



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MAY 13, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

**May 15 Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Easter**

**Epistle Readings: 1 John 5:13-21, Hebrews 11:3-6**

**Holy Evangelion: St Luke 24:13-35**

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning 23 and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, 29 but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us[b] while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, 34 who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### Reflections:

The way to Emmaus has the beauty of a dream. In those days, traveling on foot was the practice mostly. Do we remember the walks we had in our childhood with our family, friends, teachers, and elders? I do remember my walks with my father on the way to and from school. It was a two-segment walk, the way from home to the bus stop, from the bus stop to the school, and return. It was two kilometers between home and bus stop and one kilometer between the bus stop and school, altogether six kilometers a day morning and evening! My father was a teacher of History and English. It was a time for me to learn extra things from our conversations. It included grammar, history, church, about a person or their service (no gossip at all) whom we come across and greet on the way, recollections from the past about family, life struggles, relationships, social situations, recent incidents, plans, countries, general etiquettes, and more.



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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Every other day we will meet an Achen of the Marthoma church who was a teacher, going to school opposite our direction. They two will have a telegraphic communication of something of relevance while passing without stopping.

There is a Christ between all our conversations. He joins us as the third person on our way. Our travel on earth began with our birth. We moved from place to place carrying new learnings. Sometimes we fail to figure out the meaning of happenings. It might require someone's unexpected entry into the scene to give us insights, no matter who the person is. As we journey as a family, and community, always expect Christ the third person to join us to illuminate our thoughts to drive out doubts and confusions about our next moment and required action. Glory be to Him!

## **Feasts:**

**May 10, St Simon the Apostle**

**May 15, Feast of Theotokos for Crops/Seeds**

Let us submit ourselves to the intercession of Mother Mary for good fruits to all our labour. This feast is for crops and seeds. Let us keep the whole environment, inhabitants and all the service sectors in prayer. Let there be blessed fruits! Let all the good seeds sprout to new life!

**May 15, St Isaac of Nineveh**

St Isaac has been a shelter for millions of faithful worldwide for intercession. He lived a pure life of prayer and devotion. May his prayers be a blessing for us.

## **Feast of St George - Sincere Thanks**

We celebrated the Feast of St George on Saturday and Sunday May 07, 08 at church. We do express sincere gratitude to all our members who came in person, joined virtually, brought or offered Appam, refreshment, nercha and for the prayerful participation.

## **Condolence**

**UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passes away**

We join the members of the Royal Family and all people of UAE in sharing the grief on the passing away of H H Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed on Friday May 13. His Highness was the second President of UAE and Ruler of Abudhabi since 2004. The people of India, especially a majority from Kerala have been depending on the UAE for their living. The open policy and support initiated by the Rulers helped our people to find jobs, reside there, enjoying a social life and freedom to practice faith and spiritual activities. They have been generous to provide land for building churches and worship centres. Sheikh Khalifa followed the legacy of His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in leading the Emirate and the nation to progress. We do thankfully acknowledge and remember all the support given to the Indian and Malayalee community. We pray that the legacy and progress continue through the next Ruler and the Government. May the Lord comfort the departed soul and strengthen the people.

## **Nurses, Angels on Earth! International Nurses' Day – May 12. Congratulations!**

Throughout the pandemic era, nurses have made tremendous sacrifices, fought heroically, and recommitted themselves on a daily basis to combat an unparalleled global health crisis.

WHO has put forward this year's theme: "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and Respect Rights to Secure Global Health." We join WHO to celebrate Nurses from all over the world and the important work that they do to save lives and to keep their communities safe. WHO Chief Nursing Office has officially launched a Nursing and Midwifery Global Community of Practice

<https://nursingandmidwiferyglobal.org> - a network for nurses, midwives and stakeholders to connect,



communicate and collaborate. We request our members who are in the nursing care service to access the above link encouraging everyone to share and learn from one another and from experts in their specialty areas.

Nurses, you are the blessed hands of God to save, care and support lives. God bless you and guard you under His protective wings. Special appreciation to our members who are in the healthcare system.

### **MMVS Bake Sale – Sunday June 12**

MMVS Bake sale will be on Sunday June 12. We request participation of all members. Shall announce details soon.

### **Please find update from the Sunday School Principal**

**Sunday school BBQ is scheduled for this Sunday May 15th after Holy Qurbana.**

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

Sunday school will be conducting **competitions** such as **Solo Singing, Story Telling, Elocution, and Bible Quiz on June 04 Saturday**. The details on the competitions with the registration link shall be sent by next week.

**Feast of Ascension: May 26 Thursday, Will be celebrated on May 25 Wednesday.**

**06:30 pm Evening Prayer followed by Holy Liturgy**

**Feast of Pentecost: June 05 Sunday, Ascension on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>.**

May 26-June 05, 10 days waiting for the Holy Spirit (Kaathiruppu).

### **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 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 initiated Parish Journal is ready out for reading**

Please pick up your copies from Liju Thomas Thakadiyel.

### **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

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



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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.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**

May 13, Friday, SGOCT OCYM Monthly meeting, 07:30 – 09:00 pm

May 14, Saturday, SGOCT Choir & Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

May 15, Sunday, Barbeque organised by Sunday School at Church, after the Holy Qurbana

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of St John the Evangelist

## **Link to Sunday Holy Liturgy**

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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