



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JANUARY 15, 2021

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

January 17, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 3:7-15, Hebrews 1:1-14, 2:1-4

Gospel Reading, St John 1:43-51RSV

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Beth-sa'ida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathan'a-el, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathan'a-el said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathan'a-el coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" 48 Nathan'a-el said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathan'a-el answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Reflections

Finding the right person(s) in life decides the destiny of everyone. It is applicable everywhere, in married life, friendship, any partnership, research, mission projects, administration and in any area of progress. World has seen the various and different results of it. Good pairings and bad pairings either elevated or brought down the growth and development of communities and countries in history. Here, a few ordinary men and women had found a young charismatic person through their association got elevated to another level of living and their service to the local life transformed it beyond imagination. They all had something in common. They were ready to follow him in perfect devotion and freed themselves from worrying on the cost of it. They together created a new world of love and compassion, hope and positivity, friendship and fellowship, care and share, healing and regeneration...

Christ the true guide goes in search for His people. He is the one who comes to us. He is the saviour in various situations of life as we could see in the wedding house at Caana, with the disciples on boat while challenged with storm, as the third person joined the two on their way to Emmaus and the one who asking Mary why she was crying. He can rectify our mistakes, raise up from falls, resurrect from dying, uplift from despair and depression, heal from sickening situations, drive out demons from thoughts, allow us to cry and to chill out like Mary Magdalene.... Have we really found Him?

Feasts

January 15, Feast of St Mary for Seeds. Good seeds bring forth good trees and plants. Jesus was the best seed sowed in her which sprouted to be the best of trees, the tree of eternal life. There is high relevance in observing a feast for all seeds in the world. We were seeds once, now grown into big producing various fruits. What we sow now would become the future of the world. Let there be good seeds!



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(Since 1969)

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Virtual Meetings

Friday January 15, NEAD MMVS Retreat, 12:00 – 01:00 pm

Friday January 15, Sunday School Liturgical Session for Seniors, 06:00 – 07:00 pm

Saturday January 16, SGOCT Prayer Meeting, 07:00 – 08:30 pm

Sunday January 17, Sunday School Common Session 03:00 pm

Thursday January 21, Gregorian Seniors Forum, 07:30 – 09:00 pm Talk by Dr Silvy Mathew

Gregorian Seniors Forum – Covid Info Seminar on Thursday January 21st

SGOCT Gregorian Seniors Forum will be conducting a COVID-19 informative Seminar lead by Dr. Silvy Mathew on Thursday, January 21, 2021. Any related questions regarding the COVID-19 shall be sent to the email address: Seniorsforum60@yahoo.com on or before January 17, 2021. It will be beneficial for all our members. Please assure your participation.

The details have already been sent from the Parish office. Please look for the email.

Support our Parish

It is high time for all our members to support our parish by making monthly paying of \$100 (\$50 towards subscription + \$50 towards offertory). May I request beloved members to set up direct debit with the bank to parish account. We require a good credit score for our bank account too. We had collected about 60,000/- from offertory in 2019 whereas we could collect only below \$25,000/- in 2020. See the difference. How could we cover it without any other income provision? Please think about it seriously and respond at the earliest.

New Coordinators for Area Prayer Groups

All our organisations have done their election process for new office bearers and their names have already been announced. Can we come up with suggestions and recommendations regarding area coordinators in the coming parish prayer meeting on Saturday? If any of our members willing to volunteer for the year 2021, it will be of great help and highly appreciable. I request members from all areas to please join the prayer meeting.

Nineveh Fast

The Three Days Lent (Nineveh Lent, 'Moonnu Nompuzhassu') will be observed on January 25-28. There will be evening prayers live-streamed. The Lenten retreat will be on Tuesday January 26th starting with evening prayer at 06:00 pm. The message will be delivered by Fr Abraham Thomas, Professor of New Testament at the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam. He is a well known speaker and a dedicated scholar who can switch to both English and Malayalam. Please make sure that our children and youth will be there. Holy Qurbana will be celebrated on Wednesday January 27th starting with evening prayer at 06:00 pm. Please be keen on observing the Lent.

MGOCSM launches Custom Made Masks

MGOCSM is bringing branded face masks as part of a charity. The reusable/washable mask is black with the MGOCSM logo printed in three different colours: white, yellow and red. Each cost \$ 10/- Please support this charity drive.

Articles required for the church

Most of the articles required for the church have arrived. Items and donors shall be announced soon. Sincere thanks to all the contributors.



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Names of the beloved departed members, a gentle reminder

We have started receiving Emails from members with details of their beloved departed. We have also started adding them to the list. Please respond. We would like to keep the list for remembrance on respective Sundays as we do for Birthdays and Wedding Anniversary Days.

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Julius, prayers are a bit extensive, so moving.

Please find the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQwlyZ1_yCG9AWStA

COVID-19 Guidelines

The government has announced Provincial emergency effecting from 14th Jan. Community and Worship centres can go ahead with 10 member participation. We hope that the current restrictions would help in bringing down the spread of infection to zero. Many of our members who are working with the Dept of Health have received vaccine which gives us some relief. Let us keep on praying for the whole world. God shall protect all his children everywhere.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from harm and heal the whole world.

Yours in Christ

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