



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - APRIL 24, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

Second Sunday of Easter – John 21:1-14

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, ^[a] Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards ^[b] off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflections:

For the church, Sunday is the day for meeting the Lord. He has no barriers to come to us. He never disappoints an expecting community. Let us wait at our home for Him to see and to feel blessed. Human effort without Christ can go futile. It doesn't matter whether we are skilled or experienced. Disciples were good at fishing. The sea was familiar for them. Even then they couldn't get a catch though they struggled the whole night. Night represents absence of light, guidance and presence of mind in life. When Jesus joins, there comes light and their efforts start bringing in results. He has already said, “Without Me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). He is ready to show up at our work place, home or anywhere. His presence is our peace. The cooked meal He served points to His Gracious provisions in life. We work hard. But what we eat is not from our work but from His Gracious supplies. Otherwise we wouldn't be able to enjoy it. Anything can make our eat table a disaster. Let us be thankful to Him for His kindness which has been taking care of our lives. Let us hold fast to Him like John who was leaning towards the Lord's chest while they were sharing the table (John 13:23).



Feasts this week:

1) Feast of St George- 'Gevarghese Sahadayude Ormapperrunnal', on this Sunday 26 April at our Church. Holy Liturgy shall be live-streamed. Morning Prayer would begin at 09:00 followed by Holy Qurbana.

23 April, 'Medam 10' is the Feast Day of St George. He, in icons, is depicted as seated on a war horse, lancing a dragon. Dragon is a cultural manifestation of evil. In every society, there would be social evils which could grip the whole. Some heroic actions would become necessary to bring an end to it. India had Mahatma Gandhi to take the lead in fighting against colonial oppression. Throughout the history we could see leaders who had intervened in times of necessity for which they all had to face hostility and enmity from rulers and also from dominant groups. St George, who stood against social evils, had to undergo torture, and after death, became one of the most venerated saints. He lived in Turkey, got killed by the king for holding on to his faith in Christ, gloriously commemorated as a military saint, Patron saint of Georgia, many churches of Malankara are dedicated to his patronage and believed by all that his intercession would never be denied by the Lord. Churches in the world celebrate his feast this Sunday onwards without having any external expressions like Raza, Convention or Trimass at this current situation. We have already learned how to bring celebrations and liturgies into our inner castle, our soul. Let us elevate his life and his dedication to the Lord within ourselves. May this be a reminder for evaluating our faith and dedication towards God.

FOOD BANK Charity in connection with St George Perunnal

As mentioned in the appeal sent out from the parish office, we plan to raise a fund to be donated to Food Bank. May I request our members, please contribute \$ 50/- towards this at the earliest. What we collect in one week could be handed over to Food Bank. Please cooperate. Please e-transfer to treasurer@sgoctoronto.org. We have made it auto-deposit and it doesn't require creating of security question and answer. This would be an expression of our solidarity with the Government and with Covid victims. Let us extend our hands to support a timely cause.

2) 25 April- Feast of St Mark the Evangelist- On the Feast Day, let us remember his contribution as a writer who has made available a written source on the life and teachings of Christ. It is the first documentation of the Lord's life which was meant for gentiles. St Mark has evangelised the Alexandrian community. The Coptic Church considers him as their Patron, Founder & Apostle. Mark was not a direct disciple of Christ. Early teachers of faith believe this Mark as one among the seventy preachers appointed by Christ (Luke 10:1 ff) and the one referred in writings of Paul and in the Book of Acts- 2 Timothy 4:11, Colossians 4:10, Acts 12:12, 25 (John Mark), 13:5,13, 15:37. He was a pupil of Peter. He had accomplished the ministry and martyred like His Lord. Let us seek the intercession of this great Martyr and Saint of the Church.

(We tend to keep diary or calendar for scheduling events and programs and might jot down descriptions of the same. As a faithful disciple of Christ, what we keep as Diary would become a follow up of the Acts of the Apostles for the future generations. Are we aware of this possibility?!)

3) 21 April - Yuhanon Mar Ivanios Episcopa, 226th anniversary of parting, entombed at Old Syrian Church Chengannur.

4) 22 April - Mar Thoma III, 332nd anniversary of parting, entombed at Kadambanad Cathedral.

5) 25 April – Mar Thoma I, 350th anniversary of parting, entombed at Ankamaly Cheriapally.

Let their remembrance be a fortress for us.

Web Conferencing for Spiritual Organisations

We are glad to inform our members that we have set up a WebEx Account for the Parish meant to be utilised by all spiritual organisations of our parish. The first meeting would be of Divyabodhanam tomorrow at 11:00 am. Till the Covid restrictions remain, we would convene prayer meetings for all members to join irrespective of areas. Tomorrow at 07:00 pm, we would start prayer meeting. Details on accessing the meeting shall be sent out in a separate email. Please go through and assure your participation.

Meetings scheduled for this weekend:

- a) Divyabodhanam – Saturday 25 at 11:00 am.
- b) Prayer Meeting – Saturday 25 at 07:00 pm
- c) MMVS Meeting – Sunday 26 at 06:00 pm
- d) Sunday School – Saturday and Sunday as scheduled by respective teachers

Sad Parting:

In deep grief may you be informed on the passing away of Thankamma Varghese, aged 92, W/O late K G Varghese (Kottuppallil, Kozhenchery) yesterday. She is the beloved eldest sister of K T George (Dir Ref K 01). She is survived by two sons and one daughter. Funeral service would be conducted at St Mathews OC Kozhenchery on Sunday 26 April at 12:30 midday. Fortunately K T George could visit her on his recent holiday break in India and he is back here now. Bidding farewell to beloveds on their parting would be an emotional necessity for everyone. But at this time of restrictions, family members and relatives live far cannot make it. Let us keep them in prayer. Pray that the Lord's comforting presence keep everyone consoled.

Earth Day 22nd April

It is the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day, a day separated by her children for their Mother earth. She was sad about her unyielding children. They used to exploit her and always left her unattended. On many occasions she tried to tell them to be considerate to her as she was becoming weak in every respect. They didn't hear. Now a tiny unwanted and unfortunate sprout from her has made them to keep themselves shut which has cleaned up her atmosphere, environment and made her to breathe freely. She is glad now seeing her other inhabitants enjoying freedom. Waters have been cleaned up. Carbon emission has come to the lowest in history. TRCA- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has given out guidelines on how to observe Earth Day by supporting conservation projects, self-neighbourhood clean-up, symbolic adopting of animals, sparing time for raising awareness on nature, ecology and cultural heritage. They also advise us to observe each day as Earth Day. Humans have the responsibility to work and to keep mother earth, the Garden of Eden! (Genesis 2:15). Let us revere her and keep her protected.



ST. GREGORIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH OF TORONTO

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World Book Day- 23rd April

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO has been observing World Book Day since 1995. In Kerala, on this day, compilations of poems and stories written by children during Covid season have been released by the Chief Minister. Can we make a Book Club or Reading Club at church where whoever interested in books could come together and reflect upon their reading experience. We can have online meetings now and even after. Please share your thoughts. May I request our members to try jotting down poems or random reflections on any theme and bring it to this common forum where it can be read by everyone. Please comment.

Support our Parish

Please support our Parish by contributing \$ 50/- towards offertory, \$ 150/- towards three Perunnals. Please e-transfer to treasurer@sgoctoronto.org. We do acknowledge gratefully the voluntary donations and contributions already made by our beloved members.

Keeping you all in prayer

May the Lord keep the whole world under His protective wings

Yours in Christ

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