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ARTICLES NEEDED!

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,
please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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WEB!**

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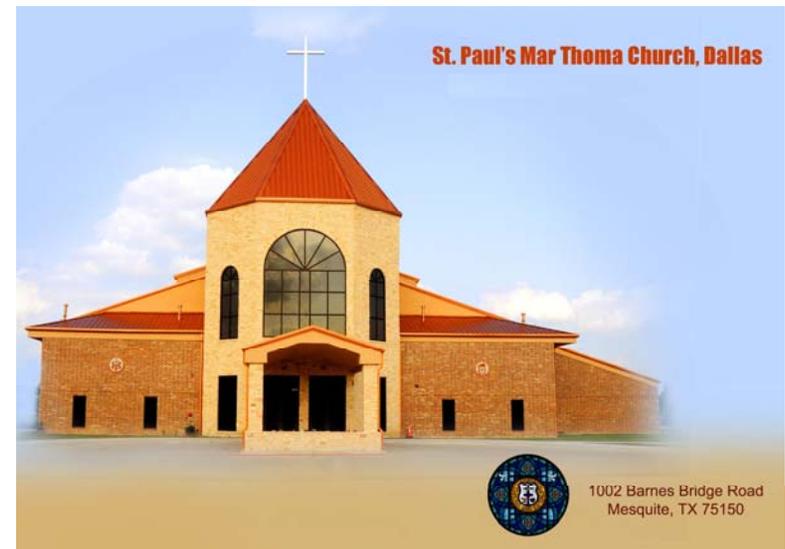


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



June 2011





MESSAGE FROM VICAR

ENVIRONMENTAL SUNDAY

Dearly beloved in Christ,
2nd Sunday of June is Environmental Sunday. Today we live in a World where we face so many ecological issues.

Environmental issues:

1. Global warming - Climate change and rising of sea level.
2. Depletion of resources like non-renewable Energy.
3. Decline in conservation of species and environmental degradation.
4. Deforestation and habitat destruction.
5. Genetic engineering – Genetic pollution and genetically modified food.
6. Intensive farming – Monoculture and pesticides.
7. Land degradation – Land pollution and soil erosion.
8. Water pollution – Acid rain, Marine pollution and water crisis.
9. Ozone depletion due to Chlorofluorocarbons.
10. Air pollution –Pollution from motor vehicles and smog.
11. Nuclear energy – Nuclear weapons, radiation and nuclear waste.
12. Over population.

All these problems are the result of human sin, greed and selfishness.

God created the Universe as good and beautiful.

God created human beings as stewards of God's creation to keep it.

But due to the human sin, the relationships between man and fellow beings was broken.

Christian response toward these environmental issues:

1. Accept the Lordship and authority of God and our stewardship before God.
2. Repent about our sin and renew ourselves.
3. Live as simple with minimum needs and wants.
4. Oppose all the destructive activities and take care of the victims of ecological issues.
5. Accept the eco friendly and sustaining development models.

It is our responsibility to keep this Universe as good for the future generations to live.

The people of America consume a major part of the petrol and other energy resources of the World.

The consumerism, profit oriented competition and unsustainable development models are the main causes of all ecological issues.

Living a simple life is the way for us to be saved from the present economic crisis.

The Church should be a sign and channel of the Kingdom of God based on love, truth, peace and justice.

May God strengthen us to be the co-workers of God's in His redemptive mission.

In Christ's service,

A.P.Noble achen.

Email: revnobleap@yahoo.com

Ph: 469-964-7494.

Address Change

Mr. Shibu Chacko
2303 Bamboo Street, Apt # 89
Mesquite, TX – 75150

Important Date to Remember!

Diocesan Suvisesha nidhi collection:

On Sunday, 19th June.

KECF Ecumenical Convention:

From Friday, 24th June to Sunday, 26th June.

Diocesan Family Conference:

In Canada from 30th June to 3rd July.

Lectioary/Worship Information

Sunday, June 5, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English) (Students Day) & (Medical Aid Fund Day for Clergy) Knowledge and Wisdom—Gift of God	
Lesson 1: Prov. 2:1-12	Epistle: Rom 11:25-36
Lesson 2: James 3:13-18	Gospel: Luke 2:41-52
Sunday, June 12, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Pentecost Sunday-50th Day after Resurrection & Environmental Sunday Holy Spirit who Renews all the Creations	
Lesson 1: Joel 2:28-32	Epistle: Eph 4:17-24
Lesson 2: Acts 2:1-13	Gospel: John 16:7-15
Sunday, June 19, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English) Second Sunday after the Pentecost—Trinity Sunday Triune God at the baptism of Jesus	
Lesson 1: Genesis 18:1-15	Epistle: 1 John 5:1-12
Lesson 2: Eph 2:11-22	Gospel: Mat. 3:13-17
Sunday, June 26, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Third Sunday after the Pentecost Discipleship—Call for Taking Cross	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings 2:1-15	Epistle: Philippians 2:12-18
Lesson 2: 1 Peter 4:12-19	Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.

Liturgy of Sacraments – Continued from last issue.

Sacrament of Holy Unction or Anointing the sick.

This is a sacrament of healing and participation in Jesus` healing ministry. The three fold ministry of Jesus included teaching, preaching and healing. Jesus healed the sick and the apostles were called to do this ministry of Jesus. The Church as a healing community is entrusted to do this ministry.

Anointing the sick by oil was practiced in the early Church (Mk:6:3; James:5:14-16).

We have two services of healing in Mar Thoma Church.

1. Anointing the sick with olive oil and praying.

This service includes the following:

Confession of the patient to the Lord,

Reading of the Scripture (Pss:6:1-4; James:5:13-19; Mark:10:5-10).

Laying on of hands and

Anointing the sick with oil and prayer for the patient.

2. Prayer for the terminally ill without anointing.

For the patients who are beyond recovery, the minister makes the sign of the cross on forehead of the sick and prays.

Purpose of this Sacrament:

The Church affirms that it is with the sick during the trouble.

The entire Church prays for the sick to be healed by Jesus Christ.

Jesus gives the complete healing including physical, mental, social and spiritual aspects.

It is the time to experience God`s Grace and Mercy which are given freely.

Note: In the next issue The Sacrament of the Holy Ordination will be discussed.

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

WHEN FEAR KNOCKS...



He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
- MARK 4:40 NIV

What are you afraid of?! Why don't we step out of our comfort zones and "run the race" or "fight the good fight" in our Christian life? What is the connection between faith and fear?

Fear is one of the least understood yet, one of the most powerful elements in the human experience. Although, the physiological response of fear may serve to physically protect in times of danger it may also likely work to "paralyze" spiritual, social, psychological and mental growth. That is why it is most important that we discern our fears and assert our faith towards a more fruitful Christian life and witness. Towards that end, we need:

True Courage to be Christians

In the gospel of St. Mark 4:35-41, this very concept of fear and faith are juxtaposed. In this passage, Jesus questions his disciples by asking, "why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? (v.40)". That is, in one sense their fear is established as equal to lack of faith. It is a subtle way of not believing, of not trusting in the Lord. It is subtle because it does not seem like rejection, but we have to look at things more in depth. The harsh conditions in which the poor are living, the violence present in the world and the discouragement that this produces are serious challenges to the evangelizing task of the church in the world. In light of this situation, some find reasons not to see reality truly as it is; in this way they try to escape from the commitments that a truly evangelical attitude and mission demands. Often it is the fear of losing present security to assume total availability to the Lord's will. Thus, it is truly when we "let go and let God" that we may fulfill the missional identity that we are *all* called to in the commission, "as the Father sent me, so I send you" (St. John 20:21). As such, we must recognize that fear in the presence of challenges of the gospel hides something very grave: faith.

True Love to be Christians

FORGET ME NOT, O LORD!

By Miriam Chacko

Frequently we pray that God would not forget us in the hour of trial, temptation, sickness, etc. Very often we don't understand that we should use this prayer at all times. There is no moment in our lives which we can't do without HIS constant upholding. Whether in light, or darkness; in communion or in temptation, we need the prayer "Forsake me not O Lord," hold me up and I will be safe. A little child, while learning to walk, always needs his/her mother's hand for protection. The ship left by the pilot drifts at once from her course. Some way we can't do anything without God's control. He is our controller of everything. He is our solid rock. We need His help to escape from our enemies. He is our good shepherd. So we have to pray to Him for our safety from all kinds of dangers. He is our Great Husbandman and pray that He wouldn't forsake lest the plant wither and die. Father forsake me not in my joys lest they absorb my heart. Forsake me not in my sorrows lest we murmur against you. Don't forsake me at the hour of my repentance lest I lose the hope and forgiveness and fall into despair. Do not forsake me in the day of my strongest faith, lest faith degenerate into presumption. Father my paths are full of dangers and snares and I can't do without Your guidance and protection. I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me. When I am in Christ, thought I am weak, I am strong. In Christ, I am more than a conqueror. The hen doesn't forsake her brood; will You then cover me evermore with your feathers and permit me to find refuge under your everlasting arms. Leave me not and neither forsake me, O God of my salvation (Ps 27:9)

Dear Graduates

അമ്മ തൻ ഉദരത്തിൽ ഉരുവാകും മുൻപേ
ദൈവം തൻ ഡയറിയിൽ കുറിച്ചിട്ടു നിൻ നാമം.
പാരിതിൽ പിറന്നതാം നാൾ മുതൽ ഇന്നോളം
കാത്തതാം ദൈവം തൻ സ്നേഹത്തെ ഓർത്തിടാം.
വേതനമില്ലാതെ ലാളിച്ചു വളർത്തുവാൻ
മാതാപിതാക്കളെ നൽകി ഈ പാരിതിൽ
കുഞ്ഞിക്കാലുകൾ വളർന്നൊന്നു കാണുവാൻ
ഏറെ കൊതിച്ചവർ വർഷങ്ങൾ പിന്നിട്ടു
ശിശുവായിരുന്ന പൈതലേ നീ ഇന്ന്
കൗമാരപ്രായത്തിലായതറിഞ്ഞില്ലേ?
ശാസന, ശിക്ഷണം, എല്ലാം നിൻ നന്മയ്ക്കായ്
തന്ന നിൻ മാതാപിതാക്കളേ
മറക്കല്ലേ മക്കളേ നിൻ ജീവിതത്തിൽ
പറക്കുവാൻ പഠിച്ചൊരു പക്ഷിയേ പോൽ നിൻ
ജീവിതം സാതന്ത്ര്യമായി തുടങ്ങുന്നു
ലക്ഷ്യത്തിലേക്കു മാത്രം പറക്കുവാൻ
ദൈവത്തിൽ ആശ്രയം വയ്ക്കു നീ മക്കളേ
ലോകത്തിൻ മോഹങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റും നിൻ ജീവിതം
ഇഷ്ടമായ് പലതും തോന്നും നിൻ ജീവിതം
നഷ്ടമായ് പോകുവാൻ പാടില്ല മക്കളേ
പിന്നിട്ട ദിനങ്ങളോ പട്ടുപോയ് കാലത്തിൽ
പിന്നോട്ടു പോകുവാൻ സാധ്യമല്ല ജീവിതം
മുൻപോട്ടു പോകും നിൻ ആയുസ്സിൻ നാളുകൾ
പാഴായി പോകുവാൻ പാടില്ല മക്കളേ
ഉന്നത ലക്ഷ്യത്തിൽ ഉന്നം വയ്ക്കു നീ
ലക്ഷ്യത്തിലേക്കു മാത്രം പറക്കുവാൻ
ഏല്പിക്കു നിൻ ജീവിതം ദൈവത്തിൻ കരങ്ങളിൽ.

By Lizy Philip

“But if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone and the new as come”. 2 Corinthians 5:17. We often tend to be afraid of what is new. We are comfortable with our mediocrity and prefer to travel on known roads where those we encounter would greet us rather than question us. We are inclined to cover the message of the gospel which is always life and newness in old frameworks. The priority thus seems to be peace and tranquility first, than gospel demands. However, as Christians we must perpetuate the newness of our faith through love and service to others. That is, being in Christ requires imagination and creativity placed at the service of others. Thus, Christians are those who constantly invent forms of loving, in terms of real relationships, sacrificial service to our neighbors, especially the most needy, poor and oppressed. This requires not being narrowly-mindedly distracted by the problems we may invent to avoid looking at the inhuman reality face-to-face and to stay on grounds that do not question us. As St. Paul says the “love of Christ urges me on”; let us experience the same urgency (2 Cor. 5:14). Love is the deepest source of our joy but, it also demands that we be open to God and to the lives of others. If there is faith there is not fear of difficulties or threats. So, let us move forward for God in faith and love!

May God strengthen us to grow express our faith in boldness through our word, thoughts and deeds!

Prayers and Love,
Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

Thursdays - Prayer Call

Fridays - Prayer Fellowship -

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:

PRAYER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF OF MR & MRS. BINCENT JACOB & NISHA, 4418 GRANTHAM DR., GARLAND, TX 75043 ON SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2011 - 7:00 PM.

PARISH MISSION:

Fridays at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

Sundays at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

CHOIR:

Thursdays - Malayalam Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of Malayalam Qurbana

Saturdays - English Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of English Qurbana..

BIRTHDAYS

1-Jun	Abraham Perumal	Mesquite	10-Jun	Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale
1-Jun	John Thomas(Kunju)	Mesquite	10-Jun	George John	Mesquite
1-Jun	Varghese A. Varghese	Garland	13-Jun	Michelle Mathai	Mesquite
2-Jun	Jacob C .C	Garland	17-Jun	Shilu Varghese	Rockwall
2-Jun	John K John	Mesquite	17-Jun	Thomas P . Chacko	Garland
2-Jun	Susan SaumiChacko	Mesquite	19-Jun	Abigail Lilly Mammen	Rockwall
4-Jun	Bassy Philip	Grand Prairie	20-Jun	Joice Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
4-Jun	Sosamma Varghese	Fate	22-Jun	Raju Chacko	Rowlett
4-Jun	Jeeanan Simon	Garland	25-Jun	Thomas Philip	Garland
5-Jun	Amita Elizabeth Edison	Garland	26-Jun	Sherril Ann Raju	Mesquite
5-Jun	Kunjamma Thomas	Garland	30-Jun	Annamma Thomas	McKinney
8-Jun	Ashish Mathai	Mesquite			
8-Jun	Jenny Mammen	Rockwall			
8-Jun	Lincy George	McKinney			
8-Jun	Subin John	Mesquite			
9-Jun	Joseph Koshy	Garland			
09-Jun	Lysamma George	Garland			
10-Jun	Keren Cherian	Sunnyvale			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Reji Philip Thomas	Garland
6-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. John K . Mathew	Mesquite
7-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Beji Pappachan	Mesquite
8-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Jonathan Jones Mathew	Sunnyvale
9-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abey Kuruvilla	Wylie
12-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Anish Mathew Thomas	Garland
14-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Juby Joseph	Garland
17-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Bincent Jacob	Garland
19-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Abraham Koshy	Mesquite
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Zachariah Thomas	Sunnyvale
20-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. George Mammen	Rockwall
26-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Alex Koshy	Garland
30-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Viju Varghese	Rowlett
30-Jun	Mr.&Mrs. Thomas George	Rockwall