



WEEKLY THOUGHTS - JULY 24, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

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

26 July, 8th Sunday of Pentecost

Gospel Reading, St John 6:47-59 RSV

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; 54 he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.”

Reflection:

Humans have been feeding on bread in its various forms and tastes for centuries, but we have never grown tired of it! We still look for it. Repeated consuming can cause distaste or monotony. What keeps us still craving for it is nothing but ‘Hunger’. From the repeated readings and meditations on ‘Jesus as Bread’ can also bring some distaste. Reality is, as humans cannot survive without bread, likewise we cannot live without Jesus Christ! All that we need will be a strong hunger and thirst for Him. St Paul has clearly said, (Acts 17:24-28) “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that ***they should seek God***, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, 28 for ***in him we live and move and have our being***”. Apostles and the early church had always maintained a hunger for Him. They never felt that His presence was enough. They lived literally on feeding His words and person.

“Eat my body, drink my blood” could be a message with a possibility of wrongly be taken as cannibalism. Even His disciples couldn’t digest this message. They thought that He was challenging their prophet and leader Moses who brought them Manna (Jn 6:49). They couldn’t stand His words about His body getting fractioned and His blood poured through. (Jn 6:60,61) Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? After this talk, many of



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His followers left Him (Jn :6:66). He had to ask the Apostles whether they too wish to leave Him. Their response marks history. Simon Peter answered: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God.” (Jn 6:68,69). Jesus Christ is the Eternal Manna. It is wrong to identify God in material supplies alone as humans tend to do usually. God is the giver of everything, but He is not just that. He wants us to live in eternal standards. Our thinking and ways of action should maintain that quality. Through Him, human life will continue in virtue even after death. For a believer, death is not the end”. Eat and drink my body and blood” means to be with Him forever.

Feasts:

20th July, Elijah the Prophet

Elijah, the name itself is so awe inspiring. He had proved the presence of God among the people. Elijah was prophet, miracle worker, man of prayer who lived with a zeal for God and had led his people to spiritual heights. He raised the dead, invoked Divine Fire to consume the sacrificial offering and was taken up to heaven on the Chariot of Fire. Many people thought he was the anticipated Messiah. The contemporaries of Jesus thought He was a reincarnation of Elijah. His successor Elisha continued the ministry with increased enthusiasm and submission.

22nd July, Mary Magdalene

Mary of Magdalene is the New Testament woman Saint who is remembered for her close following of Christ. She could witness many events in the life of the Lord. She was there at Crucifixion and to see the Risen Christ. She is mentioned in all four Gospels. There is one Gospel named after her which was not canonically recognised by the early church. She stands in history as one of the best examples of women ministers in the Jewish setting. She continues to inspire generations for her absolute devotion to the Lord.

23rd July, Fr. Ignatius Noronha of Brahmavar, 84th anniversary, entombed at Brahmavar Cathedral
Fr Noronha was born in Goa. By the influence of Bishop Alvaris Mar Julius, Noronha preached Orthodox Faith in Brahmavar. He is considered a Saint by many faithful of the church. His life of witness was challenged by the colonial powers who were of high influence there. He remained faithful and dedicated the whole of his life for Christ. The Diocese of Brahmavar in particular and the whole Malankara Orthodox Church in general owes much to him for keeping and preaching the faith.

23rd July, HG Geevarghese Mar Dioscoros Metropolitan of Thiruvananthapuram, 21st anniversary, entombed at Holy Trinity Asram Ranny.

Diocesan Annual General Assembly

North East American Diocese is convening Annual General Assembly tomorrow starting at 09:00 am. This could be the first virtual General Assembly organised by any of the Dioceses. Please pray for the meeting.



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Peace Garden

The Peace Garden is becoming a reality. The first planting has been taken place today. In a few days we would be able to see the beauty coming to bloom! It is going to be our local Garden of Eden! Thanks to all contributors and volunteers.

Parish Directory

May I request your immediate attention towards sending the Directory Update Form? It is already too late. Please cooperate and turn to act.

MGOCSM Virtual Choir

MGOCSM is in process of bringing out a virtual singing video. This is open for MGOCSM members who are 12 years and above. Those who are interested, please contact Jonathan on (647) 534 2052.

Virtual Meetings of Organisations:

Friday 23 July, 06:00 pm, Divyabodhanam

Saturday 24 July, 07:00 – 08:30 pm, SGOCT Prayer Meeting

Sunday 25 July, 05:00 pm, Sunday School Liturgical Session, Theme – Holy Qurbana

Wednesday 29 July, 06:00- 08:00pm, MGOCSM

Thursday 30 July, 07:00 – 08:30 pm, Gregorian Senior Forum

Liturgical Text for this Sunday:

This Sunday the Holy Liturgy will be in English and the Text (Taksa) will be ‘M Kanastho’ (Gathered from Holy Fathers). This is the shortest available. The prayers are precise, brief and so catchy too. Please listen to every word.

Please access the link for joining

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

Holding you all in prayer

Yours in Christ

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