

**Church of St. John the Baptist,  
Church of South India - Diocese of Medak**



# **“EASTER - THE AWAKENING”**

**PARISH MESSENGER - THE EASTER ISSUE  
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## From the Editor's Desk ...

It was “very early in the morning” and while “It was yet dark”, Jesus rose from the dead. Not the sun, but only the morning star shone upon His opening or opened tomb. The massive stone had been rolled away. The shadows had not fled; the citizens of Jerusalem had not awakened. It was still night and the hour of sleep and darkness, when He arose. His rising did not break the slumber of the city nor the status quo of the prevailing circumstances in Jerusalem during that time. Still Christ arose and became the body of church.

The Resurrection of the Lord emphatically assures us that no power on earth is invincible. Christ emancipated all humankind, while suffering excruciating pain physically, mentally and spiritually. His disciples, the only ones who had lived with Him for almost three and a half years of ministering, deserted Him at a very crucial time. Despite this, He did not succumb to the worldly pressures. He simply finished the task set for Him by the Heavenly Father.

The present time is chaotic with the prevailing circumstances, as it was during the times of Jesus. The world has come to a standstill because of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19. When the world was progressing smoothly in its path towards all round development, this outbreak has brought people to their knees, and once again the world leaders are seeking answers and a cure for this outbreak.

We are not meant to linger in the dark or stay in the closet. As born again Christians, are we doing enough to make use of this precious time at our disposal? Are we reaching out to others with the Good News of Christ? “Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust”, says the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 26:19). May I be permitted to rephrase the sentence to “Awake and sing, ye that dwell in lockdown?” We have been blessed by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with this period, to spend more valuable time in prayer now and we wait upon the Lord on our knees for His Revelation, for the saving grace of Christ which will bring a miraculous cure to the world.

The time is ripe for harvesting souls for Christ. Ironically, the harvest season has just commenced in India and farmers are grappling with the problem of accomplishing the herculean task of harvesting, when the whole world has stopped functioning and stopped operating, literally. But we need not panic. We can harvest souls online through various social media platforms.

I am strengthened by these words:

**“He who hath helped thee hitherto  
Will help thee all thy journey”**

*Charles Spurgeon's Morning and Evening*






There is darkness all around us when we hear the bad news emanating from all sources about the menace of COVID-19 and its toll on people all over the world. Nevertheless, the Resurrecting power of Jesus Christ has assured us of everlasting to everlasting life, which is our pivotal and primary goal. Let us all strive to accomplish this mission in our lives and live up to it during this lockdown period by reaching out to the unserved, to the unheard (people who have not heard the Good News), to the under privileged and to the under nourished. God Bless us all.

***Satri Chandrika Samuel***





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## From the Presbyter's Desk



The Rev K M Charles Wesley

### Being Vigilant

Dear, Sisters and Brothers in Christ, with great joy and anticipation I greet you all in the hope that we have in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. Though we had a silent and virtual Easter services, Christ's resurrection reminds us of Hope of a new future.

Ordinary life is disturbed, sometimes nature itself makes the events more terrible — disease can easily accompany floods, hunger is inevitably aggravated by drought. Today, the crisis like Covid-19 pandemic is a tremendous challenge for the Church, for all people worldwide, and for our common homes, yet it *provides an opportunity to ponder on Christian faith and our response to life.*

When we closely look at **St. Matthew 24:1-51**, it is possible that the events spoken of in this chapter describe the turbulent years which led to the collapse of Jerusalem in AD 70 after a terrible siege. The words of Jesus in passage do not deny the reality of such events, nor give us any reason to suppose that they will not occur. Our Lord's words call up images of crises that humanity had faced in every generation — the crises of war, of famine of natural disaster. Disasters of this sort always raise questions for faith — why do such things happen in a world watched over by a loving God? These verses highlight that disaster is never the last word — it is not final. *Even in the worst disasters, it is our faith in Christ that enables us to experience His divine presence and provision, helping us to hold on and to survive.*

Moreover, we should always remember that none of us can accurately predict our own future or the future of the world we live in; neither does our Lord offer us any encouragement to do so. Christian faith is not characterised by fatalism, but by an open attitude to the future, being aware that we may be taken by surprise and above all holding on to *faith that whatever happens God is with us and His word will endure to the end (vs. 35).*

Finally, in verses 42-44 Jesus exhorts us to *remain vigilant*. The reason for vigilance is twofold — firstly, we do not know when disaster may strike our lives, neither do we know the hour of Christ's coming. In other words, we have *to be prepared for whatever comes*. This is a warning against spiritual idleness that finds us unprepared when a crises comes, demanding of us all the strength and resources we can gather. It is also a warning against that spiritual indifference which fails to recognise the hand of God at work in our lives (**1 Peter 5:6**).

*In this time of uncertainty, we need to stand for what is certain. Jesus is alive; He has conquered death, hell and the grave, for all eternity. In Him we have the victory of life and death.*

*Let us pray for those living through a time of crisis because of the Covid-19 pandemic; and for the Church, that it may be open to God's impending grace.*



*The Rev K M Charles Wesley is the Resident Presbyter, Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*





## Faith and Reconciliation

The Rev Dr T Bhasker

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I thank God for His guidance and protection over the past year. I offer a special word of appreciation to all the newly elected Pastorate Committee Members and all the office bearers for their efforts towards the welfare of the Church.

I especially, thank Dr M Udaia Kumar, our Pastorate Secretary, for his love and continuous support towards me in the smooth administration of the Pastorate and for helping the Church in all possible ways. I would also thank Dr M Sravanthi Udaia Kumar who is a great help to our church and to the whole Christian community of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, irrespective of denomination.

It is a great privilege for the Diocese of Medak and, especially, for our Church that Prof Dr B Vimal Sukumar, a prominent member of St John's, has been elected as the Treasurer of CSI Synod for the triennium 2020-2023. We are proud of him and I would like to congratulate him on his success.

For the effective running of any administration the financial management is very important. In this regard I would like to thank Mr Norman Swaroop Isaac for his faithful stewardship and for helping me and the pastorate in the proper management of the Church finances. I also thank Mr M James Samuel, our Pastorate Steward, who is always available for the Church Ministry and helps in all worship services. I also offer a word of appreciation to our newly elected property secretary, Mr. Ajit Alexander George, who is closely involved in developing our Church and also raising funds for this good cause. I appreciate Rev K M Charles Wesley for consulting me on all the issues concerning the pastorate administration

and Mrs. Shebah Charles for cooperating with him in all aspects.

Time never waits for anyone and winds never require to be directed. It only depends on us — how we use time and turn the winds in our favour. It is indeed very astonishing to see how fast the year has gone by, and I am pretty sure that this year too will pass equally fast. Importantly, what we need to think about is what we have learnt from the past Lenten seasons and how best we are preparing to receive the power of resurrection in this Lenten season.

We might have witnessed many Lenten seasons in our lives being observed in a traditional manner. But this season of Lent will be a unique one in our lives, one which will transform us completely and help us **renew our Faith in God**.

We know about how Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days and nights before He started His ministry. He spent time with God and strengthened Himself before the great task which was ahead of Him. Likewise, this Lenten season, it is very important to renew ourselves in faith, which will help us to fight against the hegemonic structures and mighty powers in this dark world and especially helps us in the fight against the present Covid-19, the deadliest virus which is taking many lives.

### **Ephesians 6:12**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore, the most important way to renew our faith is to seek God. He will guide us, protect us, and renew us. This requires building a personal relationship with Him. It requires finding time to seek Him in every situation and moment and, also





in every crisis. Knowing that God always has us in mind, reminds us that we are not alone. Seeking God reminds us that our battles are not ours to fight, that He will fight them for us, and He will always win.

**Reconciliation with our God through Jesus**  
Reconciliation, in Christian theology, is an element of salvation that refers to the results of atonement. Reconciliation is truly a wonderful end of the estrangement, caused by the original sin, between God and humanity. John Calvin describes reconciliation as the peace between humanity and God that results from the expiation of religious sin and the propitiation of God's wrath.

The whole message of reconciliation is centered around the love of God and the death of Christ. Paul reminds us that “God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). This brings peace with God, access to God through Christ, rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God, making us rejoice in suffering, and having the love of God poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-5). We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation (Romans 5:11).

**Restoration of the Joy of Salvation**  
With the pressures of life and the sins we commit,

we can lose the joy of our salvation and become dry. God wants to restore us to full and complete joy in Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Psalmist David in writing Psalm 51 recognises this fact. This Psalm is one of repentance after being confronted about his sin with Bathsheba. He is experiencing the pain of knowing he has broken the heart of God and the hearts of many people.

The joy of our salvation comes from the relief of the pain we feel when we know that God has forgiven us of our sins. Even C S Lewis says, “*We would not recognise joy, if we have never experienced pain.*” That is why when people first get saved, they experience great joy — that they have been relieved of the pain of conviction concerning their sin.

In the present context, wherein we are witnessing the pandemic Covid-19 and being restricted to our homes, this Lenten season is a wonderful time for us to be in fellowship with the Lord, to renew our faith, to meditate on the word of God for reconciliation and to intercede for ourselves and the Universe at large for restoration of the joy of salvation.

I sincerely pray that the good Lord protects us under His mighty hand and helps us to experience the pass over of this pandemic virus.

**I WISH YOU A BLESSED EASTER. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**



*The Rev Dr T Bhasker is the Diocesan Vice-Chairperson, Diocese of Medak, TCC General Secretary and Presbyter-in-charge for Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*





**Dr M Udaia Kumar**

## Missing Easter

Easter 2020 has been unlike any other, with the national and global lockdowns in place. The month-long Easter choir practices, the Sunrise and various Easter service, the celebrations, the fellowship in Church and, even perhaps, the breaking of the fast, post the lent period— will certainly be missed this year!

Interestingly, there was someone in the Bible who missed— not the Easter service as we know it, but he was not present for what we could consider the first Easter, when Jesus appeared to His disciples. John 20:19-29 tells the story of Christ's disciple, Thomas, also referred to commonly as 'doubting Thomas', who wasn't present when Jesus appeared to the disciples and who did not experience what they experienced.

This was after Jesus' crucifixion, when the disciples, had locked themselves in a room, fearful that the Jewish leaders, who had crucified Jesus, would soon be looking for them, too. Then suddenly, Jesus appeared before them. "Jesus came and stood in their midst..." (John 20:19-29).

The disciples' experiences of Christ's appearances encompass the following:

❖ Jesus says, "**Peace** be with you..." (John 20: 19-21). An encounter with Christ gives us peace—the peace that comes only from a relationship with Him. The disciples were worried, confused, afraid and upset. However, the presence of Jesus brought them peace. John goes on to say, "Jesus showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." (John 20:19-20).

❖ Christ gives us purpose in life. Jesus says, "as the Father has sent Me, I also send you (John 20:21). Jesus says, "Father, the hour has come.

❖ Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." (John 17:1). Jesus abided by His Father's will to glorify the Father, even unto His death on the cross and His Resurrection, thereafter. Subsequently, He had an assignment for His followers. He commissioned them to go and be

His representatives in the world. He gave them a purpose and a commission, and this group then went out to share the good news with the world.

❖ Further, "Jesus then breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20: 22-23). By this powerful act, Christ provided the strength and **power** they needed to fulfill His commission and task. He provided them with such power that they were able to preach and teach about the forgiveness of sins and salvation through Christ.

Belief in the Resurrection is essential for a true encounter with Christ. Thomas uses strong language when he says in verse 24, "Unless I see...and put my finger...I will not believe." He was so certain of Christ's death that he would not believe the disciple's report and was unwilling to accept that Christ has risen, unless certain conditions were fulfilled.

Later, Jesus met Thomas and challenged his unbelief and provided the proof that Thomas longed for. When Thomas realised that Christ had really risen from the dead he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God." (John 20: 28)

This implies that Thomas had forgotten the words of the prophets in the Old Testament. He had forgotten the teachings of Christ Himself, ignored the experience of others and refused to believe. We, too, often ignore all the signs today and disbelieve what the Bible so clearly teaches.

The important message is that Christ is to be experienced through faith. We know Him, experience Him and follow Him with faith. And Jesus says, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We too have been locked up with fear, anxiety, and confusion — apprehensive of the COVID-19 pandemic, — like what the disciples experienced when they were locked up after Jesus' crucifixion. The disciples were radically and eternally changed as a result of their encounter with Christ— Jesus'







resurrection. Miraculously, they were transformed from fear to courage, from sorrow to joy and from hopelessness to purpose.

Let us not miss this opportunity to believe in Christ with deep faith. God will meet us right where we are and change our lives! We are assured that our encounter with the risen Lord will give us the **peace** and the **will** to share His gospel even in these trying times, thus fully utilising the **power**, through His Spirit, to overcome any challenge or circumstance we may face.

We could have been at Church — doing all the Easter-linked activities and we would have still missed Easter by missing the personal experience with the risen Christ in Church. Let us not miss the true spirit of Easter, which is the reality of the Resurrection, the life-filling power of the empty tomb and the risen Christ who stands ready to bring new life to our hearts.

**Happy Easter!**



*Dr M Udaia Kumar is the Honorary Secretary, Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*

### **Psalms and Gospel according to St. Matthew**

Psalm 22:1-2 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent."

Matthew 27:46 "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' - which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

Psalm 22:7-8 "All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.'"

Matthew 27:41-44 "In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, I am the Son of God.' In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him."

Psalm 22:15 "My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death."

Matthew 27:48 "Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink."

Source: <https://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/prophecies-fulfilled-by-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-christ-faq.htm>





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## **The Constitution and Regulations of the Diocese of Medak** (Church of South India)

### **PART TWO - REGULATIONS**

#### **Chapter IX**

#### **D. CHURCH ROLL**

Church Roll is a record of all the members of the local congregation. The Presbyter-in-charge of the Pastorate shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining the official Church Roll.

- To be included in the Church Roll, the member shall be an Adult Communicant Member of the C.S.I in accordance with the Constitution of the C.S.I.
- No member may have his/ her name in more than one Church Roll or exercise his/her vote in more than one Local Congregation
- A Transfer Certificate or satisfactory commendation from his previous Minister-in-charge must be received by the Presbyter-in-charge, before a person, newly arrived in a Pastorate may be enrolled.
- The Church Roll should be revised and finalised by the Presbyter-in-charge as on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year and should be read in the Local Church Meeting concerned.
- In matters affecting the Church Roll, the decision of the Presbyter-in-charge, in consultation with the Local Church Committee shall be regarded as final.
- Any appeal regarding the Church Roll must be made to the Bishop within ten days of the reading of the Church Roll in the Local Church Meeting. The decision of the Bishop in the Diocese shall be final and absolute.

#### **E. ELECTORAL ROLL**

Electoral Roll is the list of members qualified to participate in the Government of the Church and entitled to take part in the Election.

- Only such persons, whose names, before the time of the Election, are recorded in the Church Roll of a Local Congregation as Adult Communicant Members, can be included in the Electoral Roll.
- In order to qualify for the privilege of participating in the ***Government of the Church***, a member must fulfil the following conditions:
  - (a) He/She must be an Adult Communicant Member, with continuous membership of the CSI for at least 12 months, immediately before the preparation of the Electoral Roll.
  - (b) He/She must accept and abide by the Rules, Customs and Discipline of the C.S.I as applied in the Diocese.
  - (c) He/She must be of good Christian experience and character, held in respect by the Local Congregation and Community, and faithful and exemplary in the discharge of his duties to the Church.
  - (d) He/She must contribute to the funds of the Church. (This is interpreted only in terms of a person's own conscience.)





- (e) He/She must evidence his interest in the work of the Local Congregation by participation in Public Worship and Holy Communion and support his/her witness by his/her character, influence and service.
  - (f) He must be actively engaged in the service of the Church and hold a position of responsibility in some branch of Church activity. (e.g. Stewards, Sunday School Workers, Youth Workers, Area Leaders, Women's Work Officials, Sisters of the C.S.I, Honorary Organists, Choir Masters, Hospital Visitors, members of Evangelistic and Prayer Bands etc.).
  - (g) Persons owing rent or any other moneys to the Church cannot be regarded as entitled to share in the Government of the Church.
  - (h) A member holding a position of responsibility in the Church and refusing to give a faithful account of his Stewardship, which is expected of him and he who declines to hand over, when demanded by the Competent Authority, the moneys, the accounts, the files, documents etc. of the Pastorate which were in his custody while holding office, shall render himself ineligible to participate in the Government of the Church.
  - (i) A member who approaches the Civil Courts in matters relating to a Pastorate, the Diocese and/or against those in pastoral charges of a Pastorate, without the prior consent and written permission of the Bishop in the Diocese shall render himself ineligible to participate in the Government of the Church.
- The Presbyter-in-charge shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of the Electoral Roll, with the assistance of the Local Church Committee. The case of every member shall be reviewed most carefully, and a decision taken as to whether the member is eligible to be regarded as qualified to be on the Electoral Roll.
  - The Electoral Roll, after it has been finalised by the Presbyter-in-charge, shall be published by the Presbyter-in-charge by affixing one copy of the Roll on the Notice Board of the Local Church concerned, at least 30 days before the date of the Election and an announcement shall be made at Public Worship of the congregation, at least on two successive Sundays preceding the Election.
  - Any claim or objection concerning the Electoral Roll shall be made in writing, to the Presbyter-in-charge, specifying the reasons for the claim or objection, within ten days of publication on the Church Notice Board.
  - The Presbyter-in-charge shall forward such complaints to the Bishop as soon as possible, who shall appoint an Election Commission consisting of two or more persons, who are not members of the Pastorate concerned, to enquire into the complaints and make their recommendations to the Bishop. The decision of the Bishop shall be final, and it shall be communicated to the Presbyter-in-charge for necessary action.



**Note: We thank Mr Ajit Alexander George and Mr Norman Isaac for compiling this data with great care.**





## My Bloodied Lover

Ms Gabriela Keerthana Gondhi

*This poem is a reflection of the author's journey with Christ.*

Thought-created, not by chance was I birthed  
Little did I know, it wasn't just me in His master plan  
A spotless lamb was ready to die before time began  
God's only son He was, and is, a promise of His unceasing love

Oh, the devil, what a devious and deceiving mind  
In pursuit of destroying the creator's purposed design  
Tempted, lured and tried to trap the souls He hunted  
I was no exception, my murky and sinful past can testify

When Jonah fled, Israelites whined and idol-worshipped  
When Noah got drunk, and the pride issues Peter had  
When David coveted another's wife, and Moses his temper lost  
Disobedience angered God, the Adversary thought he won

Oblivious, the coming checkmate from David's line  
The final move made, when at the cross Christ hung  
Betrayed for a few pieces of silver, His suffering was imminent  
Both shame and blame, He took it all for you and me

It was game-over when Christ rose and triumphed over death  
My salvation is not earned, but a gift He was ransomed for  
No beloved had a lovelier bloodied lover that history can ever tell  
I live to retell it, on the sun rise of an Easter morn 2000 years after ...



*Ms Gabriela completed her Doctor of Pharmacy from Kakatiya University and is now working as an Assistant Professor in the department of Pharmacy Practice, MLR Institute of Pharmacy, Dundigal. She also finished her MBA in Hospital and Health Systems Management from BITS-Pilani.*





**Mr Adit Andrew Mohanty**

## The Passion of the Christ

The Passion of the Christ is arguably the most renowned biblical film in recent times. It portrays the period of the Passion of Jesus in a vastly lurid way. Mel Gibson, who directed, produced and co-wrote the film, had a Traditionalist Catholic upbringing and has always been unreserved while talking about his religious beliefs. This film is a prime demonstration of his belief, which can be witnessed in the form of the prolonged gruesome scenes. The dramaturgy works on multiple levels — demonstrating the physical or bodily torture Jesus went through in the final 12 hours of His life and manifesting the spiritual or mental torment.

The screenwriters based the events in the film, mainly on the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but also took inspiration from ‘The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus’ by Anne Catherine Emmerich. Throughout the film, Gibson uses his artistic license to remodel and refine some of the happenings stated in the texts, either because of the limitations of filmmaking or to make it more appealing cinematically, which the opening scene is the foremost example. The scene plays out in accordance to the event of the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane in the gospels; Jesus feels sadness and anguish while the three disciples, Peter, John and James, are asleep. As mentioned in Luke 22:44 “And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the

ground”, droplets of blood form distinctly on Jesus’ face when he cries out to the Lord in the film – “In You I take refuge”. Following this, the gospels say that an angel appears and comforts Him, but Gibson decides to take a contrasting route.

In the film, Satan along with a serpent appears to Jesus, and He crushes the serpent’s head. This is a reference to protevangelium, the first sign of the good news of salvation in the Bible. Protevangelium refers to Genesis 3:15, where God talks about crushing the head of the Serpent in the Garden of Eden. This alternative path that Gibson takes is representative of how the entire film turns out to be and, in this way, he tries to proclaim a consequential message in the concise form of a film.

He stated, “This is a movie about **love, hope, faith** and **forgiveness**. Jesus died for all mankind, suffered for all of us. It's time to get back to that basic message. The world has gone nuts. We could all use a little more love, faith, hope and forgiveness.” The Passion of the Christ is a stark reminder of just that. With its graphic depiction of the excruciating pain and agony that our Lord went through, the movie leaves a Christian deeply moved feeling remorseful, penitent and repentant.



*Mr Adit Andrew Mohanty is a second year B.Tech student at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus and the Joint Secretary of the Movie Club of the college.*





## Lent – What it means to Us and Him

Ms Irene Joshua

We are in the middle of the Lent season. Each one of us would have given up something for our Lord Jesus, especially during this time of the year. We do so not to please ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again for us. We cannot forget the unthinkable and unimaginable sacrifice the Lord endured for us on the cross. We know that in no way can we repay Him for this.

During this Lent season as we mediate on the cross, we feel compelled to do something for our Lord. We desire to do so, because we want to please the One who loves us unconditionally and gave up His life for us so that we can live (2 Corinthians 5:15). As individuals with different personalities, we all have our own perceptions on what we want to give up. Most of us would have given up on something we'd love or like to do. It could be our favorite foods, activities or some routine leisure activity, like watching movies, abstinence from social media, and many such leisure activities. Yet, we may be doing this without really seeking what the Lord really desires us to give up.

All through my life with the Lord, I have had only one spiritual desire and that is to please Him. Though I have miserably failed Him many times as a human being, I have not given up on my efforts. During this Lent season, to be honest, I did not give up on anything. However, I desired to have a closer walk with Him. Yet many a time, my quiet times with Him have been hindered. To my surprise, during one of my personal reflection times, the Lord spoke to me very clearly saying

that I needed to give up on my judgmental attitude. This giving up was meant not just during this Lent season, but permanently for my entire life. The Spirit of the Lord gave me an understanding that I cannot expect others to be according to my standards of holiness or righteousness. Being convicted by the Lord's spirit, I sincerely repented and asked the Lord to help me have a mind like Him (Philippians 2:5).

Lent is about giving up. But the Lord desires that we give up something that matters to Him on the inside, rather than on the outside. It could be wrong/unforgiving attitudes, biases, prejudices, hatred, bitterness, strife, people-pleasing, hypocrisy, and several other such human tendencies. This may be different for each one of us and only the Lord knows what this is.

Our Lord is not concerned about external things but values our internal life that pertains to our heart, mind, spirit and soul. He cannot be content with what we are and allow us to remain the same. Because "the love of Christ compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). I have determined to give up what He wants me to because, like Paul, I believe "So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it". (2 Corinthians 5:9) Amen!



*Ms Irene Joshua is freelance research writer, covering various disciplines like medicine, healthcare, psychology, law, business, philosophy, religious studies, theology, humanities and social sciences. She also writes eBooks, blogs and articles.*





## Who is on the Lord's Side?

Mrs Yashodhra Desappa

After winning the Civil War, the American President Mr. Abraham Lincoln, was once told by a lady, "Surely the Lord is on our side". Abraham replied, "I would be happier, if I was on the Lord's side." How true!!

The thief on the cross was physically next to the Lord's side. When he submitted to His authority as KING, he separated himself from the world, in this case from the other thief. One life-changing sentence "Remember me", catapulted him to triumph over his destiny.

### What did the thief do?

- ❖ He made a **CHOICE** to select the right Way to heaven – **JESUS**. *HAVE WE?*
- ❖ The thief **SUBMITTED** himself, under the **AUTHORITY** of **JESUS**. *CAN WE?*
- ❖ We can **ESCAPE JUDGEMENT** like the thief. *YES, SURELY!!*

### Choices in the Holy Scriptures:

**Wrong Choice:** In Exodus 32-26, when Moses came down the mountain, with the tablets of stone, he could hear singing and dancing before the golden calf, made by Aaron his brother. When Moses called out, "who is on the Lord's side"? The Levites separated themselves and in obedience to the command of Moses, killed 3000 people.

**Right Choice:** Fast forward to Acts 2:41 when Peter gave the word, 3000 people repented, were baptised and escaped judgment.

### How can choosing to be on the Lord's side affect our lives?

*Today if we hear His voice, let us be on the Lord's side, like the thief on the Cross. **One word of favour from Jesus is worth a thousand hours of labour.***



*Mrs Desappa is an Ambassador for Christ, member of the Pastorate Committee and a businesswoman*



### ❖ PROTECTION

- The Lord's side brings protection. When Esther fasted and prayed with her people, the Hebrew's were saved from destruction.
- Daniel was saved from becoming the hungry lion's dinner and his three friends were protected from the hottest fire.

### ❖ BLESSINGS

- The Lord's side brings a blessing, as witnessed by Shipra and Pua the Hebrew midwives, who refused to kill the male Hebrew children, as ordered by Pharaoh.

### ❖ PROVISIONS

- The Lord's side gives provision, as the Israelites were sustained with Manna in the wilderness for 40 years.

### ❖ VICTORY

- The Lord's side brings victory. As King Jehoshaphat looked to the Lord, by fasting and praying, when three kings attacked him, the Lord defeated his enemies and brought him to the Valley of **Berachah** - **BLESSING** where they were able to get, more than they could carry away.

When we are on the Lord's side, the stretching out of what is in our hand, like what Moses did with the Rod, can part the Red Sea in our lives.

### Who is on the Lord's side?

Remember Matthew 12:30 says "He who is not with me, is against me." When we are born once, we die twice. But when we are born twice (born again) we die once. Then the **resurrection will be a new walk with Jesus**. We can join the heavenly hosts in singing "O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever."



## The Power of the Resurrection in our Lives

Mrs Mary Sujatha Madhukar

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is considered one of the most momentous events in Christian history. By rising from the dead Jesus returned to eternal power at the right hand of the Father. Resurrection is the source of the power we experience every day in our lives. We commemorate Jesus Christ's death and Resurrection, which He experienced willingly, to provide us with abundant life for eternity.

Although, this wonderful event is celebrated by Christians only once every year, the power of the Resurrection is something that we are meant to draw on and live by always.

During Lent, we need to open our hearts wider and understand our Lord more deeply, so that when Good Friday and, eventually, Easter come, it is not just another day at church, but it is an opportunity to receive the overflowing grace that God offers. Lent is an intensely penitential time and as we examine our sinful nature and return to God, let us contemplate on what our Lord did for us.

Paul writes "I want to know Christ and the power of His Resurrection." (Philippians 3:10). "And, what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us, who believe in the working of His mighty power, which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places?" (Ephesians 1: 19-20). Paul uses the Greek word for power *Dunamis*, which is the root of the word dynamite. So, Paul says that God wants to give us 'dynamite' power that can change our lives. Yes, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, is available to us now, transferring the weakness in our lives into strength.

Let us examine the three aspects of this wonderful power that can be unleashed in our lives:

### 1. The power to have our sins forgiven



Sin has a hold on all of us and without God, we are slaves to sin. However, through His death and Resurrection, Christ frees us from the power of sin. "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." (Romans 4:25). When Jesus died, God laid all our iniquity on Him—the punishment that all of us deserve for our sins. The Resurrection shows, undoubtedly, that Jesus sacrificed all that is necessary to pay the penalty for our sins. When Satan accuses us by saying "Think how terrible you are. God could never forgive you for what you have done." Remember, we can say "Jesus rose from the dead for me and I believe in Jesus. So, I am righteous in God's eyes." This is the power of the Resurrection.

### 2. The power to be God's ambassadors

Christianity is not just about forgiveness and overcoming sin. Neither is it a simple solution to our problems. God has a purpose for our salvation. He has determined that we are to be His agents of change in the world. God empowers us not only to defeat sin, but also to share and display His loving message to the world. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14). Paul says, "He has committed to us the message of reconciliation." (Romans 5:10) We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God is making His appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20). "My power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9). God shows His power by working mightily through us. This is the power of the Resurrection.

### 3. The power to overcome the devil and his kingdom

It was through His death and Resurrection that Jesus was given a name above every other name, and this means a power above every other power (Philippians: 2: 5-11). Jesus gave us this power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and overthrow the power of the devil. Knowing and understanding





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this power will make us exercise our rightful authority over the power of darkness fearlessly. That is the real power of Resurrection.

In order to understand our relationship with Jesus we should understand His Resurrection. The Resurrection is true and has the power to release us from sin and make us God's ambassadors.

Experiencing the power of resurrection can we be silent? Let us submit ourselves to Lord Jesus and enjoy the mighty power of His Resurrection. Arise and tell others about Jesus Christ to know the full meaning of the power of Resurrection.



*Mrs Mary Sujatha Madhukar is a Chemistry lecturer at Nrupatunva Junior College. She is the Superintendent of Sunday School at Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*

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### **Prophecy of Zechariah**

"Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey's colt." (Zechariah 9:9).

### **Prophecy of Isaiah**

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." (Isaiah 53:3).

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7).

Source: <https://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/prophecies-fulfilled-by-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-christ-faq.htm>





## My Lord is Great

Dr P Divyana Samuel

*“Thank you, Lord, I just wanna Thank You Lord” is the chorus I wish to hum these days for the miraculous way of My Lord in keeping me alive and safe.*

At the very start of my career, the sudden outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 has been a devastating experience. I briskly started to take up medical work at a reputed medical facility in Secunderabad and was totally engrossed in the day-to-day routine of taking care of patients in the ICU. Every day, I come across different types of cases and communicating regularly with senior and junior doctors, interfacing with the parents or relatives of patients, supervising the staff deployed at my facility and other such responsibilities, has been challenging and interesting.

Then out of the blue, COVID-19 arrived with a bang and everyone was shell-shocked and scared of this new and unknown disease. We, the medical staff, are at the forefront attending to patients and this time it was going to be a real challenge to meet patients upfront, since suddenly everything has changed, the entire scenario has become intriguing and dealing with this unknown disease is a huge challenge for the medical fraternity.

PANDEMIC is a phrase that has, perhaps for the first time become a common expression quite suddenly. I have come across this word in books and movies, but never ever did I think that this will become a reality during my lifetime. Leave alone my life, even my mentors, parents and grandparents, have never experienced one. The enormity of this pandemic is sending shock waves across the globe and the entire world is reeling under intense economic and health crisis. To see the world spin under such intense medical crisis also is very painful and is disheartening. Day in

and day out, there is news of new cases surfacing and many deaths occurring all over the world. I read that many health workers/doctors/nurses etc., are also succumbing to this virus by way of serving the infected patients. Recently, during one of our lunch breaks, my colleagues and I were chatting about the very dawn of this *New Decade* and how people were so ‘enthusiastic’ about it and what all it will offer us! Some of my colleagues told me that their Zodiac Sign predicted a very prosperous 2020. They also opined that many pundits predicted a very beautiful, prosperous 2020 on TV channels on New Year’s Day.

In the wake of this pandemic my parents have been anxious about my safety. They asked me to consider quitting and staying at home. I explained to them the gravity of the situation and that, medical practitioners cannot buckle under pressure and call it quits, going against the very spirit of medical work ethics.

In this time of crisis, my greatest strength is having a wonderful relationship with my Lord. Over the years I have developed an amazing relationship with Him by observing lent during college days, attending Church regularly and earnestly praying in solitude. He has been a very **trusted, tested and tasted** friend. It was He who gave me the strength to do things which I could never ever have imagined doing. I know my **“LORD is GREAT”** and He is my protector. I can confidently state that Psalms 100 is my personal testimony and Psalms 23 is my personal relationship with my Lord.

***My Lord is Great!***



*Dr P Divyana Samuel is currently working in a medical institution and is preparing for her post-graduation.*





Mr IPP Prabhakar Rao

## Unravelling the Resurrection

When God created man and woman and placed them in the Garden of Eden, death was not on the cards nor was ageing, nor pain, nor suffering. Then, when our first parents sinned, they inherited death and ageing and everything that goes with these. When God warned Adam and Eve, “The day you eat the fruit of the *Tree of Knowledge*, you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17) they did not understand the impact of what this meant completely. Death itself was a new experience for them. This was a separation from God with a provision for reconciliation with Him, while they were still alive. There is another death described as the *second death* (Revelation 2:11/20:6). This death results in irreconcilable separation from God. Adam and Eve inherited this ‘death’, too. People are afraid of death mainly because of the unknown factor, which is beyond death. God’s plan of Salvation was to free all people from the fear and power of this ‘second death’.

When they lost the pristine state of deathlessness, people began to yearn for longevity and eternity and since then, they have been fantasising about the possibility of life after death. The Sumerian, Persian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman cultures in the West and the Indian and Chinese cultures in the East began to translate their dreams and wishful thinking about life after death into, myths, fables and fairy tales about gods and goddesses coming back to life after their death — in a battle, or due to a curse, or by gods raising the dead. Thus, Eternity became a dream and remained a dream.

The Bible is the only book that promises Eternity and we should be concerned with this (Ecclesiastes 3:10-11). The Jewish culture believed in Eternity and since death was inevitable and Eternity was God’s gift to His people, there had to be a link between death and eternity and that was and is the Resurrection.

When Jesus claimed He came from God (John 12:34) implying He was the Messiah and that He would be lifted up (meaning his death by crucifixion) the Jews were confused. How could the Messiah die? They missed the vital link of the Resurrection, that is the link between the Messiah’s death and Him being eternal.

Jesus proved this by His Resurrection. He was indeed the first person in the history of the human race who died and rose again, thus putting an end to all myths, fables and fairy tales. We are convinced that Jesus rose again from the dead— both from the bodily death and the ‘second death’. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans.6:23). If we think this death (cessation of physical life) is the result of our sins, then we are getting off lightly. This ‘other death’ is much serious and dangerous. It is a living death in Hell. Once a soul enters Hell, Death will not let it out. It is locked-in, permanently!

When we say Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, we are using the term lightly. He paid the ultimate penalty— the ‘wage’ of sin. He entered Hell committing His soul into the Father’s hands. Indeed, these were His last words on the Cross. He made this dangerous entry and death would not let him out. So, He broke the gates of Hell fulfilling the prophecy (Psalm.16:10). Peter quotes this Psalm in his address on the first Pentecost Day, saying that it was not possible that He should be held by *Sheol* (Acts 2:24 and 27). Thus, Jesus paid the penalty of the sins of all people fully. This is the victory we commemorate and celebrate on the day of Resurrection. “Because I live, you will also live.” (John.14:19) ... “never to die again.” (John.11:26). Jesus’ Resurrection gives us the blessed hope of Eternity.

Jesus’ Resurrection transformed the disciples— from cowards into warriors, daring and facing





death, from orthodox Jews, into loving, liberal Christians, discarding ritualism and favouring inclusive community living.

So, what does this celebration mean to us at St. John the Baptist Church, Hyderabad? What changes have you undergone by the power of Jesus' Resurrection? And, importantly, what are your thoughts on Eternity?

*"It is precisely because of Eternity that everything on earth gains importance, meaning and value. Christianity stresses on the fact that all that we do here on earth is in right relationship with what we are in Eternity. Eternal life is the sole sanction for the values of this life." (Dorothy L. Sayers 1893-1957)*



*Mr IPP Prabhakar Rao is an engineer and has been a part of all the major projects of Dam Construction in AP. He is actively carrying out mission work and is a senior member of Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*

### **Psalms and Gospel according St. John**

**Bible Prophecy** - Psalm 22:17-18 says "I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

**Fulfillment** - John 19:23 says, "When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom."

Source: <https://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/prophecies-fulfilled-by-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-christ-faq.htm>

### **Crucifixion of Jesus Christ - His Death**

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His resurrection are the two most important events in human history. Why is this so? Because of Jesus' death, the human race has the opportunity for eternal salvation. All four of the New Testament Gospels talk of the crucifixion of Christ. Here are some main points in the crucifixion timeline:

- Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:43-52).
- Jesus endured six trials - three by Jewish leaders and three by the Romans (John 18:12-14, Mark 14:53-65, Mark 15:1a, Mark 15: 1b-5, Luke 23:6-12, Mark 15:6-15). Jesus survived painful beating, whipping, and mocking (Mark 15:16-20).
- Pilate tried to compromise with the religious leaders by having Jesus beaten, but this act didn't satisfy them. Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified (Mark 15:6-15).
- Jesus was mocked by the soldiers as they dressed Him in a purple robe and a crown of thorns (John 19:1-3).
- Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull (Mark 15:22). The sky turned dark for three hours (Mark 15:33).
- Jesus cried, "Father! Into your hands I commit my spirit!" and He died (Luke 23:46).

Source: <https://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/crucifixion-of-jesus-christ.htm>





## The Cross – Power and His Faithfulness

*Book of Habakkuk*

**Mr P Samuel Albert**

The Year 2020 has commenced with unfavorable circumstances with the onslaught of the dangerous and unimaginable 'CORONA VIRUS'. People are facing the most challenging scenario it has ever faced in history. It is battling a war against an invisible and devouring enemy. There is utter confusion and disorientation among people. We Christians are once again at the feet of Christ our Lord, seeking His omnipotent power and grace as a protective cover over us.

**LENT:** "*Quadragesima*", a Latin word meaning 'fortieth', symbolising the forty days of Lent before Easter, significantly help us prepare ourselves for Easter. This is a period, which invites us to come before the throne of Christ our Lord one more time to place all our sinful deeds in His presence and seek cleansing and forgiveness. It is a time which helps us to deny ourselves (self-denial), relinquishing all the evil we were indulging in, in spite of being born again Christians. It is a time, wherein we are able to mortify our selfish desires to commit sin by seeking remission from our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christ mortified Himself for forty days before commencing His ministry in this sinful world, thus fulfilling the purpose of His Father, Jehovah. This mortification gave Christ the Power and strength to overcome evil, though He was sinless. Our Lord defeated all the attempts of Satan to lure Him into doing evil because of self-denial.

My devotion is drawn from one of the greatest

prophets found in the Bible, Habakkuk. Habakkuk is believed to have been a Temple Priest, a Levite and singer in the Temple. It is interesting that this prophet has played a pivotal role in the enhancement of faith among followers of Christ. Reading his book (3 Chapters) will take the reader to the highest "Realm of Faith" in the Lord. We find that Habakkuk has a dialogue with Lord Jehovah and exhibits his fear of the Chaldeans who were invading Babylon during this time. Nevertheless, he exuberates great faith in the "power" and "faithfulness" of the Lord (Chapter 3: 16-20). This unassuming and unassailable confidence in the Lord lifts the spirits of the fallen Christians. Strangely, he preached to the people to turn away from their sinful deeds to the Lord; only repentance would protect them from the wrath of God.

Christ, being the creator of the universe obeyed the will of God and gave His life for the redemption of humankind. Let us also surrender our lives like prophet Habakkuk and experience the great power and faithfulness of our Lord in our lives, even though Satan seems invincible, continues to play spoil sport with us and persists in threatening us.

We should never succumb to Satan's pressure tactics. He knows our weak spots, and attacks us at these places knowing that we will cave in. Therefore, we need to guard ourselves by knowing these weak spots in ourselves and work meticulously and devotedly to plug-in these spots with help of the precious blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.



*Mr P Samuel Albert is a trumpeter, chorister of Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad and in a few prominent choirs in the Twin Cities.*





## Thy Will be Done

Dr Maneesha Esther Mohanty

*Susi, a Christian was born and raised up in a Christian family. As a child, she loved going to Sunday school to learn about Jesus. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour and used to attend church regularly. She loved to do all that she could do for the Church. Once she was attending her regular Sunday Church service and suddenly, she heard the Pastor announce, 'I request Ms Susie to come forward and pray for us.' She blinked and was confused. When she heard the Pastor repeat the announcement, the only thought that crossed her mind was, if only I knew this earlier, even few minutes earlier! She could feel the blood rushing through her veins; her feet trembled as she rose up and walked down the aisles. She held the microphone steadily with her shaky hands, wiped the sweat on her forehead and started to pray with a quavering voice and managed to complete her prayer. Though she fumbled a bit, her heavenly Father could hear every word that she spoke and even the thoughts that she could not put into words.*



Yes! The Almighty and most merciful Father hears all our supplications that we put forward in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, irrespective of our oratory skills. Every time we worry about the correct words, perfect oration or impeccable eloquence we have to look to Jesus and seek His guidance. Jesus Himself taught us how to pray with the Lord's Prayer. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed in His time of distress and anguish, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." (Matthew 26:39). As Christians, we look up to Jesus as a role model for our lives and however difficult it may seem, there is a burning desire in our hearts to follow Him as much as possible. Yet, in our times of distress and even in happy moments, as we pray to God, we often forget to say, 'not what I want but what you want'. Even through the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray 'Thy will be done'.

Jesus' prayer at Gethsemane teaches us how to approach God with our requests — our never-ending requests. It teaches us to commit our lives, anxiety, fear, joy, family, and health — everything into His hands. Jesus' prayer teaches us to pray in faith.

As we pray, we should believe that whatever God does is the best for all of us. He knows our past, present and future, He knows our strengths and weaknesses. Often, we are unable to comprehend God's plans, but it is most important to have faith. Jesus' prayer also teaches us to accept whatever is happening in our lives as the will of God and not to complain and grumble but to accept and be content. Let us commit ourselves, have faith in Him and accept 'what God wants' in our lives.

Have a prayerful and meaningful season of lent and a very happy Easter.



*Dr Maneesha is an active member of Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad.*





**Mrs Lilly Monica**

## **Lent**

**“Sing unto the Lord a new song and His praises from the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 42:10)  
The word infuses a storm of a reaction in the mind.**

It is 40 days of restraint, of fasting and prayer. Year after year, we observe the same routine. We meditate on Christ's excruciating torture and death and feign grief, empathising with His gruesome pain and death on the cross. However, I feel we have missed out on the greatest act of benevolence that the Lord has presented us generously —which is freedom and a redeemed life. These are the seven lessons of wisdom to life. Christ by His supreme sacrifice freed us of tiresome prayer and sacrificial rituals. He brought us directly into the presence of the Almighty God, dispensing with the cult of the Old Testament (Hebrews 10: 6-10).

This period of lent should be the time for us to emulate the teachings of the Lord and rejoice in the new laws He gave us, leaving behind all laborious rituals. We should rejoice for this transition. The seven words on the cross are the final edicts of life's spectrum.

### **1. Father forgive them**

This is the first command. Forgiveness. Let humanity learn to forgive and life will progress to greater heights, instead of writhing with jealousies and retaliations.

### **2. This day you shall be in Paradise**

A promise which is fulfilled. Keep your promises.

### **3. Woman behold thy Son**

The duty of every son or daughter is to take care of his or her parents. This is the filial duty of all children.

### **4. My God My God**

The cry of anguish and pain which every person

goes through in life some time or other.

### **5. I thirst**

Human beings' need to thirst for knowledge, wisdom and understanding, without which they cannot attain the very purpose of their life.

### **6. It is finished**

The completion and fulfilment of all jobs and responsibilities — the purpose of our lives.

### **7. Father into Thy hand I commend my spirit**

The final submission to God after fulfilling His will on earth.

These are life's lessons Jesus imparted on the cross revealing a God, who so loved the world that He sacrificed His own Son. Jesus reveals to us a God of love, apart from being a God of Mercy. He is not the angry and consuming God of the Old Testament, but a gracious merciful and loving God, who can be approached through His Son the Lord Jesus. Thus, Easter with the risen Lord unfolds our redemption and salvation. A new life of sin defeated by a glorious destiny for those who believe in the Risen Christ. This is the time to be vigilant in our lives with our sins, our misdemeanors, our frailties, our misconceptions, our misgivings and present before the Lord the perfect offering.

*“Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small; Love so amazing, so divine Demands my soul my life my all.” – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, 1707.*



*Mrs Lilly Monica is a MA literature, MA Psychology and a retired bank manager. Presently she is a Financial Advisor.*





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## Repairs done to Church of St John the Baptist, Secunderabad

(1997 - 1999 and 2000 - 2001)

**Mr IPP Prabhakar Rao**

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This is a vivid and detailed first-hand account of the renovations and repairs carried out on Church of St. John the Baptist, Secunderabad by Mr IPP Prabhakar Rao, Mr Y S Purushotham and team over 20 years ago at the behest of the Pastorate Committee, at that time. It was indeed a formidable task, but the team's meticulous eye for detail and quest for perfection made it possible.

Mr Prabhakar Rao was specifically requested to submit a fresh report on all the work undertaken at that time. This makes very interesting reading and will also be of invaluable help to anyone undertaking repairs on the Church in future.

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I call this report Deuteronomic for two reasons:

1. I had already written a report by hand in 1999, but all those pages seem to have become termite eaten. I am, therefore, writing this again with the caveat that since it is reproduced from memory, it is prone to have a few errors.
2. Unlike Moses, when he presented the Deuteronomy, I am still in the plains of Jordan, ready to cross the river into the Promised and hoped-for land at our Lord's behest.

At my age, I am not able to get up to the roof to convince the doubters to the nature of work done, so like Peter, before I put aside my tabernacle (2 Peter 1:14) I wish to record what I remember, as a reference for an effective follow-up when any repairs become necessary in future. The only other person who knew about the technical details of those repairs, was my brother-in-law Mr Y S Purushotham, who has already gone on ahead of me to be with the Lord.

In May 1997, during a wedding when it rained heavily my brother-in-law and I observed heavy leakages from the roof of the church. The next Sunday it was announced that the church needed help to get the roof repaired. After the church service, a few members, who were engineers, met up at the parsonage. (At that time, Rev B Joseph was the Presbyterian-in-charge). Several members offered to help 'when they were needed', but all of them were gainfully employed, so were not available to help on a day-to-day basis.

It appeared that some attempts had been made earlier to stop the leakages, but these attempts were casual and not taken up after a detailed study of the problem.

We commenced work on the roof repairs in all earnestness in the first week of June 1997. Mr Y S Purushotham and I got up on the roof using ladders and this soon became a daily routine for both of us. It was observed that no single access to the entire roof was available. There was one direct access, a ladder from the parsonage end, but this covered only one quarter of the roof. We installed another ladder on the northwest area, but we needed four accesses to cover the entire area. This led us to procure two more ladders, fabricated in steel. The one on the southwest side was fixed to the wall and the northeast one was fixed to a masonry pillar, which was constructed like a pedestal. All these three ladders were made half the height from the top, to discourage miscreants from getting on to the roof. The lower half, that is, from the ground to the steel ladder, was to be negotiated using a removable bamboo ladder. We also cut the parapet wall on the top to a height of two feet, to enable easy access to the roof. Handles were fixed for

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support for climbing up and down from the roof back to the ladder. When we finally got on to the roof, we were able to examine the roof in detail.

There are two slopes on the entire roof. The higher one in the centre, is steeper and is covered with Mangalore tiles. The lower slope is flatter and is covered with G.C. (galvanised corrugated) sheets. These cover the aisles in the main portion of the church. Rain falls from the tiles onto the G.C. sheets, which then flows into the drain along the wall and then into the drainpipes. This is the design for the rainwater runoff.

We found:

1. Huge lumps of concrete dumped at the suspected areas of the leak
2. The rainwater outlets in the walls (2' thick) were very small and partly choked
3. The drain channel along the wall was ill-defined and irregular
4. Many of the tiles on the roof were loose and broken
5. Some of the G.I. sheets were loose and adrift
6. The ceiling timber had rotted at the edges towards the wall

With a clearer understanding of the situation, we planned to set things right, one after the other.

Mr N S J Devadattam, the Church Secretary at that time, was with us on day-to-day basis and extended his full cooperation and was also a source of tremendous encouragement. Without this, it would have been difficult for us to do the job. It is important to note that all the labour force employed for the repairs, were insured as a group to cover any untoward accidents. (We thank God there were no accidents and no claims!)

The concrete lumps placed earlier, ostensibly to arrest the leakages, were totally dug out and removed. We dug into the parapet wall and cut a larger drain into it. Some of the ceiling timbers (slats), placed for absorbing heat from the roof, were found to be rotten towards the wall end. These were cleaned up and a chemical-like paint was brushed on them, to prevent further rotting. (Regrettably, I am not able to recall the name of the chemical used at that time.) This chemical hardened, providing a glass-like protection to the timber. We also fixed thin, acrylic sheets under the ceiling timber, all round the roof, as an extra precaution. These were painted to match the colour of the rest of the timber. Over the ceiling timber, we placed G.I. corrugated (G.C.) sheets.

With a mason team headed by Shaik Mehboob and his brother-in-law Mira Vali, we constructed a drain with cement mortar 1:4, running neatly from drainpipe to drainpipe. The drain holes in the wall were widened and short pipes were placed inside them, with a downward slope, finished at both ends, seamlessly.

The standard practice in usage of cement, adopted was:

1. All cement work was mixed with ACCO proof waterproofing compound
2. The cement-sand proportion was generally 1:4, which was richer than normal mortar
3. All cement work was cured with a concrete chemical curing compound, obtained from the United Engineering Corporation, RP Road. (The owner, Mr Ramesh Sahani, was a former student of Mr Devadattam.)





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As and when the cement work was completed, this compound was brushed over the area, when the mortar was green. This formed a plastic film on the cement and did not allow the moisture from the mortar to evaporate until the cement gained its full strength, without any watering. All the previous cement works done, did not gain full strength because of insufficient water curing, as required. (We cannot really expect sustained good curing by water for over 10 days, at that height, since it is a very laborious process and there is shortage of water in the borewell.)

The cement drains were very carefully completed, maintaining slopes to drain off the water from half the quantity of the roof runoff, towards the drain hole. The other half sloped into the next drain hole. So, each hole drained two halves from either side. Next, we created metal troughs from aluminum sheets, to serve as drains. These Al. drains were pre-formed in the shape of the cement drain, to sit squarely in the drain. However, on the wall side the Al. drain was about a foot high with a lip folded into the wall and embedded into it. The drain was about 2 feet long, on the G.C. sheets side, and this portion of the Al. drain sheet was pushed under the G.C. roofing sheets but not bolted to them. Thus, the water from the roofing sheets would drain into the Al. drain. The Al. drains were 3 feet wide and were placed with an overlapping of 2 inches, making sure the overlap was in line with the slope of the cement drain. These joints were sealed with m-seal and covered over with UV-resisting tape obtained from Shalimar Tar Products. This procedure was done all round the roof. These Al. troughs were expected to be the first defence against leak and the second line of defence was the cement-plastered drain.

#### **Valley Repairs:**

The valleys, which linked the two slopes, at differing angles presented quite a difficult problem. Originally, lead sheets were used to cover the valley, but in some, there were large gaps, covered over with pieces of plain G.I. sheets. These worked loose in gales, or got lifted up and left gaping holes, allowing rainwater to pour in. These G.I. sheet bits were removed, the lead sheets were readjusted, and the joints soldered to keep them in position. Over a few years, these leaks had damaged the wooden beams in the northeast and northwest roofs, which supported the roof below and had rotted at the ends. We, therefore, under-pinned the roof with screw jacks and had the beams removed and replaced with R.S. joists. This was done in the case of the both the valley beams in the north transept. Fortunately, the other two sides, in the case of the south transept were in good condition. So, nothing else needed to be done. However, the valleys on the roof had to be treated similarly.

#### **Roof Tiles:**

Many of the tiles on the roof were broken or had become loose. These were replaced and re-laid and the joints were cement plastered and cured with the curing compound. The roof tiles over the Quadro spheroidal altar were replaced totally and joints were plastered and cured. The rotted rafter ends were packed with m-seal and finished, to prevent further rain damage. As we completed each section of the roof, we tested this by pumping water on to the roof and, thus, all minor leaks were attended to. Therefore, when rains came in that monsoon season, there were no surprises!

The roof work was completed in April 1998 and proved to be well done. There was a Thanksgiving Service conducted by Bishop Rt Rev B P Sugandhar and Pastor B Joseph on 2 May 1998. (Those interested, may like to see the stone tablet placed at the entrance of the Church, commemorating the rededication of St John the Baptist Church.)





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I would like to reiterate that there could be some mistakes in my narrative written more than 20 years later, after the job was done. Here, I also would like to express my thanks to Mr Francis Diwakar, former Chairman of St John's Educational Society and Mr Kripa Francis Physical Training Instructor, St John's High School who extended their unstinted help in providing material and manual help, whenever we asked for it. Mr. Kripa Francis also physically helped with the soldering of the lead sheets in the roof valleys.

We would like to place on record the enthusiastic and ready help provided by Philip, the sexton and his wife, Rani who went beyond the call of duty. We also thank the masons Mehboob and Mira Vali and their workers. We thank Pastor Joseph and the congregation for praying for us during this challenging endeavor.

Most importantly we thank God that the repairs were successful. We shower our grateful thanks to Him for involving us in these repairs and equipping us with all the help required constantly, over the long period of repairs and for protecting the whole team from accidents over the lengthy phase of repairs. We also are grateful for the all-round support from the congregation, which financed the whole project completely.

**We need to reiterate that the drains and the spouts are to be kept free from clogging with dry leaves and mud and a pre-monsoon check every year is imperative and its importance cannot be overstated.**

(Aside: We had the additional privilege of praying on the roof of the Church, while we were there, in addition to praying under the roof of the church regularly.)

#### **Other Repairs in brief:**

It is remarkable that the timbers supporting the roof beams rafters and reapers suffered only water damage and were not termite ridden. However, the timber in the addendum structures like the north vestry, adjacent to the organ room and the store room were termite eaten. (Subsequently, about four years later, we got the whole Church timber, including the woodwork for the organ comprehensively treated with termite control-pesticide.) This was done effectively by Mr David Shalem of Prudence Pest Control.

It is suggested that the termite protection treatment be done once in 5 years, regularly.

Subsequently, the Pastorate Committee approved our proposal to replace the aging lime mortar, used for the exterior, with cement mortar. This was taken up in earnest in mid-2000 and the old mortar was removed, section by section, and plastered with cement mortar 1:6. The belfry was started on first, as the mortar was peeling off.

While this was in progress, tragically, Mr Y S Purushotham passed away on Christmas day, in 2000. I carried on with the balance work and completed the work in early 2001.

Incidentally, all the measurements for the exterior were recorded by Mr Purushotham in his own handwriting and are still available in our church files.

After two years it was found that the ceiling timber over the altar was becoming loose and for good measure the whole timber was replaced, after being treated for termites and then painted white. Prior to this, the reapers supporting the tiles were given an anti-termite treatment too. All this work was done with the active help of Dr M Udaia Kumar, our Church member.

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## Baptism Records

From 2019 to 2020

S.No	Date of Baptism	Child's Name	Parent's Name
1	09.06.2019	Vijay Kumar Nakka	Yadaiah and Lakmi
2	09.06.2019	Vennela Gujjari	Anjaiah and Raja Mani
3	06.10.2019	Shaurya Jai Kumar	Yohan Vishwajit Singh and Shireen
4	12.10.2019	Joanna Shriya Thompson	Vijay and Hannah Pranitha
5	15.12.2019	Ivaan Elyon Gurram	Vishal and Shimone Nicole Dickson
6	29.12.2019	Sahana Nalli	Raj Kumar Joshi and Glory
7	01.03.2020	Ethan Zane Terance Roderick	Nicholas Gardon and Suganthi Roderick

### **Baptism** (from the Greek noun βάπτισμα *baptisma*; ) -

This is a Christian rite of admission and adoption, almost invariably with the use of water, into Christianity. It may be performed by sprinkling or pouring water on the head, or by immersing in water either partially or completely. The synoptic gospels recount that John the Baptist baptised Jesus. Baptism is considered a sacrament in most churches, and as an ordinance in others. Baptism is also called **christening**, although some reserve the word "christening" for the baptism of infants.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptism>





## Marriages Solemnised at Church of St. John the Baptist, Secunderabad

From November 2016 to date

S.No	Date of Marriage	Names of the Couples
1	28.11.2016	Paul Vishal and Ianthe Patricia Shiphrah
2	12.12.2016	Jakka Venkatesh and Persis Dolly
3	19.12.2016	Valikka Dinakar and Aska Anne Pranuthi
4	07.01.2017	Jaladi Varun Peter and Deepthi Theresa
5	06.02.2017	Gudipally Naveen Kumar and Meryl Savithry
6	20.02.2017	Kiran Mohan Raj and Kalyani
7	23.02.2017	Gaddam Jonathan Jayapal Raj and Mrinalini
8	15.05.2017	Neerudu Rahul Vikranth Shanthi Raj and Mercy Dolly
9	17.05.2017	Pothuraju Vijay Kiran and Aarthi
10	16.06.2017	Gunugurthy Jayavardhan and Vimla Jyothi
11	07.07.2017	Gadamandala Samson Vara Prasad Rao and Jessy Veronica
12	18.08.2017	Kancharla David Pratik Raj and Joanna
13	06.09.2017	Ebenezer Nischal Pratheek and Mounika
14	13.09.2017	Nirmal Kumar and Sharon Sandra
15	04.10.2017	Bhavanasi Anil Kumar and Suhasini Goldameir
16	28.10.2017	Gundugollu Elisha Vineeth Vijayan and Bhargavi
17	17.11.2017	Dasari Boon Linekar and Madhuri Priyanka
18	21.11.2017	Tjavath Sambu Vara Prasad Naik and Bhagyashri Laxman
19	27.12.2017	Bakki Israel Karunakar and Reena Hepzibah
20	29.12.2017	Ashish Joel Parker and Kezia Madhurima
21	08.01.2018	Ajoy Khole Winson Jetty and Shalini
22	12.01.2018	Sylvester Raj Pakalapati and Madhuri
23	09.02.2018	Meesala Chandra Prakash and Nithya Sahana





24	25.04.2018	Kancherla Preetham Raj and Dr. Jayne Ewelyn
25	04.05.2018	Nalawade Pranav and Monica Nissi
26	28.05.2018	Satri Khanishka David and Maria Harshitha
27	30.08.2018	Chalanti Rohan and Nikhitha
28	12.09.2018	Kuchipudi Samuel Paul and Sarah Apoorva
29	11.10.2018	Katikitala Vinay Kumar and Shiny Rachel
30	12.10.2018	Vijay Thompson and Hannah Pranitha
31	27.10.2018	Kolagani Vishal and Jayne Sharon
32	08.12.2018	Maddi Benny Deepak David and Cathy Niteesha
33	22.12.2018	Arava Anmol Monohar and Jacinth Akhila
34	27.12.2018	Donga Mahima Kumar and Revathi
35	29.12.2018	Gideon Ajay Reddy and Susan Shoury
36	16.01.2019	Vincent Joseph Koniahgari and Sheryl Jane Priyanka
37	17.01.2019	Kuruvilla Reuben George and Rhea Melissa
38	07.02.2019	Kadamandla Steve Ronit and Neethi Sadhana
39	16.05.2019	Sura Sandeep Chandrahas and Rebekah Salomi
40	20.06.2019	Sepoori Jephania Kanth and Jedidah Olive
41	07.08.2019	Kuthuru Sunil and Deepthi
42	26.08.2019	Nakka Vijay Kumar and Vennela
43	04.10.2019	Jesse Vara Prasad and Supriya
44	07.11.2019	Badugu Rene Sandeep and Mercy Krupanidhi
45	20.11.2019	Richard Benjamin Lazarus and Jessica
46	21.11.2019	Vadakoppula Chinna Rayudu and Unnathi
47	11.12.2019	Stanley Prashant and Roma Sheetal
48	21.12.2019	Cecil Jeremiah and Chetna
49	09.01.2020	Abhishek Ronald Isaac and Adeline Chenathra Koshy
50	16.01.2020	Stanley Repudi and Sharon Nargis
51	07.02.2020	Shyam Felix. S and Divya
52	24.02.2020	Shivesh Gupta and Sahana Kilaru





## Church of St. John the Baptist, Secunderabad, Members' Marriages Solemnised in other Churches

From December 2016 to date

S.No	Date of Marriage	Names of the Couples	Place of Marriage
1	23.12.2016	Bommarthi Simon Jaya Raj and Jennie Evelyn	CSI Wesley Church, Secunderabad
2	25.08.2017	Jasper Wilson Gondhi and Jennifer Lynne Proto	ADA Bible Church, MI USA
3	30.09.2017	Nikhil Joshua Alexander and Rebecca Louise Newell	Christ Church, Kent, UK
4	06.10.2017	Joel William Dickinson and Merab Wilson	C3 Church Howick Auckland, New Zealand
5	18.12.2017	Noel Rajesh Reddy and Shweta	Centenary Methodist Church, New Delhi
6	12.01.2018	Abiathar Arthur and Sharon Navya Roopa	Zion Prayer Fellowship Visakhapatnam
7	12.01.2018	Rohit Luke Verghese and Angel Witness Surya	KJR Function Hall, Secunderabad
8	12.02.2018	Raj Kumar Thirukoti and Chris Jordana	CSI Wesley Church, Secunderabad
10	03.09.2018	Nitin Thyagaraju and Mary Preeti Rini	St James Church, Chennai
11	19.12.2018	Benjamin Solomon and Sharon K Rogers	CSI Medak Cathedral
12	11.02.2019	Rajesh Leisonring Philip and Vineela Veronica	St Mathews Lutheran Church, Guntur





13	18.02.2019	Yohan Ittoop and Sneha Mary Mathew	St. Andrews (Jacobite) Church, Secunderabad
14	19.10.2019	Vishnu Palepu and Archana Rahi	Brethren Assembly, Bokaro City
15	22.11.2019	Reinhard Edwin Komanapalli and Achsa Abraham	Auspicious Conventional Hall, Hyderabad
16	20.02.2020	Emmanuel John K and Nitisha Sheba	St. Thomas SPG Tamil Cathedral

### **The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872**

**The Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872** is an act of the Parliament of India regulating the legal marriage of Indian Christians. It was enacted on July 18, 1872, and applies throughout India, excluding territories such as Cochin, Manipur, Jammu, and Kashmir.

According to the act, a marriage is legitimate if at least one of the parties is Christian. An ordained minister of any church in India, a clergyman of the Church of Scotland, a marriage registrar or a special licensee may marry an aspiring couple under the act. The marriage performer issues a marriage certificate. This certificate is recorded with the Registrar of Marriage (who is appointed by the government). As is common in other Indian marriage acts, the minimum age is 21 for the groom and 18 for the bride.

The marriage ceremony must occur between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., unless the marriage performer secures special permission. The wedding may take place in a church; however, in cases where there is no church within five miles, an appropriate alternative location may be chosen.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Indian\\_Christian\\_Marriage\\_Act,\\_1872](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Indian_Christian_Marriage_Act,_1872)

**OR**







## Details of Church of St. John the Baptist, Church Members who have passed away from August 2016 to date

*These are the details of members of St John the Baptist Church, who passed away from August 2016 to date. You may like to send us a short write-up about your loved one, along with a photograph. We will include this in the next Parish Messenger.*

S. No.	Died on	Name	Surname	Details
1	27.08.2016	Nicholas Merugumalla	Merugumalla	Husband of Vimala Nicholas and brother of Mr M I Paul.
2	26.10.2016	Col Don Blewitt	Blewitt	Former PC member and Property Secretary. Served in the Indian Army.
3	17.12.2016	Mr Johnson Joseph	Joseph	Father of Elizabeth Kuruvilla.
4	21.12.2016	Mr Frederic John	K.V.	Husband of Mercy Frederic.
5	29.12.2016	Dr Dawson Adams	Palaparthi	Served at CSI Dichpally Medical Hospital. Husband of Usha Damayathi Adams.
6	05.02.2017	Mr Sudhir Donnipad	Donnipad	Brother of (late) D Badrinthath.
7	06.02.2017	Mrs Mary Peter Palathoti	Palathoti	Wife of Palathoti Peter, former Principal of St. John's School.
8	26.03.2017	Mrs Sarala Devi	YAK	**
9	16.08.2017	Mrs Mary Kurian	Kurian	Mother of Jacob Kurian, former PC member and Property Secretary of St John's Church.
10	13.09.2017	Mrs Shantha Bai	Pamidipani	Mother of Dr David Jawahar.
11	28.09.2017	Mrs Renuka Nakavi	Nakavi	Sister of B Rajiv Christian.
12	27.10.2017	Mrs Janaki Murari	Murari	Mother of Rhoda Vijaya.
13	27.10.2017	Rev Miryala Vijaya Kumar	Miryala	Father of M. Raj Kumar, PC member.
14	14.11.2017	Mrs Jayapradha Sreekar	Jakkula	Mother of Malise Jayasen, and sister of MH Sunder Reddy.
15	20.11.2017	Mr Clement William	Vadala	Father of Vadala Paul Swaroop.
16	05.12.2017	Rt. Rev Bishop Peter	Badda	Father of Mr John Sukumar





		Sugandar		and Dr Vimal Sukumar. Served as Moderator of CSI, Bishop of Medak Diocese and Presbyter in charge St. John's Church.
17	21.12.2017	Mrs Vasumathi Musuku	Musuku	Mother of Dr M Udaia Kumar, Secretary, St John's Church.
18	26.12.2017	Mr David Samson Thoguru	Thoguru	Served the Church in collection of subscriptions. Husband of (late) Geetha Samson and father of Ethel Apeksha and Dorcas Deepshika.
19	04.01.2018	Mr Badrinath	Donnipad	Husband of Anita Badrinath. Retired from Central Excise and Customs.
20	19.01.2018	Mr NSJ Devadattam	Nanneti	Father of Daniel Devadattam, Former Secretary, Treasurer, Property Secretary of St John's Church. Retired as HOD, Physical Department, HPS Begumpet and served in the Indian Army.
21	20.01.2018	Mrs Mary Vijayanandam	Perumalla	W/o. Late Job Vijayanandam; Mother of Mr P Samuel Albert
22	05.02.2018	Mrs Vinaya Kumari	Kolangi	Wife of Jayaraj Kolagani and mother-in-law Shobha John. Worked as teacher in St. George's Grammar School
23	23.02.2018	Mr Cherala Jogender	Cherla	Husband of J N Matilda and brother of Jayaraj Kolagani.
24	29.04.2018	Mr JEF Rajasekharan	Francis	Husband of Sarojni Rajasekharan.
25	04.05.2018	Mr Samuel P. Bunyan	Bunyan	Husband of Catherine Bunyan.
26	04.06.2018	Mr Stevenson Vinay Kumar	Patnam	Husband of P Juliet.
27	27.07.2018	Mr Joshua Morris Wilson	Wilson	Brother of Jason Wilson.
28	15.06.2018	Mrs Gona Martha Sarojini	Gona	Narayanaguda Cemetery.
29	25.08.2018	Mr K Paul Suprabhat	Suprabhat	Son of late K A Sadanandam.
30	02.09.2018	Mrs Jaya Sheela Katta	Katta	Mother of K. John Manoj.
31	23.10.2018	B J Saranath Seth	Seth	Father of Dheerendranath Seth.
32	17.11.2018	Mrs Shalini Mody	Mody	Wife of (late) Noshir Modi and mother of Shorosh





				Mody.
33	26.11.2018	Mrs Elaine Neomi Moss	Moss	**
34	14.12.2018	Mrs Sunila Wilson	Wilson	Wife of John Wilson and sister in law of Jason Wilson.
35	02.01.2019	Mr Krupadanam Koppula	Koppula	Husband of (late) Susheela Krupadanam and Father of Vikram. Krupadanam, former PC member.
36	24.02.2019	Mrs KR Shymala	Tilak	Sister of Pilli Raja Ratnakara Rao.
37	12.03.2019	Mr Coyle Arthur Ponnuraj	Ponnuraj	Husband of Ruth Ramani and son of (late) Rev Arthur.
38	25.05.2019	Mr George Newton Narsiah	Andra	Father of Andra Sangeeth Rao.
39	28.05.2019	Mrs Jean Johnson	Johnson	Wife of (late) Joseph Johnson and mother of Elizabeth Kuruvilla.
40	31.05.2019	Mr Hillary Marcus Adams	Adams	Brother of Ivan Adams.
41	22.06.2019	Mrs Indira Devi	Chiluvuri	Wife of Srungarapati Jacob.
42	15.08.2019	Mr Bhakta Vijayan	Gundugollu	Husband of Gundugollu Pushpavalli.
43	24.10.2019	Mrs Susan Ittoop	Ittoop	Mother of Yohan and Miriam Ittoop
44	17.01.2020	Mrs Ruth Anna Rego	Rego	Daughter of Ivan Adams.
45	25.01.2020	Mrs Susheela Pandiyan	Pandiyan	Sister Indra Pandiyan.
46	22.03.2020	Mrs T Geetha Samson	Thoguru	Wife of (late) David Samson Thoguru and mother of Ethel Apeksha and Dorcas Deepshika
47	30.03.2020	Mrs Priscilla Dhyriam	Dhyriam	Wife of Nehru Dhyriam (Shubhavaartha Channel)
48	06.04.2020	Mr Paul Manohar Cole	Cole	Brother of John Diwakar Cole
49	07.04.2020	Mrs Juidiana Ena Shenoy	Shenoy	Wife of (late) SP Shenoy and daughter of Phyllis Sebastian
50	25.04.2020	Mrs Phyllis Sebastian	Sebastian	Mother of Derrick Sebastian
51	**	Col C G John	John	Husband of Susan John. Served in the Indian army. Died and buried in Kerala.

*\*The above data was compiled, with the data available with us at the time of finalising this edition of the Parish Messenger. If there are any errors, changes required please contact the Editorial committee or email at: [info@stjohnscsi.org](mailto:info@stjohnscsi.org).*

*\*\*No information available in Church records*





# Little hands at work – Sunday School Corner



**Joshua Bennett**

(Beginners class – Sunday school student)

**Alvin**

(Juniors class - Sunday school student)

*Joshua Bennett*

**H**APPY

The gift of God is **E**ternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

I am the Living One I was dead and behold I am **A**live forever and ever! Revelation 1:18

The Father has sent His Son to be the **S**avior of the world. 1 John 4:34

I am the **T**ruth and the life. Way and the **T** John 14:6

god has given **E**ternal life, and this life is in his son. 1 John 5:11

Remember Jesus Christ **R**aised from the dead. 2 Timothy 2:8

Stations of the Cross

SUFFERED

PRAYER

CONFESSIO

By J. ALVIN ALEXANDER JUNIORS





**Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem  
(Intermediate class - Sunday school students)**



**Ms Geethika**



**Ms Priya**



**Ms Carolyn Paul**





### Senior Class - Sunday school students



**Ms Nikhitha Sherlyn**

*Resurrection in our lives held captive by sin freed through Christ*









**Ms Neria**

*Way to Heaven*



**Mr Rahul Nathan**

<p>1</p>  <p><b>TITLE</b> THE PRICE OF SIN BY RAHUL NATHAN</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>  <p>O Lord my God, kindly save me from my sins and forgive me, for I believe in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ my Savior</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1Corinthians 15:3</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>for it was the blood of the Lamb, that saved you from your sins.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in his commandment. Psalm 112:1</p>





## Church Music – It's Significance

Commodore TMJ Champion, Choir Director and Joshua Virender, Organist gave a presentation on CHURCH MUSIC and the hymn singing to the Sunday school children on March 8, 2020. They explained the nuances of hymn singing in the church and the selection of hymns as per the theme given for the specific Sunday. Commodore Champion explained about the Anglican style of reading the scripture and also the meaning of the Gradual hymn that is sung before the sermon.



**Thank you for your contribution  
to the Easter Edition of  
PARISH MESSENGER**

For any feedback or queries please contact  
[parishmessenger@stjohnscsi.org](mailto:parishmessenger@stjohnscsi.org)

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**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CSI - DIOCESE OF MEDAK  
East Marredpally, Secunderabad.**

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🌐 [www.stjohnscsi.org](http://www.stjohnscsi.org)

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7gbL7EEX4duHTnf6w8hBKA>