



MAR WALAH

Vol.02 Issue-08 Jan - Feb 21 "MY LORD, MY GOD"

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MAR WALAH

VOL. 02 ISSUE 08 Jan- Feb 2021

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VICAR'S Message



അനുഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ നിറഞ്ഞ ഒരു ക്രിസ്തസ് കാലം കടന്നുപോയി പോയി.

പുതുവർഷത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യമാസത്തിൽ നമ്മൾ ആയിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ നിങ്ങളെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന തിരുവചനം ഇതാണ് , Haggai 2:23 - "...അന്നു ഞാൻ നിന്നെ മുദ്ര മോതിരം പോലെ ആക്കും. എന്നെന്നേക്കും ഞാൻ നിന്നെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നു"

(On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you, says the Lord of hosts.) ദൈവത്താൽ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ടവരാണ് നാം. അത് നമ്മൾ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞാൽ ഏതൊരു പ്രതിസന്ധിയെയും നമുക്ക് തരണം ചെയ്തു ധീരമായി മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുവാൻ കഴിയും. ആ തിരിച്ചറിവ് ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതാണ് നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലെ എല്ലാ ദുഃഖങ്ങൾക്കും കാരണം. പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയെപ്പോലെ പോലെ കാലിത്തൊഴുത്ത് മുതൽ കാൽവരിവരെ, ജീവിതത്തിലെ ഓരോ നിമിഷവും യേശുവിനോടൊപ്പം നമുക്ക് യാത്ര ചെയ്യാം. ദേവാലയത്തിൽ വന്ന് വിശുദ്ധ ബലി അർപ്പിക്കാം. എല്ലാവർക്കും അനുഗ്രഹം നിറഞ്ഞ പുതുവർഷം ഉണ്ടാകട്ടെ എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഇടവക മധ്യസ്ഥനായ വിശുദ്ധ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെയും വിശുദ്ധ സെബസ്ത്യാനോസിന്റെയും തിരുനാൾ സംയുക്തമായി നമ്മൾ ജനുവരി 23 മുതൽ ആഘോഷിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. വിശുദ്ധിയോടും വിശ്വാസത്തോടും കൂടെ ബലിയർപ്പണത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു തിരുനാളിന്റെ അനുഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരും പ്രാപിക്കണമെന്ന് സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു.

2021 - Year of St Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

തിരുസഭ 2021-നെ വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ വർഷമായി ആചരിക്കുകയാണ് . വിശുദ്ധ യൗസേപ്പിതാവിനെ കുറിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ ധ്യാനിക്കുവാനും വിശുദ്ധന്റെ ജീവിത മൂല്യങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് പകർത്തുവാനും ഈ വർഷം നമ്മൾ പ്രത്യേകം പരിശ്രമിക്കണം.

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഇതിൽ, ലളിതവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതുമായ ഒരു ചിന്ത നിങ്ങളുമായി പങ്കുവെക്കട്ടെ.



പതിനേഴാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ ജീവിച്ചിരുന്ന ഫ്രഞ്ചു ചിത്രകാരനായിരുന്നു ജോർജ്ജ് ഡി ലാ ടൂർ (Georges de La Tour 1593-1652). 1642 ൽ ജോർജ് രചിച്ച വിശ്വ പ്രസിദ്ധമായ ഒരു ചിത്രമാണ് ആണ് സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് ദി കാർപെന്റർ (Saint Joseph the Carpenter) എന്നത്. യൗസേപ്പിതാവ് മരപ്പണി ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഈശോ കൈയ്യിൽ മെഴുകുതിരി പിടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു വെളിച്ചം കാണിക്കുന്നു. ആ തിരിനാളം മാത്രമാണ് ആ ചിത്രത്തിലെ വെളിച്ചം. ആ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ ഈശോയുടെ മുഖം പ്രകാശിക്കുന്നു.

യേശുവാകുന്ന പ്രകാശത്താൽ എന്നും നയിക്കപ്പെട്ടവനായിരുന്നു ജോസഫ്. അവൻ ലോകത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശമാണെന്ന സത്യം ആദ്യം തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ വ്യക്തിയും ജോസഫായിരുന്നു. ക്രിസ്തുവാകുന്ന പ്രകാശത്തെ നോക്കി കർമ്മം ചെയ്യാനാണ് യൗസേപ്പിതാവു നൽകുന്ന പാഠം. ജീവിതത്തെ പ്രശോഭിതമാക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹമുണ്ടോ, പ്രകാശമായ യേശുവിന്റെ മൂലത്തേക്കു നോക്കി പഠിക്കുക. പ്രകാശത്തിന്റെ വഴികളിലാണ് രക്ഷയുടെ വഴിക്ക് തെളിമ ലഭിക്കുക. (Ref Pravachaka Sabdam)

സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം നിങ്ങളുടെ വികാരിയച്ചൻ,
Fr. Manoj Ambalathinkal



OUR TIME IS MARKED BY WAR OF CONSCIENCE

Fr. Ronald George

Often movies and literary works of our time present to us characters that are totally the result of the environment. They react to the stimuli precisely as mice in a cage. Feed them and they were calm, love them and they were gentle; or abuse them they were mean, starve them and hurt them they bite and fight back. Often such men and women are seen in the movies. Mass media is projecting that we are capable of doing much more evil. True, but we are equally capable of greater goodness. In this situation of the possibility of evil and good 'the war of conscience' goes on. As we see the nature of this war I invite you to find your own better way to win this war...Conscience is the inner voice of God in the human heart. Conscience is also considered as a moral compass. Based on the Second Vatican Council we can say, "Deep within the conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment... for man has in his heart a law inscribed by God...his conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths"(Church in the modern world article 16).

This is a War with an Enemy

If we name it a war, then there should be an enemy. Often our time has misunderstood the enemy. It was the philosopher Friederic Nietzsche who declared that God is dead by telling that "I have killed him". We may find it silly but it gave great joy and relief to the people who found faith and morality as a burden. From the very beginning, we should have the clarity that the devil is our enemy. God says, "For I know the plans I have

for you says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil to give you a future and a hope...(Jer. 29:11)". And the reason for this war is to safeguard our conscience. Because it is the inner reality where God is communicating with us, He directs our every step through our conscience.

The Danger of Mass Media

Surely, it is not easy to be young today! The pressures have increased just as the unrestricted stream of ideas that flood our homes. Caught in the whirlpool of a fast-paced media revolution, youth are faced with the enormous challenge of staying sane, safe, and sure. Actually, the media in itself is good. Only the users of it manipulate, based on their motives and vested interests. So the media can be used or abused by the user. How does the media become the reason for the failure in the War-field?

Media has numbed our capacity to reflect on our lives. Most of our free time is filled by mass media. Another important thing is the threat to the process of socialization. Even a little child stops crying when it has a gadget in the hand. It is easy to feed the child when it is involved in a video game. About ten years back we used to enjoy train journeys of few days, where people communicate a lot on the way... it was possible for us to get a new friend when we go for a reception. Today we can hardly expect that a young person is initiating a conversation with a stranger. If we want to enter into dialogue with a person there is a minimum process. At first, we may look at others with a positive attitude, then an inviting smile... that is how we slowly break the silence. Conscience formation is to be understood as an effect of the socialization process. At the same time, we need to come in dialogue with others especially the elders and find time to listen to my inner self. This may help us to be brave warriors in the War-field.

The Situation that Leads You to War

Another situation where the youth fail in this war is dangerous materialism. How do they value themselves in a crowd? Surely it is said that in a crowd persons will be evaluated by the way they dress and appear. Don't forget that it is in the crowd. If one is obsessed with material possessions he often forgets that the worthiness of him is not all that he has but it is his being that matters. Nothing wrong with maintaining fashion and being stylish; that is nice. But always keep in mind that you are not living for the crowd. The crowd will forget you and they are not

serious about you. Connect with persons as individuals; they are going to be interested in 'what you are' and not in 'what you have'. The cult of materialism has become the idolatry in our world today. People need more. They borrow more. They invest more. And they worry more. The youth of today may not misplace their trust in the material world but in God who made all things.

You Need a Continuous Training

As you are reading this article you may be thinking like this "Dear Father Ronald, we all are aware of all those situations that you have mentioned, we are aware of what is good even when we are not able to do so. Why do we fail in taking a correct standpoint in spite of our right knowledge? Why is it that our knowledge is not helping us? Often we are disappointed in our spiritual life."

What I want to say is this, dear friend please cool down. Just think about any one of the skills that you have developed in your life. Was it a one-day event? Often we fail and make a continuous effort to master the particular skill. Our being with God is also the same thing. Listening to our conscience is actually a skill that can be learned only through continuous effort. Often sin is more attractive and easy to do but the aftereffect is painful. But this is a process of growth. Correcting the same mistakes several times will help us to become skilful. Keep in mind about the war. If we are not getting trained and have mental preparation there is going to be a miserable end.

Misunderstanding of the Word Love

Another important thing that misleads the youth is the wrong understanding of 'love'. Words like trust, self-control, and fidelity are foreign to the media vocabulary. Sex and love are projected as interchangeable. Love and sex are commodities that one can put on and put off like the cloth we wear. Often non-committed love is portrayed as a normal way of life. This is too far from the selfless and sacrificial love which Jesus showed to us.

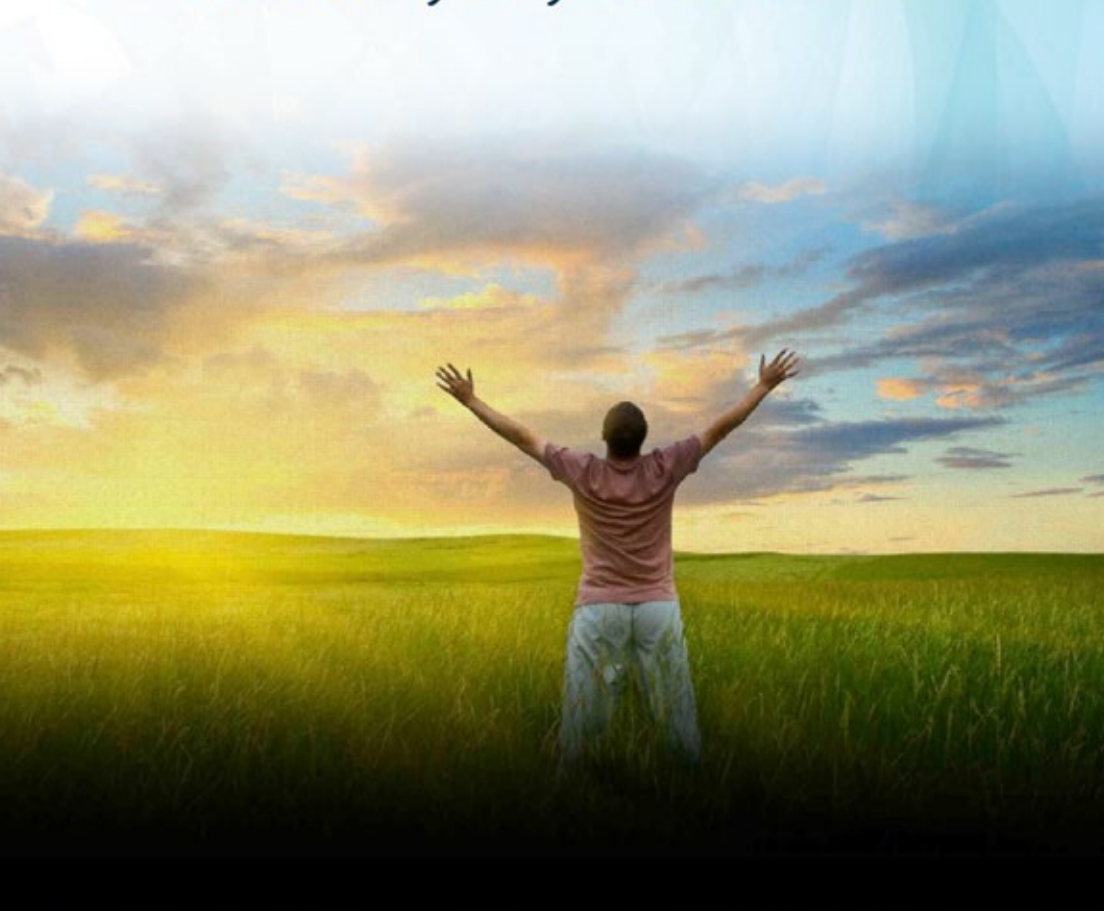
The Success of War is God's Blessing

None of us can do great things in this war alone with our own merits. But it is God who enables us with His Holy Spirit. Prophet Isaiah reminds us "And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears

shall hear a word behind you, saying. This is the way; walk in it" (Is 30:21). Conscience is not only something that prevents... but points out what is right.

We are God's children. God wishes us to be successful in our search for faith. His truth is not hidden so that we would not find it; rather, it is placed deeply in us so that only the sincere and the obedient will reach the treasure. We are forever His through faith. And, we must not waver in the War-field.

*Wishing you all a grand victory in life,
'The victory of your conscience'*



പാതവിളക്കുകൾ...

ഗണിതശാസ്ത്രം പോലെ, ചരിത്രം ഒരു സൂത്രവാക്യത്തിന്റെ ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ ഒരുങ്ങുന്നില്ല, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും മനുഷ്യനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ളതാകുമ്പോൾ. നമ്മുടെ സ്കൂൾ-കോളേജ് സിലബസിൽ ഹിസ്റ്ററി ഒരു പ്രധാന വിഷയമായി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ എന്തിനാണ് നാം ഹിസ്റ്ററി പഠിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന് ഒരു കുട്ടിയോട് ചോദിച്ചാൽ പലപ്പോഴും വ്യക്തമായ ഉത്തരം ലഭിക്കാറില്ല. അത് നമുക്ക് മുൻപേ നടന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾ അറിയാൻ നമ്മെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്ന് ചിലർ പറയും. ചരിത്രത്തിലെ ഓരോ മഹാനായരുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലെ വിജയങ്ങളും പരാജയങ്ങളും, സമൂഹത്തെയും രാജ്യത്തെയും കുറിച്ചുള്ള അവരുടെ പ്രതിക്ഷകളും വീക്ഷണങ്ങളും അതിനായി അവർ ചെയ്ത നന്മകളും ത്യാഗങ്ങളും അധ്യാപകർ പഠിപ്പിക്കുകയും കുട്ടികൾ പഠിച്ചു പരീക്ഷ എഴുതുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ആ സംഭവങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും മഹാനായിൽ നിന്നും എന്താണ് നാം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളേണ്ട സന്ദേശം, എന്തു മാറ്റമാണ് നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ കഴിയുക, എങ്ങനെ നമുക്കും ദീർഘവീക്ഷണവും കാര്യക്ഷമതയും ഉള്ള ഒരു നേതാവകാം എന്നൊക്കെ നാം പലപ്പോഴും ചിന്തിക്കാറില്ല. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ എത്ര നന്നാകുമായിരുന്നു.

ചരിത്രത്തിൽ 'ഇതിഹാസങ്ങൾ' എന്ന് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഓരോ മനുഷ്യരുടെ ജീവിതങ്ങളും കുറെ സംഘർഷങ്ങളുടെ കൂത്തൊഴുക്കിൽ ഒഴുക്കും ഉടച്ചിലുകളും എതിരിട്ട് വെള്ളറകളുകൾ ആയിത്തീർന്നവയാണ്.

ചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ താളിലേക്ക് തൂണിപ്പോർക്കപ്പെട്ടവർ ഏറെയുണ്ട്....

നല്ല വളക്കൂറുള്ള മണ്ണിൽ സമാധാനം ശ്വസിച്ചു വളർന്ന് പൂഷ്പിച്ചവർ... വേദനയും നിരാശയും തൂലികയെടുപ്പിച്ച മനുഷ്യജന്മങ്ങൾ... അടിവയറ്റിൽ കനലുകത്തുമ്പോഴും അപരർക്ക് വിളക്കായവർ... സംഘർഷങ്ങൾക്കും സമാധാനത്തിനും ഒരുപോലെ മനുഷ്യരോഷിയെ ഉണർത്താൻ കഴിയും എന്നാണ് ചരിത്രം പ്രഘോഷിക്കുന്നത്.

ബൈബിളിലുമുണ്ട് കുറെ ചരിത്രജീവിതങ്ങൾ. സമാധാനത്തിലൂടെ ഉൾക്കാഴ്ചകൾ കൈമാറിയവർ. ബൈബിളിനെ കേവലം ഒരു ചരിത്രഗ്രന്ഥം മാത്രമായി കാണാതെ, സ്വന്തം ജീവിതമാക്കി മാറ്റിയ കുറച്ചു വിശുദ്ധരും ആ ചരിത്രത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി. ദൈവഹിതം നിറവേറ്റാൻ നീർക്കണങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് റോസാപൂക്കൾ വിരിയിച്ചവർ...ലഹരിയായും ലേപനമായും ദൈവവചനം നെഞ്ചിലേറ്റിയവർ... സഹനങ്ങളുടെ തിളക്കുന്ന ലാവ ഒഴുകിപ്പടർന്ന് ശിലകളായി ഉറകുടിയവർ... ചരിത്രം പറഞ്ഞു വെക്കുന്നു ആ ആ ജീവിതങ്ങൾ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ശിൽപ്പങ്ങൾ ആയിത്തീർന്നെന്ന്! അവരുടെ ചരിത്രങ്ങൾ വായിക്കുമ്പോഴും വ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങൾ പെറ്റുകൂട്ടുന്ന കവിതകളാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ ആ ചരിത്രം നമ്മുടെ മനസ്സുകളെ ഉദ്ധിപ്പിക്കട്ടെ. ആതാമാവിൽ ദൈവസന്നേഹത്തിന്റെ തീരങ്ങൾ തേടി നന്മനിർമ്മിത കടലാസുതോണികൾ ഒഴുകട്ടെ. കൂതിർന്ന് തീയുമ്പുവ് സർഗ്ഗമെന്ന അജ്ഞാത തീരം ചേരാൻ... ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ഓരം ചേരാൻ... നമുക്കും ഉൾചോദനം കിട്ടട്ടെ! അങ്ങനെ സൃഷ്ടാവിന് കൊടുക്കാം വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ വേരുകൾ മണക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതം!

കോവിഡിന് വാക്സിനേഷൻ എന്ന സർവ്വതോമുഖമായി വന്ന 2021 വർഷത്തിൽ, ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൻറെ എല്ലാ അനിശ്ചിതത്വങ്ങൾക്കും വിഷമങ്ങൾക്കും ഇടയിൽ നിന്നുകൊണ്ട്, കത്തോലിക്കാ തിരുസഭ "സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് ഇയർ" & "ഫാമിലി ഇയർ" (Year of St Joseph & Year of Families) ആയി ആചരിക്കുന്നത് നമുക്കറിയാം.

തിരുസഭ ഓരോ വിശുദ്ധരുടേയും വർഷങ്ങൾ ആചരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ പ്രധാന ഉദ്ദേശം നമ്മൾ ആ വിശുദ്ധരുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് ആഴമായി ഇറങ്ങിച്ചെല്ലാനും അവരുടെ ജീവിത ഗുണങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് സ്വീകരിക്കുവാനുമാണ്. ഭൗതികമായി എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും നമ്മൾ വളരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെയും സമാധാനത്തിന്റെയും നിത്യവ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്ന സാഹചര്യങ്ങളും, ഗാർഹിക പീഡനങ്ങളും വിവാഹമോചനങ്ങളും പതിവായികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ, കുടുംബങ്ങളുടെ കാവൽക്കാരനായ സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് നമുക്ക് വലിയൊരു മാതൃകയാണ്.

വിശുദ്ധ ഗ്രന്ഥത്തിൽ ഈശോയുടെ ജീവചരിത്രം വായിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ഹൃദയത്തിൽ ആഴത്തിൽ പതിയുന്നുണ്ട് ഔസേപ്പിതാവിന്റെ ചിന്തോദ്ദീപകമായ പങ്കുകൾ -

ദൈവഹിതം നിറവേറുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടി ലോകപ്രേമികൾക്ക് വഴങ്ങാൻ കൂട്ടാക്കാതെ മനുഷ്യനിർമ്മിതനീതിയുടെ ശാസ്ത്രം പൊളിച്ചെഴുതിയവൻ...

നിസഹായത ഏടിചേർത്ത് ദൈവികപദ്ധതി പൂർത്തീകരണത്തിന് പാമ്പാവൊരുക്കിയവൻ...

തന്നെക്കാൾ വിലയും നിലയും തന്റെ ഭാര്യയ്ക്ക് നൽകിയവൻ...

ദൈവപുത്രനായ മകൻ കൂടെയുള്ളപ്പോൾപോലും ഒരു കുറുക്കുവഴികളും തേടാതെ കഠിനാധ്വാനം കൊണ്ട് കുടുംബം പുലർത്തിയവൻ...

യഹൂദ ആചാരങ്ങൾ കൃത്യമായി പാലിക്കുന്നവൻ...

അങ്ങനെ നിണ്ടുപോകുന്നു സുകൃതങ്ങളുടെ ആ ജീവിതം!!!

ബൈബിൾ പറയുന്നു "ജോസഫ് നീതിമാൻ ആയിരുന്നു". നീതി എന്നത് കേവലം ഒരു ഗുണമല്ല, അത് നിരവധിയായ പല ഗുണങ്ങൾ ഒരുമിച്ചേർന്നതാണ് - justice, honesty, decency, integrity, purity, nobility, piety, law abiding, hardworking.... - all these are integrated to the virtue of righteousness

തങ്ങളായിരം വർഷങ്ങൾക്ക് മുൻപ് ജീവിച്ചിരുന്ന ഒരു ആശാരി പണിക്കാരന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ഇന്നും നമുക്ക് ഒത്തിരി പഠിക്കുവാക്കുവാനുണ്ട്. അതിനായി ഈവർഷം നമുക്ക് പ്രത്യേകം ഒരുങ്ങാം, പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാം.

SANTHOME CHURCH - HULIMAVU, BANGALORE

CELEBRATES

THE ANNUAL FEAST

OF

ST. THOMAS & ST. SEBASTIAN

From 23rd Saturday to 31st Sunday, January 2021



Dear all,

Santhome Church Hulimavu prepares to celebrate its annual feast. Let us glorify God by commemorating the feast of St. Thomas the apostle of India and heavenly patron of our church and St. Sebastian the protector from deadly pestilence. We cordially invite all of you to this solemn occasion to praise and thank the Lord for His abundant blessings. Let us gather together by observing the Covid-19 protocol to share the joy and happiness of our annual feast and receive God's blessings.

With best regards,
Fr. Manoj Ambalathinal (Vicar)
Fr. Ronald Moleth (Assist. Vicar)

Trustees:- Alex Mannoor, Davis Kallarakkal, Biju Vattakatt, Santhosh Peter & the Parishioners

23 January 2021 Saturday

St. Chavara & St. Narsisimhan - Uthir



6.15 am : **First Thanksgiving**
Mar Sebastian Adappathath
(Bishop of Maraya Diocese)

6.30 pm : **Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Jacob Marjakkal
(Director of Family Apostolate,
Marthoma Diocese)

24 January 2021 Sunday

Lucia Maria & St. Vincent De Paul Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

9.30 am : **Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Raj Parakkal
(Presbyter, Diocese of Maraya)

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass**
Rev. Fr. Augustine Palkut MCBS
(Secretary, Uthir Seminary)

25 January 2021 Monday

St. Antony & St. Euphrasia - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Mar Sebastian Adappathath
(Bishop of Maraya Diocese)

26 January 2021 Tuesday

St. Marian Theresia &
St. John Maria Vianney - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

9.30 am : **First Holy Communion**
Mar Sebastian Adappathath
(Bishop of Maraya Diocese)

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Jacob Chakkalath S.S.E.T
(Holy Family Ashram)

27 January 2021 Wednesday

St. Joseph & Little Flower - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Biju Kuzhapparam CM
(Christ University)

28 January 2021 Thursday

St. Thomas & St. John Paul II - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Santhosh Thelickal
(St. John the Baptist Seminary)

29 January 2021 Friday

St. Mother Theresia & St. Alphonsa - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Fr. Jerry Pennakutty CFIC

30 January 2021 Saturday

St. Sebastian and St. Francis Assisi - Uthir



6.30 am : **Holy Mass**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Thomas Tharathil
(Vicar General, Maraya Diocese)

31 January 2021 Sunday

Solemn Feast Day

7.00 am : **Holy Mass**

9.30 am : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Binod Marikathil, OSA
(Serenity Bangalore)

Encouraging the newly-pastorized couples and those who undertake their duties and other wedding duties

11.00 am : **Benediction**

6.30 pm : **Solemn Holy Mass, Novena**
Rev. Fr. Thomas Parayil CM
(Prof. Dromman College)

6.30 pm : **Benediction**

7.30 pm : **Kaddiyaladisa**

NB: There will be Sacrifice for Ambalathinal and offerings (Candle, Kaddiyaladisa)

6.30 pm Holy Mass will be live streamed in Church's Youtube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/c/santhomeparish>)

SUNDAY Holy Mass Timing
6.30 am

9.00 am (also online through youtube live streaming)

5.00 pm

Monday to Saturday Holy Mass Timing: 6.30 am & 6.30 pm



Advertisement rates in the Parish Bulletin For parishioners:

Second Full page (After Cover Page) : Rs.2000/-

Inside Full page : Rs.1500/-

Inside Half Page : Rs. 750/-

Inside Quarter Page : Rs. 400/-

For Those Outside our Parish 20% Additional charges on the rates specified above

For Details, Please contact;

Baiju Korath - 98454 44206, Sunil Varghese - 9886462575



നല്ല കള്ളൻ... ചില നല്ല കള്ളങ്ങളും



BINNO M JOSEPH

രാഷ്ട്രീയ തലത്തിൽ ക്രിക്കറ്റ് കളിക്കാരനാകാനുള്ള ആഗ്രഹവുമായി നടന്ന ഒരു വിവരമില്ലാത്ത കാലം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു ...ചെറിയ ഒരു ഗ്രാമവും അവിടത്തെ കുറച്ചുകൂടി ചെറിയ ഒരു ക്രിക്കറ്റ് ക്ലബും ...ഒക്കെയായി അങ്ങനെ. അപ്പച്ചൻ മതിലിനോ ഒക്കെയായി വാങ്ങിയിട്ടിരുന്ന ഇഷ്ടികളിൽ ചിലതു എന്റെ ഈ വിസ്തൃതത്തിനു ബലിയാടുകളായി പലപ്പോഴും ... രണ്ട് ഭാഗങ്ങളായി പൊട്ടിച്ചു ബൗളിംഗ് പ്രാക്ടീസ് ...ഭുജവും തരവും ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന്. ... ക്ലബ് മത്സരങ്ങൾ ...പിന്നെ ഇന്റർകോളീജിയറ്റ് കളിച്ചു ..

അതിനപ്പുറംഒന്തോടിയാൽ വേലിക്കളോളം എന്നൊക്കെ ആരോ എപ്പോഴോ പറയുകേം ചെയ്തു !

പൂർത്തീകരിക്കാത്ത സ്വപ്നത്തിന്റെ ചില നീറ്റൽ ഒക്കെ അങ്ങിനെ അങ്ങിനെ മനസ്സിന്റെ കോണിൽ എവിടെയോ കിടന്നു ...

അങ്ങനെ എൻ്റെ ഒരു പിറന്നാൾ ദിവസം വന്നു... (ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഒക്കെ ഓരോ രീതികൾ !) ഒരു മെസ്സേജ് ... "എടാ നിന്റെ ക്രിക്കറ്റ് കളിയൊക്കെ ഇപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ടോ ...ഞാൻ കളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഏറ്റവും ടഫ് ഓപ്പൺ ചെയ്സ്ഡ് ബൗളർ നീ മാത്രമായിരുന്നു" മറ്റൊരു സുഹൃത്ത് മൈക്കൽ ഹോൾഡിങ്ങിന്റെ മൂന്നു തകർപ്പൻ ബൗൺസറുകളുടെ ഒരു വീഡിയോ ഫോർവേഡ് ചെയ്തു ... "എടാ ഞാൻ ഓർക്കുന്നു ..." ...അങ്ങനെ ..അങ്ങനെ ...

എന്തൊരു കുളിരു ...കുറച്ചു നല്ല സുഹൃത്തുക്കളുടെ ഇച്ചിരി നല്ല വാക്കുകൾ ... നമ്മുടെ ക്രിക്കറ്റ് എത്രമാത്രം ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ ആദ്യമേ പറഞ്ഞു ...വസ്തുതാപരമായ കൃത്യത ...അതായിരുന്നില്ല ഇവിടുത്തെ ഒരു അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പ്രശനം !

നമ്മുടെയൊക്കെ ജോലിസ്ഥലത്തും ...പലപ്പോഴും വീട്ടിലുമൊക്കെ നമ്മൾ അഭിമാനത്തോടെ പറയുന്ന ഒരു ഡയലോഗ് ആണ്..."ഞാൻ കാര്യം കാര്യമായി മുഖത്ത് നോക്കിയത് പറയും " ... നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടെലിന്റെ ഉറപ്പ് തന്നെ ആ പ്രഖ്യാപനത്തിൽ ആണെന്ന ഗർവ്വോടെ... XLRI യിൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ (പബ്ലിക് സ്പീകിംഗ്) പ്രൊഫസർ (ഫാ. മത്തിയാസ്... നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർക്കുന്നു) അടിവര ഇട്ട പലപ്പോഴും പറഞ്ഞുതന്നിരുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യം , 'ഒരു ഫീഡ്ബാക്ക് വ്യക്തിത്വത്തെ തകർക്കുന്നതിനല്ല... മറിച്ച് കെട്ടിപ്പടുക്കുന്നതിനാണ്!'

'നീതിമാൻ ദുഷ്ടന്റെ ഫലം ചെയ്യും ചിലപ്പോ' ...നമ്മുടെ പഴമക്കാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട് ...

കേട്ട് മറന്ന ഒരു കഥ ഓർക്കുന്നു... ജീവിതത്തിലുടനീളം ഒരു നൂണയും പറയാത്ത ഒരു സന്യാസിയെക്കുറിച്ചായിരുന്നു അത്... തന്റെ സത്യസന്ധതയെക്കുറിച്ച് അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു വളരെ അഭിമാനം ആയിരുന്നു. ഒരിക്കൽ അദ്ദേഹം ധ്യാനത്തിൽ മുഴുകിയിരിക്കുന്ന സമയം! പുറത്ത് എന്തോ ബഹളം. കണ്ണുതുറക്കുമ്പോൾ കാണുന്ന കാഴ്ച അശാഭുരമായ കൊള്ളക്കാർ ഒരു പാവം വഴിയാത്രക്കാരനെ വേട്ടയാടപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്... ഭയചകിതനായ ആ നിരാലംബൻ സ്വയരക്ഷ തേടി ആശ്രമത്തിന്റെ തുണിന്റെ പിന്നിൽ ശാസമടക്കി നിന്നു...

സന്യാസിയുടെ നേരെ കൂപ്പിയ കയ്യിലും ആ കണ്ണുകളിലും ..ശബ്ദരേഖിതമല്ലാത്ത ആ അപേക്ഷ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു ... "എന്റെ ജീവൻ നിങ്ങളുടെ കൈയിൽ ആണ് ..."

പിന്നാലെ പാഞ്ഞു വന്ന ചൺറാളന്മാർ അതിസത്യസന്ധനായ ആ യോഗിയെ വളരെ സമർത്ഥമായി തന്നെ ധർമ്മസങ്കടത്തിൽ വലിച്ചെറിഞ്ഞു ... "പ്രഭോ ..നിങ്ങൾ സത്യം മാത്രമേ പറയൂ...." നിയമം മനുഷ്യനന്മയെക്കൊളും മുകളിൽ ആണെന്ന് തെറ്റിദ്ധരിച്ച്, അറിവ് തന്ന അഹങ്കാരത്തിന്റെ സിംഹാസനത്തിൽ ഊന്നി, യോഗി ആ പാവം സഹജീവിയെ ചൂണ്ടി കാണിച്ചു കൊടുത്തു ...അവർ അയാളെ വലിച്ചിഴച്ചു കൊണ്ട് പോയി ... കൊള്ളയടിച്ചു ... കൊന്നു വലിച്ചെറിഞ്ഞു ...കാലയവനികക്കുള്ളിൽ കൂടി പിന്നീട് ആ സന്യാസിയും എത്തി ദൈവസന്നിധിയിൽ ...സ്വർഗ്ഗ സിംഹാസനം അവകാശമായി തനിക്ക് കിട്ടും എന്ന് ധരിച്ചിരുന്ന യോഗി ദൈവത്തോട് ആരാഞ്ഞു "ഞാനെന്തു തെറ്റ് ചെയ്തിട്ടാണ് നീ എനിക്ക് സ്വർഗം നിഷേധിക്കുന്നത് ? "

ദൈവം പറഞ്ഞു ... " സ്നേഹിതാ...ശരിയാണ് നീ കള്ളം പറഞ്ഞില്ലനീ പറയാതിരുന്ന ആ കള്ളം... നെഞ്ചു വിരിച്ചു നീ അർഹിക്കാത്തവരുടെ കൈയിൽ വലിച്ചെറിഞ്ഞു കൊടുത്ത ആ സത്യം നിന്റെ അയൽക്കാരന്റെ ജീവന്റെ വിലയായിരുന്നു ...തെറ്റാണു നീ ചെയ്തത്"...

ഒരു പാട് ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെയും അവശേഷിക്കുന്നുകറുപ്പും വെളുപ്പും പോലെ സരളമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു പ്രഹേളിക ...ശരി തന്നെ

"ദി ഹ്യൂമൻ സൈഡ് ഓഫ് എന്റർപ്രൈസ് " എന്ന പ്രസിദ്ധമായ കൃതിയിൽ ഡഗ്ലസ് മാക് ഗ്രെയ്ഗോർ തിയറി "X" (മനുഷ്യരെല്ലാം അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായി ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു ഒളിച്ചോടുന്നവരാണ്) നെ യും തിയറി " Y (മനുഷ്യരെല്ലാം നല്ലവരാണ് ...ആത്മാർത്ഥത ഉള്ളവരാണ്) "യെയും കുറിച്ച് പറയുന്നു ...പണ്ടത്തെ (വേറൊരു) കഥയിലെ കീറിപ്പോയ ചിത്രം ഒട്ടിക്കാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിയ കൂട്ടിയെ ഓർക്കുന്നു ...ഒരു വശത്തു അനന്തമജ്ഞാതമായ ഭുഗോളം ...മറു വശത്തു മനുഷ്യന്റെ മുഖം ...'അമ്മ പറയുന്നു "നീ മനുഷ്യനെ ചേർത്ത് വെക്കൂഭുഗോളം തനിയെ ചേർന്ന് കൊള്ളും"...

മനുഷ്യനെ ചവുട്ടിത്താഴ്ത്താൻ വെമ്പൽ കൊള്ളാത്ത ഒരു മനുഷ്യത്വം ഉണ്ടാവുമെങ്കിൽ.... മനുഷ്യനേക്കാൾ മനോഹരമായ ഒരു ജന്മവുമില്ല ...

അടുത്ത പ്രാവശ്യം " മുഖത്തടിച്ചതു പോലെ പറയുന്നത് എന്റെ ഒരു ശീലമാണ്" എന്നൊക്കെ പറയുമ്പോൾ ...അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങനെ ഒക്കെ തോന്നുമ്പോൾ ... ഒന്നാലോചിക്കുക ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ചരായ ... ആ മുഖം... ഒരു പുഞ്ചിരി ...അവിടുന്ന്മല്ലേ എല്ലാം തുടങ്ങാവുന്നത് ... തല്ലിനേക്കാൾ തലോടൽ അല്ലെ ഓരോ ദൈവചരായയിൽ രൂപപ്പെട്ട മനുഷ്യർക്കും കൊടുക്കാവുന്ന വലിയ സമ്മാനം! ആ മുഖത്ത് അവിടെ ഒരു അടിയുടെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എല്ലായ്പ്പോഴും?

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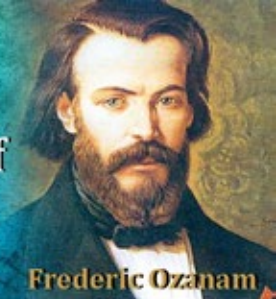
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Saint Vincent De Paul

Youth-hood in Society of Saint Vincent De Paul



Frederic Ozanam

Even the YOUTH grow tired and weak, young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak. *Isaiah 40:30-31*



Joshy John

The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul was founded in 1833 by a 20-year-old youth named Frederic Ozanam and a group of young university students. Together, they wished to help the destitute people living in the slums of Paris, with a mission to serve Christ in the poor, with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy. Prayer, along with the action is what binds a Vincentian. Little did they know that their humble intentions would inspire generations of goodwill.

Today, Vincentians around the world, are united by their spirit of humility, charity, and sharing nurtured by prayer and reflection. This society is recognized as a gracious self-love catholic society offering "a hand up" to the people in need by serving them and having a heart that sees God as a giver. They are showered with the gift of God's Holy Spirit in liberal giving and helping the less fortunate people from all around for the betterment of the world.

In a world that is evolving at an ever-faster pace, the presence of young Vincentians is needed to make an impact in our lives. Their constant encouragement to grow in spirituality and righteousness, and zeal to serve the deprived ones, by turning their concern into action, is exactly what the world needs now. We the youth must respond to Christ's call with much passion and follow in the footsteps of the Lord, keeping the example of Blessed Frederic Ozanam who remains to this date as an inspiring example for the youth seeking to change the world. It is said that when Blessed Frederic Ozanam used to go into a home in the slums of Paris, his first action was to take off his hat and say, "I come as your servant, may I present myself at your service." Keeping this as an example

we the youth must grow closer to God and must have a desire to serve him with compassion, concern, and respect for poor people and to build meaningful relationships. As the scripture says "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" we the youth must stand as a model to the younger upcoming generation and must engage in all the mission activities in the church. We must be actively involved in serving the poor and doing our part by contributing in whatever ways we can and must work to shape a compassionate society filled with joy and happiness.

Being a part of the Santhome Parish Church Society of Saint Vincent De Paul community, I was amazed to see the positiveness and enthusiasm of this community to serve the less privileged people around. The brothers in this community are called to work together to recognize the dignity of human life and to help those in need to make this a better world to live in. Activities such as providing rations for the adopted families, helping in the education of economically backward children, extending medical help to the patients, visiting the aged people, and spending time with them are some of the activities carried out by our SSVP brothers. On a personal front, I have seen the joy and happiness that all brothers in this community have experienced over the years in being a part of this blessed organization and its doings.

This faith-filled community provides a great opportunity to engage in personal and social development and to enrich one's spiritual life. This inspires me in not only participating in SSVP activities but also catalyzing other youth members in the church to join this wonderful organization. Among the very bold statements made by St. Mother Teresa, the one that stands out for me is "Hands that help are holier than the lips that pray". And I truly feel that SSVP as an organization leads by example on the same.



Blessed by the Beatitudes: Part 4 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”



Manisha Jayson

Dear reader, in the past three editions of ‘Mar Walah’, we reflected on the first three Beatitudes that Jesus gave us. Let us take a moment to recall them and remind ourselves that we have a responsibility to personify them so that those around us can experience Christ.

The fourth Beatitude says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

“Hunger and thirst are perhaps the most intense of the experiences since they involve basic needs and our instinct for survival. There are those who desire justice and yearn for righteousness with similar intensity. Jesus says that they will be satisfied, for sooner or later justice will come. We can cooperate to make that possible, even if we may not always see the fruit of our efforts.” says Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exultate*.

Righteousness is the quality of being morally right or justifiable. Justice more often than not comes at a high price. Nelson Mandela had to spend 27 years in jail for justice. Abraham Lincoln had to give up his life for the cause of manumission and slavery abandonment. Farmers of this country have been protesting on the roads for several weeks now for rights. Tribals are still denied basic infrastructure for survival. Those who seek righteousness will certainly be provided but God’s ways of manifesting this is a mystery. God may work through us, leveraging our hands or our own possessions and wealth or maybe our time and talents, to enable us to deliver through his plans.

When Jesus talks about having an intense desire to be righteous, he is also reminding us that we have been given ten commandments that can help us lead a righteous life. Jesus also summarised them as “Love God and love your neighbour as yourself”. These founding tenets of Christianity are really all that we need to do the right things.



Next, I want to draw your attention to how Jesus says that we should 'hunger and thirst' to be righteous. The closer one is to the Lord, the more sensitive he or she becomes to injustice, and then they will begin to long for righteousness. Also, those who have had a burning desire to embody righteousness have always been taken care of by God as we see in the case of Lot in the book of Genesis (Ch.18). Most of us have a basic knowledge of what is good or not good. However, in our daily lives, we lose steam on the desire to continually practice it. When we gossip about someone, we console ourselves

that it was just for fun, though we know all the time the same is not right. At all times, we have to be on guard against any evil that can dampen our hunger and thirst.

Lastly, Jesus says we will 'be filled'. Certainly, we will be blessed and filled with justice if we yearn for it. We will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with peace, filled with courage, filled with hope, filled with happiness..the list is endless. We will be blessed with everything to lead a fulfilling life.

In this new year, can we become the voice of the voiceless? Do we have the courage to stand up against anything that destroys righteousness? Can we show Jesus to the world through our righteous lives?

Wish you all a happy and blessed 2021.

THE MEANING BEHIND OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP ICON



ALWIN SHAJAN



We all are familiar with this portrait of Our Blessed Mary and Infant Jesus ;but how many of us know the meaning implied behind this portrait?

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a Byzantine icon that is believed to have its origin sometime during the 13th -15th century. The image is also known as “Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.” The icon is known for being miraculous; over the centuries countless healings and special graces have been attributed to it,

so much so that the image has been honoured and venerated by many Popes.

The image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is an icon, painted on wood, and seems to have originated around the thirteenth century. Traditionally, the image is also known as “Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.”

The icon (about 54 x 41.5 centimetres) depicts our Blessed Mother Mary, under the title “Mother of God,” holding the Child Jesus. The Archangels Michael and Gabriel, hovering in the upper corners, hold the instruments of the Passion– St. Michael (in the left corner) holds the spear, the wine-soaked sponge, and the crown of thorns, and St. Gabriel (in the right corner) holds the cross and the nails. The intent of the artist was to portray the Child Jesus contemplating the vision of His future Passion. Frightened by the vision, he runs to his mother for consolation. The anguish He feels is shown by the loss of one of His sandals as he quickly flees into the safety that the arms of his Mother provides. Nevertheless, the icon also conveys the triumph of Christ over sin and death, symbolized by the golden background (a sign of the glory of the

resurrection) and the manner in which the angels hold the instruments, i.e. like trophies gathered up from Calvary on Easter morning.

In a very beautiful way, the Child Jesus grasps the hand of the Blessed Mother. He seeks comfort from His mother, as He sees the instruments of His passion. The position of Mary's hands– both holding the Child Jesus (who seems like a small adult) and presenting Him to us– conveys the reality of our Lord's incarnation, that "He is true God" who became "a true man." In iconography, Mary here is represented as the Hodigitria, the one who guides us to the Redeemer. She also is our Help, who intercedes on our behalf with her Son. The star painted on Mary's veil, centred on her forehead, highlights her role in the plan of salvation as both the Mother of God and our Mother.

What Our Lady of Perpetual Help Means for Us?

Just as the Child Jesus fled into the arms of his Mother when he was frightened, so too do we flee into the arms of our Blessed Mother with child-like confidence whenever fear envelopes our hearts. Just as the Virgin Mother consoled and comforted her Divine Child, so too does she console and comfort us, her spiritual children, in our afflictions. We can always come to her in our time of need and receive her help.

In this iconography, Mary is represented as the one who guides us to the Redeemer. The Virgin Mother is also our Help who intercedes with her Son on our behalf. The star painted on Mary's veil, centred on her forehead, highlights her role in the plan of salvation as both the Mother of God and our Mother.

To this day, the Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome displays the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. They are the guardians and promoters of the holy icon, the only religious order entrusted with the task of doing so with a venerated image of Our Lady.

Ref:

1. <https://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-story-behind-the-image-of-our-lady-of-perpetual-help/>
2. <https://www.biblewalks.com/greekinitials>
3. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Perpetual_Help

2020 a cup of tea we didn't want to drink, but.....

- Ishita John



The yesteryear was indeed a roller coaster ride for all of us. So much changed in just 365 days, and no matter how much we try to stay positive, the sparkles of sorrow takeover. Even though the year opened with a disaster package for all of us, it shall be our shameful ignorance if we choose not to realize the virtues learned this year. Just a small reflection of the year tells us the number of times we learned how to be patient; we should not forget the cordial time with our families, the times we became amiable. The countless times we reverted to our faith to be steadfast in His love and, most notably, the lesson of not taking things for granted and learning to live with uncertainties.

As much as we all want to delete this year from our lives, we must not forget that sufferings are a part of our lives. When it was time for Jesus to go through the most challenging time one can ever imagine, let us remember what he said. He said, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." (Lk: 22:42). The scripture continues to say that an angel appeared to Him from heaven and gave him strength.

These two lines condense the whole essence of how one should pray in times of despair. Prayer is a beautiful conversation with God, an act of intercession. It enables us to communicate our thoughts, worries, and anxieties to God. However, I wonder how many times we have just presented Him our desires without taking a minute to accept His will in our life. How often have we wished for all the struggles and tribulations to end in our lives? When we align our lives to His will, we get the strength to live through the hard times. St. Andre Bessette once said, "Do not seek to have these trials lifted from you. Instead, ask for the grace to bear them well."

As this New Year dawns, let us try to surrender everything we have to the Almighty. There is a lot of peace and power in the offering. At the break of the light, every day, let us remind ourselves that He has a plan for us and plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. This year let us accept His will and ask Him the strength to undergo any trials with steadfast love and faith. Let us not wait to see what this year has in store for us to know what we can bring to this year.

FADING COMPASSION...

- Jan Mery Joseph



As He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them because they were like sheep without shepherd, and He began to teach them many things. (Mark 6: 34)

We see compassion held aloft by Christ always. For Christians who claim to be true followers of Christ, compassion is the central theme of their life. It is probably the most difficult thing to remain compassionate in the materialistic world. Naturally, amidst the dwindling traits of devout



Christian, 'compassion' may be the most crucial one. Speaking from the current situation of Covid, the spread of 'compassion' was really tested for various reasons.

One such instance was put in front of the medical sector whether to consider all Covid patients irrespective of their age. Due to the scarcity of facilities or sometimes due to a mere 'no care' attitude, the elderly citizens were not chosen for critical care. A cold and practical decision – certainly not one taken with a lot of compassion!

Everybody experiences how people could be separated from each other and denied fellowship altogether a certain fall out from lack of feeling for fellow beings.

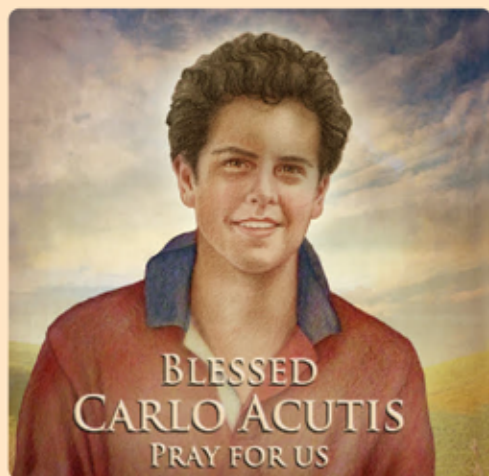
This is the time for us to reread the parable of 'good Samaritan'. The beautiful parable demonstrates to us how Good Samaritan moved with pity and tended to the wounded when those who were powerful and more resourceful gave the human being direly in need of love and care a wide berth. Similarly, let physical distancing not come in the way of our duties and caring for our fellow beings. Let our savings be in heaven where it could neither be stolen nor be harmed.

A SAINT FROM THE WORLD OF INTERNET

- Kevin Jojee



Did you know that on average, a netizen spends 100 days of their year on the internet? That's right, out of 365 days, 100 days are spent online on an average. That's a lot! Sure, you may say that it's just an average and many of us may have work but surely not every-thing is work if any. Most of the time we spend would be on social media like WhatsApp or Facebook or maybe reading some news.



What if I told you that you could reach the pinnacle of the Catholic Church that is Saint-hood by using the internet? We are all called to be Saints by Jesus but surely it couldn't be that simple? Or is it?

Let me introduce Bl. Carlo Acutis. He was very recently beatified by the Catholic Church but what is more relevant for us here is to

understand how he spent his time on the Internet. Already dubbed "the patron saint of the Internet", Bl. Carlo Acutis sets the right example on how to use the "data pack".

Bl. Carlos Acutis was born in London on 3rd May 1991 to a wealthy Italian family. His parents who weren't especially religious settled in Milan, Italy in 1991 after the birth of their son. In 1995 when he was 4, his maternal grandfather appeared in a dream asking him to pray for him. When he showed interest in religious practice, his questions were answered by his family's babysitter. At the very young age of 7, he requested to receive his First Holy Communion and after consulting with a Bishop, his family arranged for the same at a convent. From then on, he made an effort to spend time to reflect before the tabernacle before or

after Mass. He received Communion frequently and would make weekly confessions. He is said to have many models as guides for his life including Francis of Assisi, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, Dominic Savio, Tarcisius, and Bernadette Soubirous.

Acutis would frequently worry about friends of his whose parents were divorcing and invite them to his house to support them. He defended disabled peers at school when bullies mocked them.

Outside school, he did voluntary work with the homeless and the destitute. He also liked watching films, comic editing, and playing PlayStation. He also enjoyed traveling and Assisi was one of his favourites.

Those around him considered him a computer geek because of his passion and skill with computers and the internet. He created a website dedicated to cataloguing each reported Eucharistic miracle in the world. He completed this in 2005 whereas he started compiling the catalogue at the age of only 11. He aimed to use his website to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel. On the website, he said, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven".

Sadly, he developed leukemia and passed away from this world on 12th October 2006 at the age of 15. Even though in great pain, he offered his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church and asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages to all sites of Eucharistic miracles but was unable to do so because of his declining health. He was buried in Assisi according to his wishes.

Looking back at his life, he did things that we could also do if we put our minds to it. We could use the internet in ways other than the usual; to proclaim the Gospel ...to support the weak. We could leverage thus something – which again the creation of which is enabled by God – for ends that are not materialistic, in the way the bible guides us. Like the scripture of the new testament – what goes in doesn't render anyone impure, what comes out – what we make of it to help our fellow beings become the testimonial of our faith and love.

IF ONE SHOULD SHARE ANYTHING, THEY MUST BE GUARDIAN ANGELS!



- Amala Cyriac

*'Angel of God, My guardian angel dear,
To whom his love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen'*

As a child, I have recounted saying this prayer before leaving for school, every time we left home, and every time I needed assurance of strength. Growing up, my parents have continually reinstated in me the power of our personal messengers. Through stories, articles, and more, they pushed us to believe and take comfort in them.

My first memory of saying this prayer was when I was in grade 1. Back then, the school was only a short distance from home, and chechi and I walked it out. This prayer coupled with the 'no stranger mingling' talk used to be our daily routine.

Needless to say, with this faith upbringing, I was convinced of the presence of our guardian angels. Fast forward to years later, when I came across a true story on these miracle workers.

A mother once awoke in the dead of night with a cold sweat. The dream she just saw portrayed that her son, away in the war, was in grave danger. Not knowing if it were true or not, she knew that all she could do was pray. She immediately sent her guardian angel with the mission to protect him.

Days later, from the anticipation of not hearing anything, she called up her sister to take comfort. On recounting the incident, she was surprised to hear that miles away, around the same time, her sister awoke from the same dream too. Immediately she did the same, of sending her guardian angel to protect her nephew. She eventually went on to find out that her brothers and sisters had the same experience and that they did exactly the same.

Her faith confronted her a week later when a TV channel reported the incident. It confirmed fears of an ambush to a unit, her son belonged to. The exact words of the reporter were, 'Despite odds heavily against them, the unit was safe and revived from a rescue mission. What is surprising is that the location of the tent suffered irrevocable damages and that it was even surprising that the tent stood. It's almost like as if, an army of angels were protecting them'.

I can only imagine the mother's joy in learning that her little helper held her son safe.

God has entrusted each of us with guardians, with the hope to help us see through hard times and protect us throughout the day. They are our strength and conscience keepers. Since having read this story, I have been all the more convinced of our angels, and have started doing the same. Knowing that **your** friends or family are in times of need, all you have to do is send your angel to them. It's the best prayer and support you can render. Just remember those four magical lines and help and comfort will be upon them instantly!

God's Loving Touch in My Life An Experience Sharing



Sneha Anna Mathew

It wasn't long before when the world came to halt and everyone panicked. The year 2020 had been quite a tough one but each one of us moved through it with all our strength, and with God's grace, we hope to fight it ahead. Well, during this lockdown, each one of us has been familiar with numerous changes that we came across on social media. Every other person improved that part of them which seemed to have been stagnant in growth given the busy schedules back then. To be honest, I did try some of them but what I wanted most and what worked out the best was something worth discussing. How often have you questioned deep within your heart..ok, not quite often but at least once, when and where the presence of God changed everything?



During the time of the pandemic, when everyone decided to work on it for the next, I decided to look back to the past. I walked down the lane of memories in the silence of my room. I began to recall every memory, every small hardship that I faced, every blessing, and every moment of life. When eventually I began to think, the presence of God in every moment which seemed quite ordinary back then but now seemed like a blessing, became clear. Let me share one of my moments that truly marked the presence and blessing of God. Years back, when I was twelve

years old, I discovered the growth of two warts. One on my left-hand ring finger and the other on my leg. It was not easy to treat it back then; treatment with the help of a dermatologist was also only the last option we chose. My father suggested to me to pray to St. George who is the patron saint of St. George Forane church Edathua. Back then I didn't know what it meant when I heard God heals, and that his miracles always leave an imprint of the love of God. One evening, during the prayer time, I prayed to St. George so as to have my warts treated. To my pleasant surprise, the next morning when I woke up the wart had completely vanished from the finger leaving no mark behind. That day in school, when I was playing during recess, I accidentally hit myself against a sharp corner of the desk while running. Each one of us has a reaction of extreme pain when we hit ourselves somewhere, but this time when I looked at my leg where it hurt, I was surprised. The wart on my leg came off. The presence of God was not just for this once incident, but when we take a moment and look back at our life, one will find numerous instances of the same.

Sharing this experience that stayed fresh in my memory, reminding me of the infinite love that our maker has for us every living moment of ours.



Shanitha Emmanuel

വിചാരണ

ആത്മാവിന്റെ അടിത്തട്ടിൽ അലയടിക്കുന്ന

നേരും നെറിവും,

ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്വരം!

ഉൾച്ചുതികൾക്ക് ചെവികൊടുക്കാതെപോയ നാളുകൾ ഒരുക്കിയ കോടതി മുറിയിൽ

ഞാൻ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നു!

നാവിലെത്താൻ വിസമ്മതിച്ച വാക്കുകൾക്കുള്ളിൽ ശ്വാസം മുട്ടി എന്റെ ആത്മാഗതങ്ങളും മരിച്ചു വീഴുന്നു.

കാണേണ്ടവ കാണാഞ്ഞ,

കണ്ടിട്ടും ഗൗനിക്കാഞ്ഞ കണ്ണുകൾ,

കല്ലറയുടെ ഇരുട്ടിലേക്ക്

ഒരിക്കലും കുപ്പുകുത്തേണ്ടവ.

കണ്ണുകളിൽ മറുക്പോലെ

കഴിഞ്ഞ നാളുകൾ.

മറുട്ടി പോലെ എന്റെ നാവിൽ

പറ്റിച്ചേർന്നുപോയ മുർച്ചയിൽ,

വക്കുടഞ്ഞ വാക്കിൽ, മുറിപ്പെട്ടവർ കണക്കുനിരത്തുന്നു!

പ്രതിക്കൂട്ടിൽ പിടയുന്ന മനസ്സ്!

എങ്കിലും, കണ്മുഖിലുണ്ട്

നിസ്സഹായതയുടെ ശയ്യയിൽ,

ചേർത്തുപിടിക്കുന്ന ഗുരു!

അവിടെ എന്നെ
 വിസ്തരിക്കാത്ത,
 വിസ്തരിക്കാത്ത,
 ഒരു ദൈവമുണ്ട്!
 പൊട്ടിത്തെറിക്കാൻ പക്ഷമായ കാശിത്തുമ്പയുടെ വിത്തുകൾ പോലെ...
 ബേബൈയ്ക്ക് കുളക്കരയിൽ
 വേലിയേറ്റങ്ങൾക്ക് കാത്തുകിടന്ന തളർവാതം ബാധിച്ചവനെപ്പോലെ,
 പുനർജനിക്കാനൊരു വെമ്പൽ!
 ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ അടയാളപ്പെടുത്തലുകൾകൊണ്ട് മാത്രം
 കനപ്പെട്ട അടിയോഴ്കുണ്ട്
 ആ സഹനക്കടവിൽ!

അവിടെ,
 വസന്തം വിദൂരമല്ല...
 കാർമ്മേയത്തുണ്ട് വിഴുങ്ങിയ
 ആകാശത്തെ ഒരു കാറ്റ് വെളുപ്പിക്കും.
 നിന്നെ കരയിപ്പിച്ച ഇന്നലെകൾ നാളെ മരിക്കും;
 ഇന്നലകളിൽ അറിഞ്ഞത്
 നാളെകൾക്കുള്ളതാണ്!
 നമ്മൾ ജീവിതം കൊണ്ടുള്ളതും
 ജ്ഞാനമേഖലകളെ,
 ചില സത്യങ്ങളെ!
 ചിതലരിക്കാത്ത
 ചിലരറിയാത്ത...!

ചിതയിലെത്തും വരെ
 ചിന്തകളെ ചൂഴ്ന്ന് നിഗൂഢതകൾ!
 'ദൈവഹിതം' എന്ന അവസാന വാക്കല്ലേ
 നമ്മുടെ വാതിൽപ്പടി!

THE ACT OF LOVE



-ANN MARIA JOY

Most of us like to play various games or at-least watch it on TV. Whether it is cricket, Tennis, Basketball or any other game, sports teach us many lessons in life. We learn the importance of hard work in achieving our goals, how to prepare strategies for success, how to learn from our failures, the value of teamwork and so much more! One other interesting point which I note in games like a tennis match is that whenever a match starts, the score always starts from "Love All". Why do they start with a "Love All" score? A little bit of googling helped me find that the "Love All" score reminds everyone that a match is an undertaking performed out of love for the game itself without consideration of winning or losing or any benefit or reward for anyone. What a beautiful thought!

This got me thinking...What does the Bible say about love?

I came across this beautiful passage: Once a lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment and a second is like it - 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (*Matthew 22:36-40*).

Thus Jesus emphatically tells us that God is love and love in itself is God! But there was a question among the people - "Who is my neighbour and who am I expected to love to complete my love towards God?". This question is answered by Jesus (in Luke Ch 10) with the help of the ever beautiful parable of Good Samaritan. Jesus said "One day a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who went away, leaving him half dead on the road- side. A priest and a Levite passed by, without even bothering to look at him. But then a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved

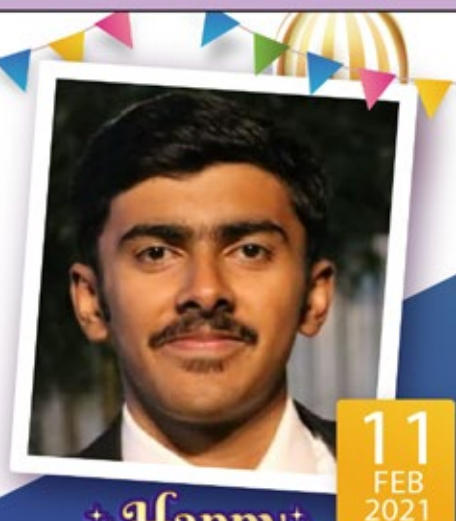
with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds and took care of him. Thus that Samaritan came to be called as the Good Samaritan because of the love and care he showed to the injured man.(Luke 10:25- 37)

Love is the basic value and yet the most important theological virtues of all. Loving oneself is natural, that's why one consults a doctor; when he/she falls sick. If a person strives to do things for others as he would do them for himself, he abides by the law of Christ to love others. When we love one another as Jesus loved us, there will be perfect values on Earth. Love demands many sacrifices. Love forces us to respect each other and destroys all enmity and selfishness. However, the most wonderful thing about true love is that all the sacrifices it makes us go through, is in fact making us stronger and deep rooted in it.

The more we are tested, the stronger we will stand bound in divine and true love towards God and our fellow brethren!

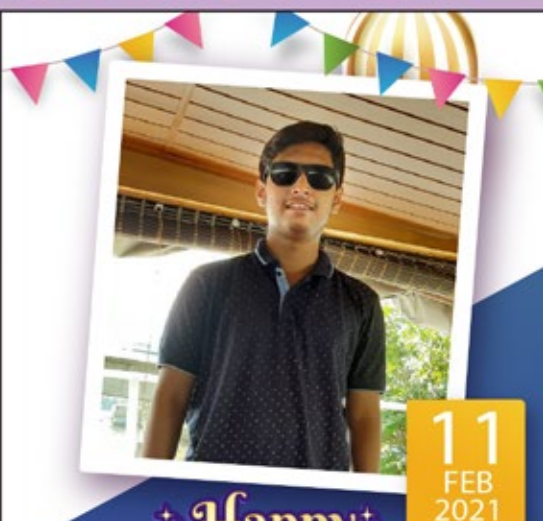
So let us live each day loving each other and caring for one another.





Happy
Birthday
to you

Albin Shaji Mulanjinal



Happy
Birthday
to you

Amal Shaji Mulanjinal

EXTEND A HELPING HAND

- Rhea Bobby



Jesus always tried to make us understand Gods' Will, by speaking to us through parables. One of my favourite parables is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Recently, I happened to listen to a sermon where the priest said something that has sort of changed the way I perceive this parable. One thing that particularly caught my attention was when he mentioned as to what the three of them must have thought as they passed the wounded traveller. While the first two thought, what would happen to ME if I touch him, the Samaritan thought, what would happen to HIM, if I don't 'touch him'. Many times we might find ourselves in similar situations, where it would always be easy to justify with yourself, thinking, if I help or do something for this other person, it might affect me, but what we are not thinking is, about how much the other person might be looking for or requiring a helping hand. During this pandemic, we see many instances where we can become 'reliable neighbours' to those in need. There are many people who have had a very hard time, from losing their job, falling extremely ill, being separated from their loved ones, to feeling extremely worn out. We should come forward and help such people. At times you might even see people around you feeling extremely low or on the verge of giving up. Spend some time with them and give them the hope that things will turn out better; pray for them, lend them a shoulder to cry on or give a hug to comfort. Let us slowly take away the thoughts of 'What will happen to me if I do this?', 'It's not going to help me anyway' or 'I might end up in trouble' to 'What will happen to him/her if I don't help out?'. Let us all, as children of God, extend a helping hand to those in need and make this world a better place.



06
FEB

Happy
Birthday
to you

Shajan Neyyan



20
JAN

Happy
Birthday
to you

Rino Davis



22
JAN

Happy
Birthday
to you

Shanitha Emmanuel



29
JAN

Happy
Birthday
to you

Sajitha Thomas



27
JAN

Happy
Birthday
to you

Alice



25
FEB

Happy
Birthday
to you

Paul Martin



08
FEB

Happy
Birthday
to you

Jeswin

Let thy will be done



Saju John Pallath

Somehow at the start of the year 2020, I felt this year would be different for me and so unlike each passing year, this time I decided to have a theme for the year. I chose “Let thy will be done, Lord” to be my guiding philosophy for 2021. For the last 3-4 years, I have been trying to find God’s will in my life. Even today I do not know what’s God’s chosen will for me is, but yes, I do know that if you trust in God, he always has a plan better than I ever can imagine. Two bible verses strengthen this belief: (1) Jeremiah 29:11 For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope and (2) Ephesians 3: 20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

I have been cherishing my desire to write an article for the church magazine even though I am quite self-aware of my literary skills plus limitations. This article is also my testimony to God’s grace in my life. One of the most visible miracles that God has done in my life is the job that he provided for me in Kottayam, Kerala. I have been searching for a job since 2015. I had joined an MNC company in 2010 and after 5 years of doing a transformation role, I was looking for a change. I loved the role, the work I was doing, and the team but the travel to Whitefield was taxing. There is not even a day I remember having come home before 10 PM from the office.

To begin with, I think some background is necessary; my upbringing has been in a family rooted in the Catholic faith in the true sense of its word - one of my sisters joined the convent more than 18 years ago. I joined this parish in 2011 a year after I joined the MNC. In my initial few years, my relationship with Jesus and the parish church was weekly one hour during the Sunday mass. Other than that, I was very much focused and involved in my life, my son (Nathan – who was all of 1-year- then), my wife, and my job. The parish was split into 4 zones and we attended a few of the

monthly zone prayer meetings. Life was good and didn't have any challenges or worries to bother or acknowledge God's presence and His grace in my life. In the year 2014, a week after my daughter (Sarah) was born; my mom had a heart attack precisely on Nathan's 4th birthday. She had to go through angioplasty and two stents were installed. My dad had been highly diabetic and started showing visible symptoms of Parkinson's in 2016 – the year my youngest son (Ivan) was born. It had been more than a year for me trying to search for a job somewhere closer to home so that I could devote more time to family.

One big change that happened in my spiritual life was beginning to see Abhishekagni every Sunday evening on Shalom TV. Earlier I used to feel it was just a TV channel program but slowly got more involved in listening to what Father Xavier Vattayil was saying – this truly helped me get closer to Jesus. In some of those episodes, I understood the importance of the parish church in my life and how I need to hold the church close in my life. In June 2017, my dad started showing more clear signs of Parkinson's. He began finding it difficult to walk. It would take him 10 minutes to walk from his room to the hall. In the same year in Oct 2017, my mom got a brain stroke, and she was completely paralysed on the left-hand side. She was in the ICU for more than 2 weeks and in the hospital for almost 6 weeks. When I look back, this period of my life was the toughest for our family life for me and Joan. We had a one-year-old son, a 3-year-old daughter (apart from Nathan who was in 1st Std then), and two bedridden parents both of whom were immobile. There had been a couple of nights where one of us had to stay completely awake to ensure my dad doesn't remove the neck insertion of his dialysis- leave alone the mounting work pressures from the office that added to the list. My father had to be dialysed thrice a week and hospital visits became a normal part of our lives. All this while I kept thinking in my heart- as to what is GOD's will for me. It was 2 years since I began my job search. I badly needed a better job- a job near home, a job which will allow me more time with family, a job with a better working environment.

We were able to attend the Abhishekangi Bangalore convention for the last

4 years and also visit the Sehion Retreat centre in Kerala. I think somewhere during the end of 2017, I started visiting our parish church every day morning before heading out to work. Those 15-30minutes spent in the church helped me to bond closer with Christ and strengthen my faith and trust in the Lord. Most of those moments in the church were spent in silent reflection trying to hear what the Lord wanted me to do but I did not seem to be able to get a clear answer. One of the frequent Bible verses that I got was of Mathew 6: 25-34 the title of the passage is "DO NOT WORRY". I could never understand what the passage meant, and it was difficult not to worry about my parents' health, my family, and the constant failure to find a new job for more than 3 years. I had attended about 3 interviews and in one of the companies they even asked for my prior salary slips but the offer never came.

My parents moved back to Gandhinagar(Gujarat) in 2018. My sister who is a nun had taken one year leave to take care of my parents at their own house in Gandhinagar where we all born & brought up (The congregation that she has joined allows them this break to take care of ageing parents). My dad did not want to come back to Bangalore. He wished to live in his own house in Gujarat and so in 2019 after a lot of deliberation, I decided to quit the MNC and move to Gujarat to take care of my parents and start a business. 1st Aug 2019 is when I started my independent consultancy based out of Gujarat and both of my parent's health was stable but occasional hospitalisation was required due to their fluctuating health. The business was going on well, but the biggest issue was that my family was split with my wife and 2 kids staying back in Bangalore and Ivan & me staying in Gujarat.

I began the year 2020 asking God what HIS will for me was!! And like I said, the theme that I choose for the year 2020 was "Let thy will be done, Lord".

I began trying to get up early every day and reading The holy Bible early morning. On Jan 19th, 2020, the Lord decided to call dad to a better place after he was hospitalised and was on a ventilator for 2 days. After dad's demise and spending more than 6 months as a split family – Joan and I

decided to be together. Either Joan comes to Gujarat or I move back to Bangalore to continue my business from Bangalore. Joan had been searching for a job in Gujarat as well but that also never materialised. Finally, we decided that I will move back to Bangalore and continue business from there but that's when COVID-19 happened, and all work stopped. In June 2020, our family was united back in Bangalore, and we were happy to be together. However, by July 2020, we could sense that Joan's organisation wasn't doing that well and will not be able to survive for more than 6-8 months. Post-Covid my ground team also hadn't returned to Bangalore post the lock-down. So we were surviving with only Joan's income and our savings for the last few months. We were in a situation where both our sources of income were at stake. It was in November 2020, after more than 7 months of no revenue from my business venture, I decided to start a job search again and I also began to recollect my inability to get a new job since 2015. We were wondering again- what plan did Lord have for us!!

Joan always mentioned that when I quit the MNC and went to Gujarat, the Lord all the while knew that Covid-19 would happen in 2020 and that all work and income would stop. Why would he still have allowed me to go ahead with quitting the MNC then? Our faith and strength were in the verse Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope".

In Nov 2020, while seeing Abhishekagni on TV, Joan made a silent prayer in her mind to God that if I get a job miraculously, she would give witness. It was around this time we realised the importance of the HOLY MASS. We began seeing mass online every morning. We also realised the importance of offering mass for souls. So we began seeing mass every day online and offer few masses for suffering souls in purgatory.. Nathan also would get up early and attend the holy mass with us. That same month there came a WhatsApp message in one of the WhatsApp groups of an opening in an established print media house in Kottayam. This is the first job I had applied for since I began my job search and it was more

to get an experience of the interview and wasn't very serious about joining the organisation. But during the interview, I realised the role was exactly what I had been doing at the MNC but with lot more responsibilities, and when I researched, I realised the strength of this 130+ years' legacy company that was a household name not just in Kerala but across south India. The offer also came in 3 days and the salary was almost 99% close to my last drawn salary at the MNC. Our best foresight lies in hindsight and when I look back at the 10 years in the MNC, Lord was preparing me to take up this role. In the last decade, he has transformed me not only professionally but more importantly spiritually. I have seen and realised the living Word of God being fulfilled in my life. As He said in Ephesians 3: 20 Now to Him who by the power at work within us can accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. The Lord has got me a job that I could not have even imagined; a job I would have never known to ask Him. Now I know that the best prayer to make to our Lord is 'Lord let thy will be done'.

Before I end, I would like to mention one more blessing that we got in this new year. We had been preparing to leave for Kottayam and once we got all our stuff moved out, our flat painted and cleaned to give on rent, Joan and I prayed together in our house asking for a good tenant. We prayed to the Lord that we wished for a Christian tenant so that HIS NAME may be worshipped in this house, however, let LORD's will be done. We had already put pics of our house on websites to get tenants. The next day we got a call from a Roman Catholic family who saw our prayer table with the "Last Supper" image on it and wanted to move in. And it seemed that they too were praying that they get a house on rent of Christian owners preferably. That definitely came as a surprise blessing for us.

In Jan 2021 we moved into Kottayam. The year 2020 has helped me and Joan to grow a bit more in our spiritual closeness with JESUS. I believe the parish church is the place to take all your worries, anxieties, sorrows, and joys to. Whatever we want -mercy or grace- we need to be closely connected to our parish church. I believe that we should go to our parish

church daily, then we will be able to see the grace of our Lord in our lives. Just like the flowing rivers, we will have the grace of the Lord flowing in our lives. Remember, nothing is impossible for God.

Finally, I would like to sign off reminding myself that there is no relaxation in the spiritual life – since the devil is always waiting for an opportunity for us to stumble. Now when we start this new journey in a new state, a new city with a new job, new culture, new house, and a new school for kids, our prayer continues to be “Lord let thy will be done”. Both me and Joan don’t know to read or write Malayalam, but we believe that it is The Lord who has brought us here, so rest assured He will definitely take care of each and every endeavour ahead...

Please keep us in your prayers and we will surely miss our parish, Fr. Manoj, Fr. Ronald, Sisters, and all our parish friends. We have been blessed to be part of our beloved St. Mother Theresa unit and with lots of love to all our unit members, we are deeply saddened to say good-bye.

രേഖാജ്ഞാലയുടെ വഴി തെളിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ദൈവം

സാന്ത്വിയോഗോ എന്ന ഒരു ആട്ടിടയ ചെറുക്കൻ ഒരിക്കൽ ഒരു സ്വപ്നം കണ്ടു. പഴകി ദ്രവിച്ച ഒരു പള്ളിയിൽ അവൻ വിശ്രമിക്കാൻ കിടക്കുകയായിരുന്നു. അമ്മുലയായ ഒരു നിധിയേക്കുറിച്ചാണ് അവൻ സ്വപ്നം കണ്ടത്. ഈ നിധി തേടി അവൻ വനാന്തരങ്ങളിലും മരുഭൂമിയിലുമൊക്കെ അലഞ്ഞു. വഴിക്ക് ഒരു ദേശാടനക്കാരിയേയും രാജാവിനെയും കള്ളനെ യുമൊക്കെ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈജിപ്തിലെ മണലാരണ്ണത്തിൽ വച്ച് അവൻ ദൈവം വിചിത്രമായ രീതിയിൽ ഈ നിധി ഒളിച്ചുവെച്ചിരുന്ന ഇടം പറഞ്ഞു കൊടുത്തു. അവൻ ജനിച്ചുവളർന്ന നാട്ടിലേക്ക് അവൻ തിരിച്ചുപോയി. അവൻ സ്വപ്നം കണ്ട പഴയ പള്ളിയിൽ തന്നെ ഒരു മരച്ചുവട്ടിൽ അവൻ ആഴത്തിൽ കുഴിച്ചു. ഏറെ രത്നങ്ങൾ. അവന് വളരെ സന്തോഷമായി. സ്വന്തം സ്വപ്ന സാക്ഷാത്കാരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി സകല എതിർപ്പുകളും നേരിടുകയും കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾ സഹിക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത ഒരു യുവാവിന്റെ തീഷ്ണതയാണ് നാമിവിടെ കാണുക.

സ്വന്തം ഹൃദയമന്ത്രങ്ങൾ കേട്ട് സ്വപ്ന സാക്ഷാത്കാരത്തിനായി പ്രയത്നിക്കുന്നവർക്കാണ് വിജയങ്ങൾ സ്വന്തമാക്കാൻ കഴിയുക. അവരുടെ കൂടെ ദൈവം അടയാളങ്ങളിലൂടെ വഴിതെളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കും.



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വഴിവിളക്കുകൾ

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തോൽവി വിജയത്തിലേക്കുള്ള ചവിട്ടുപടി

ഫുട്ബോൾ മത്സരം നടക്കുന്ന സമയം കളി കാണാൻ അൽപ്പം വൈകി യെത്തിയ വയോധികനായ ഒരു മനുഷ്യൻ അവിടെ കണ്ട കുട്ടിയോട് ചോദിച്ചു, 'ആരാണു് മുന്നിട്ടു നിൽക്കുന്നത്?' കുട്ടി പറഞ്ഞു: 'അവർ മൂന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾ സീറോ.' ഇത് കേട്ട് ആ മനുഷ്യൻ കുട്ടിയോട് ചോദിച്ചു: 'എന്നിട്ട് അതിന്റെ വിഷമമോ നിരാശയോ നിന്റെ മുഖത്ത് കാണുന്നില്ലല്ലോ?' വയോധികന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിന് കുട്ടിയുടെ മറുപടി ഇപ്രകാരമായിരുന്നു. 'ഞങ്ങളുടെ ടീമിനെ എനിക്ക് വിശ്വാസമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് എനിക്ക് നിരാശയോ സങ്കടമോ ഇല്ല. മാത്രമല്ല, അവസാന വിസിലിന് മുമ്പ് എന്തിന് തോറ്റ് പിന്മാറണം. അവസാനം വരെ പോരാടുന്നവന് പിടിച്ചുകയറാൻ ഒരു കച്ചിത്തുരുവെങ്കിലും ദൈവം തരാതിരിക്കില്ല. സ്വയം തോൽക്കാൻ മനസ്സില്ലാത്തവന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ വിധിയും പ്രകൃതിയുമെല്ലാം അവസാനം കീഴടങ്ങുക തന്നെ ചെയ്യും. തോൽക്കുമെന്ന് സ്വയം തീരുമാനിച്ചാൽ പിന്നെ ആർക്കും ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാനാവില്ല. എന്തിനാണ് സ്വയം തോൽവി സമ്മതിച്ച് പിന്മാറുന്നത്. പകുതി സമയത്തിന്റെ അർത്ഥം ഇനി ഇനി പകുതി സമയം കൂടി ഉണ്ട് എന്നാണല്ലോ.' കുട്ടിയുടെ ഈ വാക്കുകൾ വയോധികനായ ആ മനുഷ്യൻ അത്ഭുതത്തോടെ കേട്ടുനിന്നു. കുട്ടിയുടെ വിശ്വാസം പോലെ കളിയുടെ അവസാനം എല്ലാവരെയും അത്ഭുതപ്പെടുത്തി കൊണ്ട് അവന്റെ ടീം നാലിനെതിരെ അഞ്ച് ഗോളുകൾക്ക് ജയിച്ചു.

തെറ്റുകളെ തിരുത്താനുള്ള തന്റേടവും തോൽക്കില്ല എന്നുള്ള നിശ്ചയദാർഢ്യവും ആത്മവിശ്വാസവും ഉങ്കിൽ അവസാന നിമിഷത്തിലും അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമായ നേട്ടങ്ങൾ നമ്മെ തേടിയെത്തും.



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9656183874

മാതൃസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ വില

ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ ഒരമ്മയും മകൻ ടോമും താമസിച്ചിരുന്നു. അമ്മയ്ക്ക് ഒരു കണ്ണേ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. എല്ലാവരും അവളെ കളിയാക്കി 'ഒറ്റക്കണ്ണി' എന്ന് വിളിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ടോം സ്കൂളിൽ പോകുമ്പോൾ കുട്ടുകാർ 'ഓ ഒറ്റക്കണ്ണിയുടെ മകൻ' എന്നും കളിയാക്കിയിരുന്നു. അതെല്ലാം നാണക്കേടായി തോന്നിയ ടോം പതിയെപ്പതിയെ അമ്മയെ വെറുത്തു. പക്ഷെ അമ്മ വളരെ സ്നേഹത്തോടെ അവനെ പഠിപ്പിച്ച് എഞ്ചിനീയറാക്കി. താമസിയാതെ അവൻ വിവാഹം കഴിച്ച് പട്ടണത്തിലെ ഫ്ളാറ്റിലേക്ക് താമസം മാറി. ഒരിക്കൽ പോലും അമ്മയെ കാണാൻ അവൻ വന്നില്ല. ഒരിക്കൽ ഫ്ളാറ്റ് തേടിപ്പിടിച്ച് വന്ന അമ്മയെ 'കുട്ടികൾ നിങ്ങളുടെ ഒറ്റക്കണ്ണുകളോടെ ഭയന്നുപോകും' എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ് ആട്ടിപ്പായിച്ചു. വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുശേഷം ഒരുദിവസം ടോമിന് തന്റെ പഴയ ഗ്രാമത്തിലൂടെ സഞ്ചരിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നു. അമ്മയുടെ വീടിനടുത്ത് അവൻ കാർ നിർത്തി. മുറ്റമാകെ ചപ്പുചവറുകൾ കെറ്റ് നിറഞ്ഞ വീട് പൂട്ടിക്കിടക്കുന്നു. ചുറ്റും നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഒരു സ്ത്രീ ഓടിവന്ന് 'അമ്മ മരിച്ചിട്ട് 3 വർഷമായി' എന്നു പറഞ്ഞ് ഒരു കവർ അവന്റെ നേരെ നീട്ടി. എന്നെങ്കിലും മോനെ കാണുമ്പോൾ തരാനായി അമ്മ തന്നതാണ്. അവനത് പൊട്ടിച്ച് വായിച്ചു. 'അമ്മയുടെ ഈ പൊട്ടക്കണ്ണുമൂലം മോൻ ഒരുപാട് വിഷമിച്ചു എന്നറിയാം. എല്ലാറ്റിനും മാപ്പ്. നന്നേ ചെറുപ്പത്തിൽ കളിക്കിടയിൽ കമ്പിച്ച് നിന്റെ ഒരു കണ്ണു നഷ്ടമായപ്പോൾ, പൊട്ടക്കണ്ണൻ എന്നുവിളിച്ച് നിന്നെ കളിയാക്കിയിരിക്കാൻ അമ്മയുടെ ഒരു കണ്ണ് നിനക്ക് നൽകിയതാണ്. എന്റെ മോൻ സുഖമായി ജീവിക്കുന്നതു കാണാൻ അമ്മയ്ക്ക് ഒരു കണ്ണ് ധാരാളം മതിയായിരുന്നു.'

മലമുകളിൽ ഉയർത്തപ്പെട്ട ദീപത്തിനു തുല്യമാണ് ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിൽ അമ്മ. ദുഃഖിയിലെ അമ്മമാർ മക്കൾക്കുവേണ്ടി സഹിക്കുന്ന ത്യാഗം മക്കൾ കാണാതെ പോകുമ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതം തന്നെ ഇരുളടഞ്ഞേക്കാം.



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വഴിവിളക്കുകൾ

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