



## WEEKLY THOUGHTS - MARCH 25, 2022

Dearly beloved,

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

**Sunday, March 27 Sunday, 'Kpiptho' - Crippled Woman**

**Epistle Readings: 1 Peter 3:8-16, Romans 12:1-15**

**Holy Evangelion: St Luke 13:10-17**

<sup>13.10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

### Reflections:

God is omnipotent and omnipresent. Everything is known to Him. Here a woman was crippled for eighteen years. It has not been said whether she was crippled from birth or she had met with some accident which made her so. She had a prolonged miserable condition. A question can be raised here. If she couldn't meet Jesus, would she have been crippled for the rest of her life? If God is compassionate and merciful and He knows the life situation of everyone, why did she have to wait these many years? Jesus had the ability to find people from far away as He has revealed about Nathanael. "I had found you under the fig tree." Then why He couldn't see this woman? Healing denied can be healing denied. Why was it so?

The Bible brings examples of God's intervention into human lives. It doesn't mean others are restricted from His help. God is everywhere. Healing and miracles happen everywhere, in all lives. We fail to recognise them. Everything in the universe is miraculous and mysterious. The human body is one of the greatest miraculous systems. Every moment we go through mysterious experiences.

Here the woman's healing is not acknowledged by the authorities. If we are not ready to accept, miracles can go unnoticed or misinterpreted. Jesus calls them hypocrites because of their resistance towards truth. We live in a world where faith is challenged and the existence of God is spoken as absurd. Aren't we called to reveal the eternal truth of God in our life and in the lives of others? How many times God has proved His love and care towards us which we conveniently forget or keep aside? Being the apostles in the world, we have the duty to reveal God's authority over creation and His salvation meant for us all.

### Feasts:

March 22 : Konattu Gevarghese Mar Julius Metropolitan, 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Pampakkuda Valiyapally

March 25 : Marthoma IV, 294<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entombed at Kandanad Church



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## **RSVP to Cease**

We are stopping RSVP for Sunday participation. Please don't look for RSVP mail from the parish office from Sunday March 20, 2022 onwards. There will not be data collection at the entrance too. Members can come to church on all Sundays without taking pain to inform the parish office. Let us feel free!

**Mid Lent Service - conducted on Tuesday March 22, 2022**, Golgotha and the Holy Cross are installed in the Aisle. While we enter, Golgotha and the Cross stand there to welcome us. We go and kiss on entry and exit. It is the close presence of the Lord with the community in penitence.

**Feast of Annunciation - celebrated on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>**. As Mary conceived the Messiah through receiving the Word of God, carried and delivered to the world, let us take courage to carry and deliver Christ the Lord.

## **Great Lent, Evening Prayer, Devotional Talks**

We are entering the second half of Great Lent. We conduct Noon Prayer at 12:00 – 12:30. The link has already been sent. Please join if possible. 40 kneeling down is an experience. Let us taste it.

Evening prayer starts at 07:00 followed by devotional talks by our members. It is live streamed. We can join in person or virtually. Let us be together in prayer and fasting these days of Lent which was observed by our Lord. Prayer and fasting can bring abundant grace and miraculous results. Let us seek the showering of the Holy Spirit upon us all.

## **Holy Confession every evening**

Lent is a time for deep cleansing of hearts. Let us take this opportunity to do Holy Confession. It gives way to a new start with new insights and goals. We can find time either before evening prayer or after the devotional talk. Please feel free to call on (416) 570 5610 to fix the time.

## **Parish GBM on Sunday, March 27**

Our Parish General Body meeting will be held on Sunday, March 27th, 2022 after the Holy Liturgy. All the eligible members are requested to participate in person. Please keep the meeting in prayer

## **Congrats Dr Jobin Varughese!**

William Osler Health System (Osler) has recognised Dr Jobin Varughese along with other two in health service to share Brampton Board of Trade's prestigious Intrepid Leader award. The award is presented to individuals in the Brampton community who have been recognized by their colleagues and the Brampton Board of Trade as bold, brave and courageous young leaders making an impact in the community and in their field.

Dr. Lillia Fung and Andreea Popescu are the other two sharing the award.

As it is presented in the William Osler's website:

Dr. Jobin Varughese, Site Director, Family Medicine, Residency Program: As a family physician who was raised and lives in Brampton, Dr. Varughese provides comprehensive care for patients, from newborns to seniors. His efforts to contribute to his profession are extensive and range from pursuing certifications and teaching new medical residents, to finding ways to improve the larger health care system and facilitating learning for physicians.

"We are delighted the Brampton Board of Trade has recognized Dr. Lillia Fung, Andreea Popescu and Dr. Jobin



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Varughese for the incredible work they do for the hospital and the community,” said Dr. Frank Martino, Interim President and CEO, William Osler Health System. “All three are shining examples of what it means to be innovative, dedicated and compassionate, and they consistently demonstrate leadership and commitment to our Vision, delivering patient-inspired health care without boundaries.”

We are proud of Jobin, our member (J 23), son of George Varughese and Anni Verughese (G 08), brother of Jeevan (J 28), beloved husband of Elizabeth Georgie and heroic father of Liora Josephine. Hearty Congrats!

## **Ordination of Acolytes**

We may have members, adults or kids, willing to join the Altar Assistance Service. Whoever wish 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 supported by volunteers from parish spiritual organisations**

Canada finds new immigrants and students from India. We receive new comers every week. To coordinate and organise them, our parish OCYM has started two WhatsApp Groups. We have volunteers representing various organisations to support. Newcomers are joining the group every day. We request our members to connect newcomers to both students and young couples we come across and we will be glad to offer them guidance and support. We will be organising various online and in-person meetings for them including spiritual sessions.

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

SGOCT parish OCYM has planned to launch a Parish Library & Book Club project with the support of other organizations and our members. We will be starting the project by tracking current stock and receiving books from donors. Reference books and other required books shall be purchased in due course. There will be a google sheet open soon with a list of required books. Whoever finds it convenient can choose which books they could donate. If we don't have copies in hand, we can buy and give them.

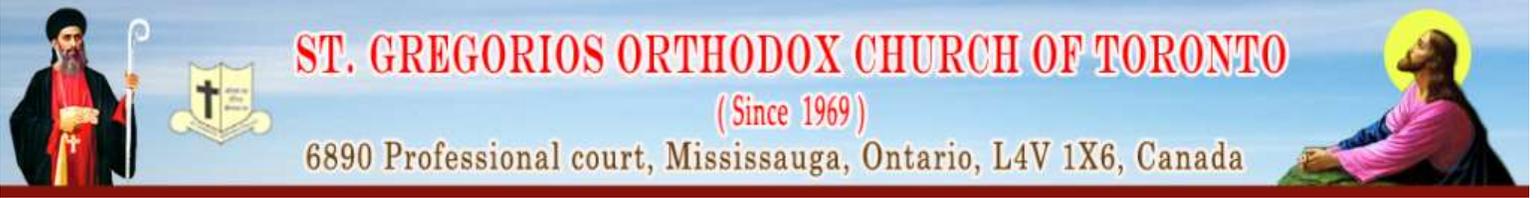
We request our members who are fond of reading to support in setting up a useful library. We request our members who may be interested in donating books to look for the right books to donate, instead of using them to get rid of any books. Please feel free to contact the vicar at (416) 570 5610 for any clarifications or for expressing your willingness to support. We do believe that the library shall motivate our kids and youngsters to get equipped for their future through intense and voracious reading and it also helps our senior generation to get engaged in fruitful sharing time through the book club.

## **Parish Journal**

We used to have a parish Newsletter which was discontinued during the pandemic. OCYM will be initiating a parish journal expected to be published on the day of Easter. We wish our members to contribute articles, poems, cartoons, stories, or studies on the theme for each issue. The Easter issue will be based on 'Hope Resurrection and Victory'. Organizations will be coordinating the work. Please look for details. You can reach out to organization secretaries to discuss in what way you can be part of it.

## **Journal - Name it!**

We are inviting name suggestions for the journal. You can send the name to OCYM. The last date will be March 25. The name will continue for future issues too.



### **Journal - Draw Icon**

We are looking for Resurrection Icons drawn by Sunday School students to use on the Journal Cover. Students can send the icons on or before March 25th. The icon should be an orthodox presentation. It can be copied or newly drawn.

### **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: (416) 258 2062

### **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](mailto:mgocsm.sgoct@gmail.com) copying to the vicar at [fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com](mailto:fr.thomasjohn@gmail.com) or send a message/call to (416) 570 5610.

### **40th Anniversary of the Diocesan MMVS in North America**

The Diocese has planned the following events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the MMVS in North America:

1. 40th-anniversary ceremony will be held on October 1, 2022, at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church in Unruh, Philadelphia.
2. Women who were a part of the MMVS prior to 1982 are being honored.
3. Provide educational assistance to 40 children for a year. A raffle voucher sale will be held for this purpose. Each family can purchase a raffle ticket for \$40. Please save a dollar every day during Great Lent and participate in the raffle coupon sale. There's also the option of sponsoring a child for a year. The expense for this is \$1500 US dollars.

The raffle coupon draw will take place on October 1st, 2022 during the anniversary ceremony.

1st Prize: iPhone 13 2nd Prize: iWatch

### **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**

March 26, Saturday, Choir/Acolytes joint practice, 05:00 – 07:00 pm

March 26, Saturday, Evening Prayer, 07:00 – 08:00 pm

March 27, Sunday, SGOCT Parish General Body Meeting after Holy Liturgy

## **Liturgical Text for this Sunday**

This Sunday, we will be using the Taksa of Mar Mathai Royo

## **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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