



St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church

THE EPISTLE

APRIL, 2008

MESSAGE FROM VICAR



"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

My dear sisters and brothers in the love of our Lord,

'Easter' reassures the creation, especially human beings, God's answer of renewed life to our choices of death and darkness. This reveals God's freedom in being as life in its real fullness. Human freedom and its expression through decisions and choices remains an enigmatic and unresolved problem.

The modern idea of freedom is overcharged with the political and emancipatory dimensions and implications. Lessons from history convincingly teach about the abuses of freedom, and so also prove that not all 'progress' advance to the 'better'. The presupposition of freedom and human capacity for responsibility is evident in the Biblical accounts of creation, obedience and rebellion, judgment, repentance and conversion. God creating human beings in God's own "image and likeness" is an epoch making assertion of the worth of each person, and the affirmation of the truth that each person is free to participate with the divine, using the power of her/his freedom.

For a follower of Christ, freedom is the gift of God actualized in Christ to be the sons and daughters of God. It is in the Spirit of Jesus Christ that we enjoy this freedom. It is this experience and exercise of freedom that realizes divine life, both to the self and to the other. This is when the words of

Irenaeus of Lyons, "The glory of God is a living man" become meaningful.

The Church becomes a 'sacrament of the kingdom of god' only when every 'member of the body' bear the norm of this freedom in the Spirit of Jesus, and offer sacrificially to the well-being of the whole 'body'. Drawing norms from the 'world' and conforming to the practices of the 'world' is a temptation that remains consistently powerful. **"Only a Church which is not of the world and which draws its norms only from the Gospel can be effective in the world as a sign and instrument of salvation which also means as a sign and instrument of Christian freedom."**

Our life together as a Parish needs to be transformed into a 'community in Eucharistic solidarity' (a fellowship with the bond of love shared and affirmed through the 'broken body' and the 'shed blood' of Jesus Christ). This can be made possible only through an experience of rebirth and conversion. Rebirth is possible only at one's re-orientation from 'self' to the redemptive power of love on the cross. It is one's rekindled wisdom to look for and to see alternatives that quite often do not conform to the 'normal', the 'easier' and the 'safer' options. Every element of wisdom and caution should be exercised to strengthen the 'koinonia' (fellowship) experience at any cost; becoming more and more vigilant and alert not to become victims of any divisive interests and motives. The resurrected Lord's plea and call "do you truly love me more than these?" (John 21:15) should fall on our ears even as we engage in the many 'worldly pursuits'. The astounding assurance of restoration is what Jesus

Christ offers to everyone who turns to him.

Let us heed to this voice, and enjoy the great joy of being called a co-worker of the Lord. Let us be mindful of the words of St. Paul, "My brothers, remember that you have been called to live in freedom -- but not a freedom that gives free rein to the flesh. Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service." (Gal 5:13)

Affectionately yours in the Lord,
Koshyachen

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THE MAR THOMA CHURCH DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

DALLAS REGION JOINT HOLY COMMUNION AND RECEPTION FOR
 MOST REV. DR. PHILOPOSE MAR CHRYSOSTOM MAR THOMA VALIYA METROPOLITAN
 &
 MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN

PLACE:

DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER
 (Main Ballroom - Level 2)
 650 S. GRIFFIN STREET
 DALLAS, TX 75202
 TEL: (972) 939-2700
 www.dallasconventioncenter.com

DATE & TIME:

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008, 9:00 AM
 Holy Communion Service
 Followed by Reception

FOR INFORMATION:

- Rev. Vinoy Daniel, Convener, Regional Committee, Vicar
 Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch (972) 939-0699
- Rev. Johnson George, Vicar
 Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton (972) 329-4230
- Rev. C. K. Koshy, Vicar
 St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas (972) 226-0976
- Rev. James Thomas, Vicar
 Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas (214) 227-2847



MOST REV. DR. PHILOPOSE MAR CHRYSOSTOM
 MAR THOMA VALIYA METROPOLITAN



MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA
 METROPOLITAN



RT. REV. DR. EUYAKIM MAR COORILLOS



There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."

 C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*,

New Church Building Update

Due to the weather conditions and heavy rain our project got a little delayed but got back on full swing as we scheduled. Grading and site work have more than half way through, utilities near completion and pier drilling started on March 24th and all 44 piers were finished shortly thereafter. We expect grading, utilities, foundation and pier work to be done and move to the next

phase of the project by the end of April. As our General Body's decision we still have to strive for the immediate need of bringing the necessary funds to meet the requirements of our project and also for the sponsorship of rooms and other items.

I thank each and every member of our St. Paul's Family for your continued support and prayers, Achen and family,

all the committee members and conveners for their hard work and leadership to make our dream come true. Let us continue to work together to make this noble project a reality to glorify His Mighty Name.

-Edited by Jacob Abraham



Church Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.
Sunday, April 13 - Teacher's Meeting
Candy Sale at Wal-Mart located on Hwy80 and Belt Line Rd.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

Saturday, April 26 at 10am - Bible Study at the residence of Mrs. Mary Thomas
Saturday, April 12 at 10am to 1pm - Dallas Center Sevika Sangham meeting at Farmers Branch MTC

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Fridays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7pm - Bible Study at the Church.
April 4 and 20 - Chick Fil A Spirit Night fundraiser
Friday, April 5 at 6pm - Ninu Achen's send off banquet at Farmers Branch MTC

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

Sunday, April 13 at 5:30pm - Meeting at residence of Mr. Binu Tharian, 821 Broadmoor Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149

PARISH (EDAVAKA) MISSION:

Fridays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.
Thursday, April 10 at 7pm - Area Meeting at Sehion MTC

MALAYALAM CHOIR:

Sundays, April 13 & 27 - Practice sessions after the Holy Qurbana .

ENGLISH CHOIR:

Saturdays, April 12 & 26 at 10 am - Practice sessions at the Church.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mr. Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, Tx.

Lectionary Information

Sunday, April 6, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)
 Live in the risen Lord (2nd Sunday after Easter)

Lesson 1: Ezek 37:1-14 **Epistle:** Rom 6:1-14
Lesson 2: Col 3:1-11 **Gospel:** John 21:1-14

Sunday, April 13, 2008 - (English Service)
 Lord who walks with us in Crisis (3rd Sunday after Easter)

Lesson 1: Isa. 61:1-11 **Epistle:** 2 Cor. 12:1-10
Lesson 2: 1 John. 3:1-12 **Gospel:** Luke 24:13-25

Sunday, April 20, 2008 - (Malayalam Service)
 esus: Way Truth and Life (4th Sunday after Easter)

Lesson 1: 1 Kings 17:1-24 **Epistle:** Phil 3:9-16
Lesson 2: Col 2:6-15 **Gospel:** John 14:1-11

Sunday, April 27, 2008 - (English Service)
 Spirituality in Present day context (5th Sunday after Easter)

Lesson 1: Gen 2:4-17 **Epistle:** 1 Cor 2:6-16
Lesson 2: 1 Cor 13:1-13 **Gospel:** Mat 5:38-48

Prayer Meetings

COMMON FELLOWSHIP MEETING - TBA

AGAPE LEADER: MATHEW BABU 972-771-1058 Saturday, Apr 26 @ 6:30pm Mr. Raju Matthew's Residence	EMMANUEL LEADER: MATHEW SAMUEL 972-494-5545 Sunday, Apr 6 @ 6:00pm Mr. Philip Mammen's Residence	EBENEZER LEADER: ANNA JOHN (LIZY) 972-289-2675 TBA	MANNA LEADER: P.P. CHERIAN 972-203-2018 Saturday, Apr 5 @ 7pm Mr. Sunny K John's Residence Saturday, Apr 19 @ 7pm Mr. Zachariah Thomas' Residence	SHALOM LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY 972-681-7083 TBA
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BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Apr	Jane Mathew	Mesquite	19-Apr	Kunjumol Alexander	Garland	1-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Edison K. John	Garland
1-Apr	Andrew Varghese	Rowlett	20-Apr	Lillykutty Thomas	Mesquite	4-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Ninan Thomas	Mesquite
3-Apr	John Oommen	Garland	20-Apr	Jolly Babu	Rockwall	6-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. George C.George	McKinney
3-Apr	Alice Mathew	Mesquite	20-Apr	Sally Koshy	Mesquite	15-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Abraham	Mesquite
3-Apr	Linda Mathew	Mesquite	20-Apr	Manu Varghese	Garland	25-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Samuel	Sunnyvale
3-Apr	Shibin Mathewkutty	Mesquite	21-Apr	Raju Varghese	Mesquite	27-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Simon P . P	Mesquite
5-Apr	Lee Mathew	Richardson	21-Apr	Julie Joseph	Garland	30-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Skariah P.M.	Garland
6-Apr	Jaya George	Sunnyvale	22-Apr	Ninan Thomas	Mesquite			
6-Apr	Jaya James	Sunnyvale	22-Apr	Suja Thomas	Mesquite			
6-Apr	Jonathan Cherian	Garland	22-Apr	Tom Thomas	Garland			
7-Apr	Kezia Cherian	Sunnyvale	25-Apr	Kushy Mathew	Mesquite			
7-Apr	Jacob Skariah	Garland	25-Apr	Saji P. George	Sunnyvale			
8-Apr	Anisha Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Apr	Gracy George	Mesquite			
10-Apr	Suja Mathews	Garland	28-Apr	Mohan Philip	Greenville			
10-Apr	Ashwin Varghese	Rowlett	28-Apr	Anish Thomas	Garland			
10-Apr	Nidhin Thomas	Garland	28-Apr	Joselin Mathew	Rowlett			
11-Apr	Ashley Sam	Rockwall	28-Apr	Asish Mathew	Sunnyvale			
12-Apr	Sunil K. Abraham	Garland	29-Apr	George Mammen	Rockwall			
14-Apr	Mariamamma Thomas	Garland	30-Apr	Kripa Thomas	Sunnyvale			
14-Apr	Rubin Thomas	Mesquite						
18-Apr	Omana Cherian	Sunnyvale						

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

2425 GUS THOMASSON RD.
MESQUITE, TX 75150

Phone: 972 613 9080

PARSONAGE ADDRESS
5906 BLUE OAK DRIVE.
GARLAND, TX 75043.
972 226 0976

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

**ARTICLES
NEEDED!**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SUBMIT ANY ARTICLES IN
ENGLISH OR
MALAYALAM, PLEASE
SEND IT TO:
JACOBKAB@HOTMAIL.COM

PRESIDENT

REV. C. K. KOSHY

VICE PRESIDENT

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MR. OOMMEN KOSHY

ACCOUNTANT

MR. THOMAS GEORGE

LAY LEADERS

MR. BABU P. SIMON

MR. SOJI SKARIAH

BIBLE QUIZ - The Christian Literacy Quiz

- Kezia Cherian

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|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Matthew | A. A collection of Hebrew poems and songs |
| 2. Mark | B. History of the first years of the Early Church |
| 3. Luke | C. An epistle from the Apostle Paul |
| 4. John | D. The story of Jesus written especially for a Jewish audience |
| 5. Acts | E. The story of Jesus as told one of Jesus' Disciples |
| 6. Romans | F. The tribulation of a just man |
| 7. 1 Corinthians | G. The story of Jesus as told by an eyewitness who was not one of the Disciples |
| 8. Revelation | H. An epistle from the Apostle Paul |
| 9. Psalms | I. The story of Jesus as told by a Gentile physician |
| 10. Job | J. A vision about future events, including the New Jerusalem |

Send your answers to jacobkab@hotmail.com and we will publish your name in the next issue, if you answer all correctly. The answers for this quiz will be provided in the next issue of the Newsletter.

February Bible Quiz Answer:

1. Agabus, Acts 11:28
2. Candace, Acts 8:27
3. Worms, Acts 12:23
4. Isaiah, Acts 8:28
5. 40, Acts 1:2
6. Thyatira, Acts 16:14
7. Antioch, Acts 11:26
8. Straight, Acts 9:11
9. Simon, Acts 8:18-19
10. Rhoda, Acts 12:13

Thanks to those who participated in the March quiz:
**Lydia and Sosamma Philip
Elizabeth Ipe
Stanley Samuel**

