



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - AUGUST 20, 2021

Dearly beloved,

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

Sunday, August 22nd, First Sunday after Soonoyo

Epistle Readings: 1 John 2:22-29, Ephesians 6:10-17

Holy Gospel: St Luke 6:39-45

He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. 41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Reflection:

Jesus was the embodiment of love and compassion. He always considered everyone with their feebleness and frailty. He never judged people, rather comforted them in their issues. It doesn't mean that he was always soft towards the leaders and teachers of religion. If we ask what Jesus hated the most, it was hypocrisy. He was a strong critic against people's hypocrisy, especially in leaders. Here, the attitude of leaders is represented in his parable of the blind man leading another one. Finding fault in other people before acknowledging the issues of oneself is a flawed attitude. It is a pseudo morality that is intended to appear perfect in public for gratification. However, the person will only be deceiving the self. To grow gracefully, one will have to admit flaws which only then can they see clearly to help others. Fruits cannot be rectified or corrected of their distortions but only the tree. If the tree has imperfections, it will have to be addressed for it to give better fruit. It is not the expressions to be corrected but the personality, thinking, and inclinations. A polluted mind can never hide its intentions, in some way or other it will reveal itself. For a beautiful living, one should be ready to be cleansed from evil inclinations and they free themselves from hypocrisy.

Feasts:

August 16, Mar Ivanios Hidayathulla, 327th anniversary, Entombed at Mulanthuruthy Marthomman Church,

Mar Ivanios Hidayathulla was a Syrian monk who came to India along with and was ordained by Yaldo Mar Baselios also known as Kothamangalam Bava. Mar Ivanios ordained Marthoma III and Marthoma IV.

August 19, Apostle Mar Labi

He was also called Thaddaeus. Biblical scholars identify Judas as Labi or Thaddaeus who asks Jesus, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" (Jn 14:22). Nothing was mentioned about him in other gospel versions. We can assume that he obeyed the command of the Lord to preach the Gospel. The Armenian Church has him as their patron who got martyred and



buried there.

August 19, HG Joseph Mar Pachomios Metropolitan, 30th anniversary, entombed at Karmelkundu Chapel Mulakulam

HG Joseph Mar Pachomios was the Metropolitan of Kandanad Diocese. Thirumeni was well versed in the Syriac language. In various capacities like Manager of Corporate Institutions, Secretary to the Holy Episcopal Synod, he served the church and his leadership strengthened the church further.

40th Day Memorial Observance of Bava Thirumeni at our Parish church

Our parish has observed the 40th day since the passing away of HH Baselios Marthoma Paulose II. Holy Liturgy was conducted on Thursday, August 19 followed by a commemorative meeting. Thanks to the Management Committee, parish choir for their assistance, representatives of all organizations for their tributes, technical support team for their support, members who provided food, and all our beloved members for their participation either at church or virtually. May Thirumeni's memory be eternal.

Saturdays in August - Evening Prayer conducted at Church at 06:30 pm

We have been on a virtual platform with our Saturday evening prayers since the COVID lockdown began. In August, we will be conducting the Saturday evening prayers at church starting at 06:30 pm. Our members, whoever finds it convenient, please come to church. The evening prayer might not be live-streamed.

MMVS Diocesan Programs

Bible Quiz: Saturday, October 02

Annual Conference: Saturday, October 09

Bible Study: Every Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm. The study is based on the books Amos – Malachi led by Rev Fr VM Shibu (Vicar, St Gregorios Orthodox Church Bensalem)

Virtual Meetings ahead

Choir meetings will be on Wednesdays 08:00-09:00 pm.

OVBS 2021 –August 18-22

This year's OVBS learning sessions have been completed. The valedictory function will be on Sunday. The theme for this year was apt and highly significant- 'Discern the Will of God.' (Romans 12:1,2 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Though it was virtual, we made use of it with various sessions including prayer, biblical and sacramental learning, music, games, art, and crafts. Sincere thanks to all the children, parents, teachers, and support team for their dedication and participation.

Onam, Happy Onam!

Tomorrow is Thiruvonam. It is the day for thinking about social sharing, equality, justice, cultural integration, a common ethos, beauty of harvest, and celebration of life in full with what we already have. Onam gives way to the memories of the past where agriculture and quality living stood side by side. Values of life were emphasized instead of material prosperity. Mahabali and Vamana are two sides of the same coin of which one gives out and one takes away. This is analogous to life itself. We can ask ourselves where we stand. Do we as humans give or take? In a consumerist society, where all benefits are taken away, people will be pushed down and forgotten. The trend we call disposable culture causes us to use and throw things away. This theme would require more serious discussions.



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Like Mahabali, giving causes us to grow as people. Only then, they look for developing their skills and resources in order to meet the needs of others. To do this, it would always require some sacrifice. Every good thing that a person enjoys will be the fruit of somebody's sacrifice. Wishing you all a Happy Onam!

Liturgical Text for this Sunday

This Sunday, we will be using the English Taksa of Holy Fathers 'Mkanastho'.

Please see below the Link for Live Streaming

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDT7tcyQw1yZ1_yCG9AWStA

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

Yours in Christ,

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