



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JUNE 12, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Sunday 14 June 2020: Second Sunday of Pentecost

Gospel Reading- St Mathew 10:5-16

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. 9 Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the labourer deserves his food. 11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. 16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Reflections:

Why Jesus asked them to preach gospel to the lost sheep of Israel and not to gentiles? It was not because Jesus had a discriminative look on people of other faith. It was easy and comfortable for the disciples to go to the gentiles as they were more welcoming. Jesus and disciples had to face more challenges from own people. Samaritans and gentiles always welcomed them. So here the instruction was given for them to choose the difficult path. It would be always difficult to convince own family members on anything as they know better. The biggest challenge would be witness the Kingdom of God in our own home because there we are open and visible in every word and action. Think, if a husband is asked to preach virtues in front of his wife and children, lady of the house is asked to talk kindness and compassion to her maids, company owner is asked to preach generosity and consideration to his/her employees, etc.

Another reason could be the need of preparing their own people, the chosen race as they were expecting the Messiah since ages and generations. They had to realise the truth of incarnation as the saving act of Yahweh. If they were left ignorant, all the preparations that happened in history since the days of Adam and Eve would have gone in vain. Jesus was Immanuel, the joy of the whole world, who had to be known and spoken through the chosen people. It was God’s plan and it had to happen likewise. There was no alternative available. Jesus Himself knew this and hence He commanded the disciples to convince their own families, friends and community leaders first. They were on the higher social strata. If they get confirmed, it was easy for others to accept it. So it was the strategy of taking the hardest attempt initially with the immediate groups and to let it work towards the farthest eventually. The day of Pentecost had proved this. On a single day, about three thousand men believed and accepted the truth. It is a surprising coincidence of filling three thousand through the word of God which lies as a follow up to ‘Christ the Word’ feeding the five thousand. It was only a beginning of a new era of overflowing of Holy Spirit and mass accepting of gospel in many cities and towns. If we look unto ourselves, we will be surprised to see how Gospel worked in India since the first



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century and now we are here in Canada continuing the same ancient mission. The strategy for us is also the same. Witness the Lord at home, progress to our own community, then to neighbourhood and to the ends of the world. May we all be empowered by the Spirit of God to live the life of disciple of Christ.

Feasts- On June 11th, we have feast days of three Holy Men:

1) St Bartholomew, Apostle of Christ

He is one among the twelve apostles of Jesus (Mt 10:3, Mk 3:17) and witnessed the Lord's Ascension (Acts 1:13). It has also been assumed that he is Nathanael mentioned in John's gospel (1: 45-51) and commented by Jesus as the one in whom there is no deceit. The name Bartholomew is not mentioned in John's gospel. Eusebius of Caesarea, ancient church historian, in his Ecclesiastical History, has written about Bartholomew going to India for ministering in the Konkan coastal area and his martyrdom there. He is the patron saint of Armenian Church and believed to have preached Gospel in the land with co-disciple Judas Thaddaeus, martyred and buried there.

2) Shemavon Mar Athanasius, 131st Anniversary, entombed at Kottayam Puthenpally

3) Geevarghese Mar Severios, 93rd anniversary, entombed at Kottayam Valiyapally

Lent of the Apostles: 16 – 30 June

Another lent is approaching, the fast days of Apostles starting on Tuesday 16th to finish on 30th June. Lent days are spiritually rejuvenating and renewing. We all had enjoyed the benefits of great lent, especially at the time of Corona lockdown. I hope we've realised how much the prayers and fasting helped and empowered us?! Let us observe the Lent of the Apostles with all its purity and dedication. They have gone before us and left a life of witness for us to follow. We are here in this era to succeed them in the ministry of the Lord. We are called to be His disciples. Let us be on board with them and excel in the service of the Lord. May I request our members to organise prayers and fasting at home and seek the intercession of Apostles during their feast days. May we all be nourished and illumined with their spiritual presence and intercession. Trust that their intercession shall heal the world.

SGOCT Garden:

Our church surrounding has been made more beautiful with new plants. Sincere thanks to all who had come to volunteer with manual work and with supplying of plants and materials. Those who wish to donate shrubs and plants, please contact the parish office or the Vicar.

Virtual Meetings Scheduled for this weekend:

MMVS Canada Region - Friday 12 June, 08:15- 09:30 pm

SGOCT Prayer Meeting – Saturday 13 June, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

SGOCT MMVS – Sunday 14 June, 06:00- 07:30 pm (Please note that MMVS is for all women members of the parish, not for a particular age group. All are requested to participate. Hope we all are aware that MMVS is one of the strongest organisations with regard to its effective fellowship and strong bonding among the members. It is highly empowering as well as motivating and a good platform for serious learning too. We have started exploring the Book of Genesis. This Sunday, chapter 3 of Genesis shall be discussed. Please join.)

Liturgical Text for this Sunday:

This Sunday's Liturgical Text (Taksa) will be of Mar Julius. Please be keen on the prayers and find what is more emphasised: compassion, reconciliation, forgiveness, healing, love, redemptive sacrifice



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on the cross.

Please access the link for live-

streaming https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7teyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

Holding you in prayer

Yours in Christ

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