



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 15, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, April 17 Sunday, 'Qyomtho' – Easter, Feast of Resurrection**

**Epistle Readings: For Qyomtho Liturgy- 1 Peter 5:5-14, Romans 16:1-16, For Holy Qurbana- Acts 2:22-36, 1 Corinthians 15:1-19**

**Holy Evangelion: For Qyomtho Liturgy - St John 15:11-15, 17:11-26, For Holy Qurbana- St Matthew 28-1-20**

**28.1** After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

<sup>11</sup> While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### Reflections:

Nothing can defeat us like death. Whoever we are, how strong and powerful we be, what position or profile we have, how rich and privileged we are, we all surrender to death. No support system can assure complete protection from dying. With the Resurrection, Christ has defeated death and abolished the basic fear of human race about leaving the world. It is the message of Easter. Death is not the end.

A darkness of fear and anxiety can come upon life anytime. We should be always looking for life and its light rather than thinking or fearing of dying. We cater too much negativity about the self and about life in general. For example, when we look for some appreciation and nobody will be there so do it, we get disappointed. There can be times we feel completely lost in the big world and nobody to attend. We sometimes carry a decayed soul within as we fail to find any meaning for life and no prospect in future. Here we need the real strength to look beyond the cloud and dark walls to break through and get to light of a new beginning.

Nothing is stronger and powerful than the Lord! Let us rely on Him completely. He is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



**Feasts:**

**April 12, HG Geevarghese Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, 09<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Njaliyakuzhy Dayara Kottayam**

Thirumeni had been in our midst, living a life of purity and sanctity. He proved that faith works wonders and prayer can be the most powerful weapon to fight evil of any kind. He was an embodiment of love and care. He loved everyone, cared animals, birds and plants. He took care of the needy spending from his hard and limited earnings. He was soft spoken who diligently conveyed life lessons he learned from his own hardships and sufferings. He inspired everyone to take courage to follow Christ. Whoever approached him for guidance in distress had their lives changed through changing their views and life style, getting more into prayer and fasting which helped them commendably. His tomb remains a shelter for everyone, consoling and strengthening.

**April 12, Pope Julius of Rome**

Pope Julius was the Patriarch of Rome in between 337-352 AD. He received and sheltered St Athanasius of Alexandria when he was banished by his opponents as the outcome of the Arian controversy that shook the early church.

**April 14, Mar Thoma II, 336<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Niranom Valiyapally**

**April 17, HG Gevarghese Mar Philoxenos Metropolitan, 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary, entombed at St Mary's Cathedral Church Puthencavu**

Thirumeni was loved by all for his sweet voice and well appreciated for his strong leadership. May his memory be eternal.

**Chacko Master, Evangelist**

V T Chacko Master, 98 years, Vayalappallil, Kangazha has left for his heavenly abode. There may not be a single parish in Malankara he was not invited for preaching. He travelled worldwide to spread the word of God. He was teacher by profession, and served at MGM High School Pampady. He dedicated his life for the ministry of Christ. He voiced strongly the need of faith in God and called to practice what Christ has taught. His talks were strong with deep conviction and sound theological knowledge. He has set an example for efficient laity, preaching the church has to encourage the maximum for the benefit of the flock. His funeral service was conducted on Wednesday at St Mary's Church Chettedom.

Do we have members connected to him either familial or geographically? We would like to hear from them.

**Holy Week: Gospel Saturday & Easter Sunday April 16, 17**

Gospel Saturday service will begin with Morning Prayer starting at 09:00 followed by Holy liturgy. Easter service will begin with 'Liliyo' (Night Prayer) starting at 06:00 followed by Easter announcement, procession, elevation and Holy Qurbana. We request our members to join the services in person.

**Vishu and Great Friday comes together**

Vishu is observed by preparing a viewing ('Kani or Kaazhcha') of deity, flowers and harvest together to revive the hope of prosperity. As Great Friday falls on the same date this year, we can be aware of the viewing we have of Christ on the cross, his sufferings for our redemption and his promise of new life. Vishu Greetings to all our Indian friends!



# ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

(Since 1969)

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



## **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 on (416) 570 5610. We will conduct the training sessions and fix a date for ordination.

## **Newcomers WhatsApp Groups initiated by OCYM**

New members are added up in the group as we get connected. Mostly they will be looking for guidance regarding accommodation, info about job opportunities, ride to church, and other possible supports. We are trying our best. Parish members can help us by updating about their availability for giving rides, sending info of contacts and advises from various fields of work which might be helpful for the life in Canadian.

## **SGOCT Parish Library and Book Club**

We expect books or contributions from voluntary supporters.

## **Parish Journal**

The Parish journal is in process and expected to be out on the day of Easter. Our editorial board is working on it. Articles have been received. Name suggestions and cover icons are also already there on the editing desk. Thanks to all the contributors.

## **Spiritual Organisations 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, Santhosh Varughese: Please note that Santosh's contact number has changed to (416) 937 8595. Please save the new contact.**

## **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.sgoct@gmail.com copying to the vicar at fr.thomasjohn@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.



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## Meetings ahead, In-Person & Virtual

April 16, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

April 16, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 07:00 – 08:00 pm

April 17, Sunday, Releasing of the Journal initiated by OCYM after the Holy Liturgy

## Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Abraham Nahasirthono

## 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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