunday School Competitions

Sunday school competitions (Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz) was held on Saturday, June 04. It really went well. Congrats to all the winners. Salute to all participants. Sincere thanks to the judges, teachers, parents and all our children.

Vicar's travel to India, May 30 – June 30

The parish vicar will be away on holidays in India - May 30 to June 30. Arrangements have been made to cover Sundays and other days. For any pastoral needs, please contact the parish office, Thomas Joshua, Treasurer on (647) 887 4010 and Gijo Peter, Secretary on (647) 778 2119. The vicar can be reached through WhatsApp or Email: fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com. **Please find the Local Indian contact: +91 9188 634833.**

Requesting prayers from all our beloved members.

We have a Cor Doctor!

We have a doctor here in our village. He came from Tamil Nadu around 1985. A local resident gave their outhouse for his clinic. Since then he has been our local doctor. We do remember his struggle in the initial years to speak in Malayalam. He managed to learn the vernacular fast.

For the last 40 years, he has been serving our local community. What qualities we could see in him? He is accessible to everyone anytime. If there comes a case of emergency, he would accompany them to a nearby hospital, meeting the doctors there, discussing about the condition and possible treatment. He is not greedy. He takes only a minimum fee and the medicines given will be affordable to everyone. He was the only practitioner within our vicinity. If he wanted to make money, he could have easily done it. He is a good listener, patient enough to accommodate all kinds of patients. We have never heard of any mistakes made by him or by his staff in all these years. Despite his experience and years of service, his fee continues to be nominal. His findings and diagnosis have never failed. The medicines he administers, always assured the best of healing one could expect in a short time.

We had always thought, this village is too dependent upon his service and if anything happens to him,



who will be taking care of it just as he did. Yesterday when we met- I had a consultation- he said that his daughter is doing her medical training in Europe. He plans for her to take charge once she finishes her studies. Such is his commitment and dedication towards the community he has been serving. It is the perfect follow-up by engaging his own child to look after his flock.

We have heard of Malayalee doctors serving in northern states taking a minimum fees and serving the local needy. News media usually bring them to world's attention through their reporting. Here we have an efficient doctor from another state, serving this community without any huge profit. He has become our Cor Doctor and we have become his people! (Cor in Greek means village. Cor Episcopa means village bishop).

Ordination of Acolytes

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

SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

'Urava'- OCYM Journal Vol 2 release in August

The second volume of Urava will be released on Sunday, August 14 connecting to the Soonoyo Feast. We are inviting all organizations of our Parish to contribute articles to be featured in the Journal. The articles are expected to reflect the theme selected for this issue "Theotokos – The Second Eve". The last date for submission of articles will be 30th June 2022.

Please find below - the subthemes selected for each organisation:

1. Sunday School i) Life of Saint Mary ii) "Behold, Thy Mother."
2. MGOCSM i) "Here I am" ii) Intercession of Mother Mary
3. OCYM i)'Joseph', a Male Model for Women Empowerment ii) 'Mary', More than a shell
4. MMVS i) Women Leadership towards Salvation ii) Sword through the Heart
5. Senior Forum i)"Hail Mary, Full of Grace" ii) Mary – An Initiator of Miracles
6. Choir i) Magnificat – A Revolutionary Anthem ii) St. Mary in the Orthodox Liturgical Hymns
7. Acolytes i) Various Symbols of St Mary in the Temple ii) Model for Diakonia – from Altar to Street

Please send the articles to below email id with the subject line "Urava Volume 2 - Article - Organization Name".

Email id: ocymtoronto@yahoo.com

Spiritual Organizations 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



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- Acolytes, Cleemis Vaidhyan: (647) 308 2135, Anish Mathew: (647) 818 6125
- MGOCSM, Emil Mathew: (647) 877 9272, Sandra Shaji: (647) 551 6563
- Sunday School, Santosh Varughese: (416) 937 8595

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.sgoc@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomaspjohn@gmail.com or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

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

- June 11, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm
- June 11, Saturday, Evening Prayer at Church, 07:00 – 08:00 pm
- June 12, Sunday, after the Qurbana, MMVS Bake Sale

Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQwlyZ1_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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