

JAIPUR



DARPAN

June 2024

DIOCESE OF JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Vol. 19 No. 6





Blessing and Inauguration of the New School Block and Auditorium, Chomu



Silver Jubilee Inauguration Mass of Rev Fr. James T.M, Mansarovar

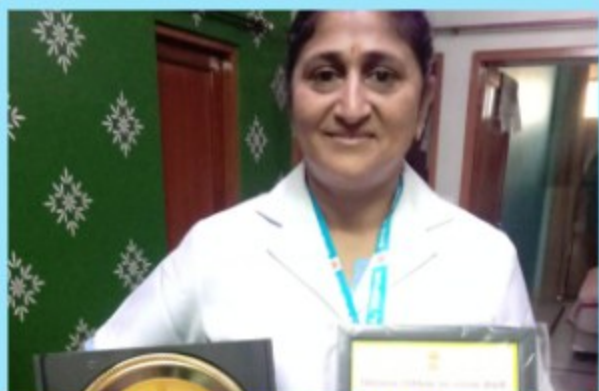


**St Xaviers : Welcoming the
New PP-Rev Fr Nelson D'silva SJ**

St Xaviers : Farewell to Rev Fr KP George SJ



Mrs. Jessy Sabu awarded the best Sr. Nursing Officer Award



Mrs. Seema Jose- Hospital Level Award for Services, Mahila Chikitsalaya



Nurses Day Celebration, Malviya Nagar



Ms. Neena Richin- International Nurses Council, Saudi Arabia



Academic Toppers Award-Class X and XII, Malviya Nagar



Farewell to Fr Thomas M and Sr Tessy Rose CMC, Malviya Nagar



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PREVIOUS ISSUE

JAIPUR DARPAN

**CONTENTS**

2	Bishop's Schedule
3	Editorial
4	Bishop's Message
5	धर्माध्यक्ष का संदेश
6	One Minute for Peace-8 th June 2024
8	Nav Sadhana-Hindi/English Logos Bible Quiz-2024
13	News of the Month
22	Ordinary Time on the Liturgical Calendar
23	Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
25	The Gaze of Jesus
26	Why we make the sign of the Cross
27	Inspirational Story.... Do you love me ?
28	Saint of the month.... St. Barnabas, Apostle
29	Popes down the ages.... Pope Paul-I
30	Remembering-Rev. Fr Anthony Chelakat, SJ
31	Bible Quiz-Answers-May 2024
31	Bible Quiz-Questions-June 2024
32	Sunday Readings and Meditation
36	Dates to Remember-June 2024



BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
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JUNE 2024

1st to 3rd

Annual Seminar & Training of Regional CCBI Women Council at Meerut, (Agra Region)

10.06.2024

Visit to Lalsot

16.06.2024

8.00 a.m.

Holy Mass / Installation of the new Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Annunciation Cathedral, Malviya Nagar

27.06.2024

5.00 p.m.

Holy Mass – Inauguration of the Bible Convention, Malankara Church at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Mansarovar

Come Summer With Me, Lord

I offer you these months, Lord,
Come summer with me, Lord;
summer deep down in my soul;
restore my faith in summer's time,
in rest, in joy, in play, in you...
Summer in my heart, Lord,
and dwell there
as if time would never end,
as if all time were children's time, eternal time
when school is always out and joy is ever in...
And let others summer in my shade, Lord,
and share whatever summer's peace is mine to give,
whatever summer's light is mine to shed,
whatever summer's warmth is mine to share
Good God of every season and every day this week,
come summer with me, Lord, and let the child in my heart
spend this summer in your love...Amen

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION



For Migrants Fleeing Their Homes -

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.





Dear Friends,

I vividly remember those summer holidays when I was about seven years old. Back then, I desperately wanted to ride a bicycle like my elder brother did. I persistently pestered my dad to teach me. After much persuasion, my dad finally agreed. He sat on the back carrier of my cycle and, with one effortless motion, swooped me up into the seat. I was thrilled. Perched there, I felt very important—and a little afraid. But having my dad there gave me confidence. The bicycle seat was much higher than it looked from below.

Next, my dad said, "Ready?" I nodded and replied, "Yes, Dad." Then, with a little tug, I began pedaling. My back was arched, my hands gripped the handlebars tightly, and I kept looking straight ahead. At the same time, I was trying to steady the wobbling handlebars, which didn't seem to respond to my commands. Although shaky, I managed to stay on the bike, skillfully maneuvering around the potholes. I was so happy.

It's unfortunate that I don't have a picture of that day. There was a look of grim determination on my face because I believed I was steering the bike firmly and straight. A photo would have captured the reality: my dad's smile, his one hand holding the back of the seat, and his other hand around my waist to keep me steady. He smiled because he knew the truth. He had full control of the bike and made sure no harm would come to me.

Riding the bike was an excellent image of faith. Faith means being up high and moving forward. It means doing your part. But most importantly, faith means knowing whose hands are on the steering wheel with yours. It means knowing who is cradling you with a mighty yet gentle grip. It means knowing that Jesus is in control of everything and no real harm can come to us, no matter what.

Faith can have many synonyms, but for me, the best synonym for faith is trust. Trust usually implies reliance on another person. That person, of course, is God, who is with us on the rough and bumpy road called life. He steers us safely home.

As we celebrate the feasts of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us remember that these feasts remind us of the inexhaustible love of Jesus for us. These celebrations also aim to make reparation for the iniquities of humanity that pierced the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When we think of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we reflect on the infinite love the Father made manifest through Jesus, who suffered and died for us. The blood and water that flow from the side of the Lord signify that the Church and the sacraments spring from the open side of Jesus. The Heart of Jesus is always yearning for us. This feast should lead us closer to our faith.

In this month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us pray for the grace to not only comprehend God's infinite love for us but also to reciprocate that love in abundant measure and deepen our faith in Him.

Fr Melvin Jobard



Bishop's Message

Most Rev Joseph Kallarackal, Bishop of Jaipur



As we enter the month of June, we are reminded of the many blessings that our loving God has bestowed upon us. This month, we celebrate several important feasts and observances that highlight the beauty of Mother Church and our own faith.

First and foremost we honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion that reminds us of God's infinite love and mercy for us. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11: 28-29). On the feast of the Sacred Heart, let us take a moment to reflect on the depth of God's love for us and express our gratitude for the sacrifice of Our Lord for entire humanity. Mother Church also celebrates in this month the Feast of Corpus Christi, which honours the Institution of the Holy Eucharist. This feast is a powerful reminder of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the importance of reverence and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is the most precious gift that God has given to man.

The celebration of 'Corpus Christi,' the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ is a Mystery being cherished every day and lived most significantly in our day to day life. It is the celebration of the love of God, made visible in the person of Our Lord Jesus, his Divine Son. By offering for us his Body and Blood Jesus Our Lord has renewed the old covenant. The Eucharist reveals to us mystery of Christian life – of love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation, sacrifice, self giving and service.

Furthermore in June we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that inspires us to imitate Mary's virtues and devotion. As we honour Mary's Immaculate Heart, let us ask for her intercession to guide us on our faith journey.

As we begin this new month let us entrust ourselves into hands of God and trust in His unconditional love for each of us and be united with him in prayer.

May I request you to pray daily for timely and sufficient rain in Rajasthan. May God bless you all.



धर्मध्यक्ष का संदेश

Most Rev Joseph Kallarackal, Bishop of Jaipur



जैसे ही हम जून के महीने में प्रवेश करते हैं, हमें उन कई आशीर्वादों की याद आती है जो ईश्वर ने हमें दिए हैं। इस महीने, हम कई महत्वपूर्ण पर्व और अनुष्ठान मनाते हैं जो माता कलीसिया की सुंदरता और हमारे विश्वास को उजागर करते हैं।

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि हम येशु के पवित्र हृदय का सम्मान करते हैं, यह एक ऐसी भक्ति है जो हमें ईश्वर के अनंत प्रेम और दया की याद दिलाती है। “हे थके-माँदे और बोझ से दबे लोगो तुम सभी मेरे पास आओ, मैं तुम्हें विश्राम दूँगा। मेरा जूआ अपने ऊपर ले लो और मुझ से सीखो, क्योंकि मैं स्वभाव से नम्र और विनीत हूँ, और इस तरह तुम अपनी आत्मा के लिए शान्ति पाओगे” (मत्ती 11:28-29)। पवित्र हृदय के पर्व पर हम एक क्षण के लिए हमारे प्रति ईश्वर के प्रेम की गहराई पर विचार करें और संपूर्ण मानवता के लिए हमारे प्रभु के बलिदान के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त करें। माता कलीसिया इस महीने ख्रीस्त के शरीर और रक्त का पर्व भी मनाती है। यह पर्व यूखरिस्त में येशु की वास्तविक उपस्थिति और धन्य संस्कार से पहले श्रद्धा और आराधना के महत्व का एक शक्तिशाली अनुस्मारक है। यूखरिस्त ईश्वर द्वारा मनुष्य को दिया गया सबसे अनमोल उपहार है।

ईसा मसीह का अति पवित्र शरीर और रक्त का उत्सव एक रहस्य है जिसे हर दिन संजोया जाता और हमारे दैनिक जीवन में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण

रूप से जीवित रखा जाता है। यह ईश्वर के प्रेम का उत्सव है, जो हमारे प्रभु येशु ख्रीस्त के व्यक्तित्व में दिखाई देता है। हमारे प्रभु येशु ने हमारे लिए अपना शरीर और रक्त अर्पित करके पुराने व्यवस्थान को नवीनीकृत किया है। यूखरिस्त हमें प्रभु येशु ख्रीस्त के जीवन का रहस्य समझाता जो कि है – प्रेम, करुणा, क्षमा, मेल-मिलाप, बलिदान, आत्मदान और सेवा।

इसके अलावा, जून परंपरागत रूप से धन्य कुंवारी मरियम का निर्मल हृदय का पर्व मनाती है, जो हमें मनन चिन्तन द्वारा माता मरियम के गुणों और उनके बेटे के प्रति समर्पण का अनुकरण करने के लिए प्रेरित करता है। जैसा कि हम माता मरियम के बेदाग हृदय का सम्मान करते हैं, आइए हम अपनी आस्था यात्रा में हमारा मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए उनकी मध्यस्थता की प्रार्थना करें।

जैसे ही हम इस नए महीने की शुरुआत करते हैं, आइए हम खुद को ईश्वर के हाथों में सौंप दें और हम में से प्रत्येक ईश्वर के प्रेम पर भरोसा करें और प्रार्थना में उसके साथ एकजुट रहें।

मैं आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ, कि आप राजस्थान में समय पर और पर्याप्त बारिश के लिए प्रतिदिन ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करें।

ईश्वर की कृपा आप सब पर बनी रहे।





TO MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES

8 May 2024

One minute for peace (Un minuto por la paz UMPP) is 10 years old. This simple initiative grew out of an appeal by Pope Francis during a meeting to pray for peace on 8 June 2014, together with the President of Israel (Shimon Peres), the President of the Palestinian Authority (Maḥmūd Abbās - Abu Mazen) and the Patriarch of Constantinople (Bartholomew I) in the Vatican gardens.

Every year, we will provide a minute for peace, to involve an always greater number of people: in the family, among friends, in our association, with other lay associations, among civil society bodies, in our parishes, dioceses, neighbourhoods, cities, ...

One minute for peace is unfortunately timely: this year 2024 records a large number of active conflicts, known and unknown, with tragic consequences for populations, for too many children, women, elderly, frail people, for too many young people.

The ISSUE chosen for the 10th anniversary is **"WE WANT PEACE. An urgency, a right, a necessity"** to call each and everyone to pray for peace and to motivate a commitment that requires the participation of all in the logic of the Beatitudes, on the path of dialogue, for a culture of encounter, of embracing people and peoples.

We thank Pope Francis who never stops to remind us that war is madness, to pray for those who suffer, to urge the persons responsible in the countries and in the international organisations to dialogue, to a cease-fire, ...

Forum Internazionale di Azione Cattolica – International Forum of Catholic Action

Via della Conciliazione 1 – 00193 Roma – Italia tel. + 39 06661321 info@catholicactionforum.org - www.catholicactionforum.org





Saturday **8 JUNE** at **13:00** (in every country)

Wherever you are: work, school, university, neighbourhood, family, friends, parish...

Stop, bow your head and say **a prayer for peace** according to your belief.

Invite all members, friends from other associations, denominations, religions, **all people of goodwill from all over the world.**

IT'S OUR TURN!

In this drive you will find informative material about the initiative, which is also on the website, we submit it to you so that you can promote UMPP 2024 in your country with your communication channels and your creativity:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zyJ3abcdTRImBtth7KGWNbanhBNdz-Rd?usp=sharing>

We invite you to follow the updates in the coming days and weeks on the IFCA website and on the UMPP and IFCA social networks

https://www.catholicactionforum.org/initiatives_posts/8june2024-one-minute-for-peace/

We awaited from you the translation of the ISSUE into your language so that we can add the flyer among others in the website photogallery, videos and photos to share (catholicactionforum@gmail.com). Thank you!

A cordial greeting, in Christ

Eva Fernández Mateo
IFCA Secretariat Coordinator

Msgr. Eduardo H. García
Ecclesiastical Assistant

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NAV SADHANA

THE REGIONAL PASTORAL CENTRE

House No. 204/38 & 206, Tarna, P.O. - Shivpur, Varanasi - 221003, U.P., INDIA

Monday, November 27, 2023

Your Grace/Excellency/Diocesan Directors of Bible Apostolate,

Greetings from Nav Sadhana, Varanasi.

First of all, on behalf of Agra Regional Bible Institute I thank you for your fraternal guidance and direction in our ministry at the Regional Pastoral Centre. With gratitude we raise our hearts to God for His gracious presence and protection and inspiring us to continue the mission of His Son.

Regional Bible Institute under the guidance of Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza, Bishop of Bareilly and Chairman, Commission for Bible (Agra Region) is organizing the Logos Bible Quiz and Bible Writing Competition 2024. Let us encourage our faithful to participate in large numbers and bring them closer to the Lord.

I am glad to communicate to you the details of Logos Bible Quiz and Bible Writing Competition 2024.

Subject:

10th Hindi/English Logos Bible Quiz – 2024

Syllabus: Logos Bible Quiz Written Examinations at the Diocesan Level (First Round and Semi-Final): NRSV Bible (for English) and Camil Bulke Edition (for Hindi)

Judges: Chapters 11-21; Sirach: Chapters 41-51; Luke: Chapters 17-24; Galatians: Chapters 1-6
न्यायकर्ताओं का ग्रन्थ: 11-21; प्रवक्ता 41-51; लुकास 17-24; गलातियों 1-6

Syllabus: FINAL:

Judges: Chapters 11-21; Sirach: Chapters 41-51; Luke: Chapters 17-24; Galatians: Chapters 1-6;
Background to the Gospels 1-8

न्यायकर्ताओं का ग्रन्थ: 11-21; प्रवक्ता 41-51; लुकास 17-24; गलातियों 1-6; सुरागाचारों की पृष्ठभूमि: अध्याय 1-8

Date of Registration:

From July 1 – 15, 2024

First Diocesan Level Examination:

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Second Diocesan Level Examination (Semi-Final):

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Final – QUIZ (Oral/Multimedia & Written) will be held at Nav Sadhana, Regional Pastoral Centre, Varanasi on Saturday/Sunday, November 16-17, 2024.

9th Logos Bible Writing – 2024

Syllabus: Historical Books (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings)
(For English - New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or English Standard Version Catholic Edition (ESVCE) Bible; for Hindi - Camil Bulke)

Date of Submission: before October 25, 2024

1

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Details of Registration & Examinations

LOGOS BIBLE QUIZ-2024

Registrations are open for all Catholics irrespective of their age as all the participants will be divided into six age groups:

A Group-those born after 1st January, 2013 (11 years)

B Group-those born between 1st January 2008 to 31st December, 2012 (12 to 16 years)

C Group-those born between 1st January 2003 to 31st December, 2007 (17 to 21 years)

D Group-those born between 1st January 1992 to 31st December, 2002 (22 to 32 years)

E Group-those born between 1st January 1972 to 31st December, 1991 (33 to 52 years)

F Group-those born before 31st December, 1971.

Registration fee is only Rs. 10/ per head. All registrations should be done from **July 1 to 15, 2024** and information should reach the headquarters by **July 25, 2024** and the amount should be transferred into the account of Regional Bible Institute, Varanasi (details will be given later).

Two Rounds of Diocesan Level Exams will be held in the Diocese this year too. **First Round of Written Examination** will be held in various Centers in the Diocese (approximately 20 participants for a Centre), under the supervision of the Diocesan Director of Bible Commission on **Sunday, August 18, 2024 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** The evaluation of the First Round of Written Examination will take place in the Diocesan headquarters under the supervision of the Director. Top three from each group will be qualified for the **Second Round of Written Examination (also called Semi-Final)** which will take place in the **Diocesan headquarters on Sunday, September 22, 2024 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** Once the Second Round of Written Examination (SEMI-Final) is conducted in the Diocese, the Directors will send the Answer Sheets (of the Second Round of Written Exams) to Nav Sadhana, Varanasi and the Answer Sheets should reach Nav Sadhana, latest by **October 1, 2024**. Nav Sadhana team will evaluate the Answer Sheets of all Six Groups (A, B, C, D, E, F) and select top TEN from each group and they will be qualified/called for the **FINAL QUIZ** (oral, multimedia & Written) to be held in Nav Sadhana, Regional Pastoral Centre, Varanasi on **Saturday/Sunday, November 16-17, 2024**.

Question Papers as well as Answer Sheets (for both First & Semi Final-Round of Diocesan Level Exams to be conducted in the Diocese) will be emailed (soft copy) to the Directors in advance. There will be 100 multi-choice questions for which the participants will have to darken the correct answers in the given answer sheets + three short answer questions.

FINAL QUIZ will be held at Nav Sadhana, Regional Pastoral Centre, Varanasi on **Saturday/Sunday, November 16-17, 2024**.

Bible Writing Competition 2024

Bible Writing competition is held to encourage our faithful to write the word of God and thereby experience the power of the word of God. All Catholics are eligible for the same with no registration fee. They have to write the prescribed books in A-4 size papers by themselves either in Hindi or in English and submit the same to the Diocesan Directors, Commission for Bible latest by **October 25, 2024**.





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This year, Regional Commission for Bible has decided to evaluate the handwritten Bibles for **Laity** and **Religious** separately and the prizes will be given. Therefore, **FOUR BEST ENTRIES (TWO from Laity Bible Writers and TWO from Religious Bible Writers)** will be selected from each Diocese by the Director and those selected Bibles should be sent to Nav Sadhana, Varanasi for the Final Scrutiny to be held along with **Logos Bible Quiz Competition 2024**. It may be noted that the Bible writers need not come in person to Nav Sadhana during the final scrutiny.

Guidelines for the Bible Writing

1. For English – New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or English Standard Version Catholic Edition (ESVCE) Bible; for Hindi (Camil Bulke)
2. Should be written in unruled/plain white papers only
3. Only A-4 size paper to be used
4. Both sides of the paper could be used for writing
5. Margin - One inch
6. Footnote could be avoided
7. Only blue/black ink should be used and NO red ink or any other colour to be used
8. Utmost care/importance to be given to punctuations: comma, full stop, colon, semi colon, question mark, brackets, quotation marks, hyphen, apostrophe etc.
9. The Holy Bible does not have any border or picture or any decoration or drawing or colours, therefore, these must be avoided.
10. The Bible writers should just copy the Bible since Bible Writing is to duplicate the Original
11. Please see that the Writers of the Bible write their names only once in the last page
12. Before forwarding the Written Bibles for the final scrutiny to Nav Sadhana, Varanasi, the Written Bibles should bear the Signature of the Diocesan Director, Commission for Bible or the Local Ordinary

Note: Should any of the above criteria is not followed, the Directors are requested to not forward the Written Bibles for the final scrutiny to Nav Sadhana, Varanasi.

LOGOS BIBLE QUIZ FINAL 2024 (Oral - using Multimedia & Written)

Commission for Bible (Agra Region) will conduct **SIX FINALS** of the Logos Bible Quiz 2024 to each GROUP separately. Each Group will comprise of TEN toppers (A=10, B=10, C=10, D=10, E=10 and F=10) qualified from the SEMI-FINAL (Second Round of Written Examination conducted in the Diocese). **FINALS** will have two parts:

TWO PARTS:

(1) First Part – Quiz - Oral – Multimedia

- First part of the Logos Quiz Final will be conducted for those top TEN TOPPERS qualified from the Semi-Final (Second Round of Examination held in the Diocese) from each Group separately. Then, TOP THREE from each Group (A, B, C, D, E, F), that is, 3 x 6 = 18 will be qualified for the Written Exam (to determine the Winners - Champion, 1st Runner up & 2nd Runner up).

3

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(2) Second Part – Written Exam (objective – multiple choice) for half an hour

- The Top three (First, Second and Third) from each Group after the First Part - Quiz - Oral – Multimedia (A=3, B=3, C=3, D=3, E=3, F=3) i.e., a total of 18 will have **Written Exam** (objective - multiple choice) for half an hour.

FINAL WINNERS of the LOGOS BIBLE QUIZ 2024: Champion, 1st Runner up and 2nd Runner up will be decided only after totaling the marks obtained from the **Quiz Oral - multimedia** (First Part) and **Written Exam-objective –multiple choice** (Second Part).

Prizes: FINAL:

- Each Group (A, B, C, D, E, F) will have a Champion. He/she will be awarded with a cash prize of Rs: 20,000/=, Trophy and Certificate
- Each Group 1st Runner up and 2nd Runner up will get Cash awards of Rs: 10,000/= and 5,000/= respectively with trophies and certificates
- Remainder seven from each Group will be awarded with Rs: 1,000/= each and certificate

Bible Writing Competition 2024

Since there will be a separate evaluation of the Bible Writing by the Laity and the Bible Writing by the Religious, the Prizes will be in two (Laity & Religious) categories:

- Each category Winner (First) will get Rs: 10,000/=, trophy and certificate
- 1st Runner up from each category will get Rs: 7,000/=, trophy and certificate
- 2nd Runner up from each category will get Rs: 5,000/=, trophy and certificate
- For each category, five consolation prizes of Rs: 2,000/=, trophy and certificates

The participants of the **FINALS** of the Logos Bible Quiz 2024 are requested to reach Nav Sadhana, Regional Pastoral Centre, Varanasi on Saturday, November 16, 2024 (before noon). **FINALS QUIZ** (oral-multimedia and Written) will be on Saturday/Sunday, November 16-17, 2024.

For further details you may contact:

- Fr. Francis D'Souza
Director
Nav Sadhana, Regional Pastoral Centre
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NAV SADHANA

THE REGIONAL PASTORAL CENTRE

House No. 204/38 & 206, Tarna, P.O. - Shivpur, Varanasi - 221003, U.P., INDIA

To the attention of the Diocesan Directors of Bible Apostolate:

1. Kindly note the changes that have been introduced this year with regards the Logos Bible Quiz 2024: Each Group will have a FINAL in two parts (Oral/Multimedia & Written), ten participants in each group for the finals, guidelines for the Bible Writing and evaluation of the Written Bibles in two categories (written by Laity and Religious).
2. Camil Bulke Edition (for Hindi), and, either New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or English Standard Version Catholic Edition (ESVCE) Bible (for English) could be used for Bible Writing Competition 2024. But, only NRSV Bible (for English) and Camil Bulke Edition (for Hindi) will be used for Logos Bible Quiz Competition 2024. The Directors are requested to communicate to the participants.

Please contact Sr. Lucy Lasrado, Secretary (Office, Nav Sadhana, Varanasi. Mob: 8353989065) for copies of the book सुसमाचारों की पृष्ठभूमि (Rs. 100+ postage Rs. 50/) or Background to the Gospels (Rs. 300 + postage Rs. 50). This book is required only for the **Final**.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Fr. Francis D'Souza
Director/Secretary, Commission for Bible





Pope proclaims Jubilee Year 2025

At a ceremony in St Peter's Basilica on Ascension Thursday, Pope Francis solemnly proclaims the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025, consigning the

Bull of Indiction – “**Spes non confundit. Hope does not disappoint**” – to the Archpriests of the Papal Basilicas and representatives of the world's bishops. “Hope” is the overarching theme of the upcoming Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, a theme reflected in the opening words of the Bull of Indiction, entitled “**Spes non confundit. Hope does not disappoint.**”

Pope: May the Jubilee be a time to rediscover, proclaim, build hope

In *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis announces that the Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024. Later, on 29 December, the Pope will open the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. On the same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral throughout the world will have Mass celebrated by the local Bishop to mark the opening of the Jubilee.

On the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 1 January 2025, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Mary Major, with the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls being opened on Sunday, 5 January, the Vigil of Epiphany. “In the course of the year,” Pope Francis writes, “every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy.” The Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world on 28 December

2025, with the Holy Doors of St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul's Outside the Walls being closed on that same date. And finally, the Jubilee Year will draw to a close in Rome on the Solemnity of Epiphany, 6 January 2026.

An opportunity to be renewed in hope: “Everyone knows what it is to hope,” the Pope wrote in the introduction to the Bull. “In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring.” Expressing his desire that the Jubilee might be “an opportunity for us to be renewed in hope, Pope Francis recalled that pilgrimage is “a fundamental event of every Jubilee event,” traditionally associated with the human quest for the meaning of life. The artistic masterpieces and the beauty of creation we see on our journey inspire us to praise and thank God for His wondrous works. In particular, he invited all the particular churches throughout the world to prepare priests and the faithful for Sacramental Confession, which should be readily available throughout the year.

In a special way, Pope Francis invited the the faithful of the Eastern Churches, especially those already in union with the Successor of Peter, to take part in the Jubilee, and to feel welcome in the city of Rome, noting how many are already “enduring their own way of the Cross,” forced to leave their lands by violence and instability.

The light of Christian hope:

The Holy Father prayed, too, that during the Holy Year, “the light of Christian hope might illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all,” and that “the Church might bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world.” Reading the

“signs of the times,” Pope Francis noted the desire for peace in a world increasingly marked by violence and conflict, and the loss of a desire to have children, with many countries facing a “demographic winter.” He called for a social covenant to support and foster hope.

The Pope appealed especially for prisoners, recalling the tradition of offering amnesty or pardons during Jubilees, and said he hopes to personally open a Holy Door in a prison, “as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence.” And he called for prisoners to be treated in accord with their rights and dignity, while once again pleading for the abolition of the death penalty. The Bull continues with Pope Francis urging that hope be offered to the sick, to the young and to the elderly – especially grandparents, to migrants and to the poor.

The Holy Father recalled that the fruits of the earth are intended for all, and encouraged everyone to come to the assistance of the poor. In particular, he called on richer nations to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them.

Recalling that 2025 is the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council, Pope Francis urged expressions of synodality, and renewed efforts to further Christian unity. He appealed especially for progress to be made toward a common celebration of Easter, noting that in 2025, providentially, all Christians will celebrate the Paschal mystery on the same date.

The Church has a 'Jubilee Year' coming up. What's that?

What is a Jubilee Year ?

A Jubilee Year is a special celebration the Church holds at least once every 25 years. It's a year of pilgrimages, of a focus on the spiritual life, of confession and special Masses, and of a general turn towards God in thanksgiving, and in repentance. It's often said that Jubilee years are all about seeking and giving forgiveness - asking

A Holy Year marked by hope:

Pope Francis insisted that Christian hope, rooted in Christ's death and resurrection for each human person, points to our final destiny, eternal happiness with God in heaven. We are saved by God's mercy, seen especially in the gift of indulgences: While Confession washes away our sins, indulgences – including the Jubilee Indulgence – remove the effects of sins forgiven in the Sacrament. In the Bull of Indiction, the Pope notes that the specific conditions for receiving the indulgence will be published soon. The Holy Father concludes the Bull with a final note of hope, praying that “the coming Jubilee will be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God”; and that it might help us recover “the confident trust we require in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation.” *“Let us even now be drawn to this hope!”*

Spes non confundit ends with Pope Francis exclaiming, “Let us even now be drawn to this hope!” He calls on Christians to live a life in keeping with their faith, as a witness and an invitation to all to “hope in the Lord.”

“May the power of hope fill our days,” the Pope says, “as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.”

God and one another for forgiveness, and offering forgiveness to the people we need to forgive.

Customarily, Catholics can receive a “Jubilee indulgence” during a Jubilee year, by going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, praying for the pope, and by making a pilgrimage — either to the basilicas of Rome, to the Holy Land, or the cathedral church of a local diocese.



Those who could not make a pilgrimage could instead make a spiritual sacrifice or a work of mercy.

Where does the idea of a 'Jubilee Year' come from?

In ancient Israel, the Jewish people passed on from each generation a set of customs that placed their calendar on seven-year cycles. For six years, the fields of Israel would be plowed, planted, pruned, and harvested, like most agricultural societies. But in the seventh year, the land would lie fallow for a sabbath year — during which most agricultural labor came to a halt. After every seventh sabbath year, Israel celebrated a Jubilee, slaves would be set free, commercial debts would be canceled, and leased property would be returned to its original owners.

“The Jubilee was a time dedicated in a special way to God,” Pope St. John Paul II wrote. “The Jubilee year was meant to restore equality among all the children of Israel, offering new possibilities to families which had lost their property and even their personal freedom. On the other hand, the Jubilee year was a reminder to the rich that a time would come when their Israelite slaves would once again become their equals and would be able to reclaim their rights.”

“The prescriptions for the Jubilee year largely remained ideals—more a hope than an actual fact. They thus became a prophecy for the future, insofar as they foretold the freedom which would be won by the coming Messiah.” In the Gospel of Luke, Christ said that promise of the Jubilee year was fulfilled by his own Incarnation, that the promise of freedom for captive, and sight for the blind, and liberty for the oppressed would be most fulfilled in his own Messianic identity.

But when did the Church start doing this?

Not for a while, actually. The first Jubilee year was more than 1000 years after Christ's Incarnation. In February 1300, during a period of pandemic, war, and poverty in Europe, Pope Boniface VIII declared a holy year — “a year of

forgiveness of all sins,” in which the pope would ask the Lord to give the Church strength to carry through a difficult time, and pilgrims to Rome would receive indulgences. Boniface decreed that there should be that sort of holy year every 100 years. Thousands of pilgrims made the journey to Rome in the first holy year. A few years later, because people liked the first one so much, Pope Clement VI decided that instead of 100 years, there should be 50 years between the holy years, which had come to be called “Jubilee Years.”

In the 1380s, Pope Urban VI decided the Church should have “Jubilee Years” every 33 years, to honor the life of Christ. There were a few more changes after that. But eventually, by the late 1400s, the Church decided there should be 25 years between Jubilee years, and the practice has mostly continued steadily after that. Since 1500, special doors, called “Holy Doors,” have been used at the major basilicas in Rome, through which pilgrims proceed during Jubilee years.

Between Jubilee years, the Church used constructed walls behind the doors, which the pope would symbolically break when he opened them for pilgrims. Pope St. John Paul II modified the custom in 2000, pushing open the “Holy Doors,” and then kneeling down in prayer at the threshold of each of Rome's major basilicas. Passing through the doors is symbolic of interior conversion, and a reminder of Christ's admonition to “knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.”

So one is coming up in 2025? What will happen?

The last “ordinary Jubilee” was in 2000, a year broadly promoted and celebrated by Pope St. John Paul II. But then in 2015, Pope Francis declared an “extraordinary Jubilee” — the Year of Mercy. During that year, indulgences were offered, pilgrimages were organized, and the pope appointed special confessors, “Missionaries of Mercy,” with the faculty to hear confessions and even remit canonical penalties, and a mandate to make themselves available as missionaries of the sacrament of penance.



In 2015, Pope Francis changed Jubilee customs slightly, urging local dioceses to designate not only a pilgrimage site, but also local "Holy Doors" — to give local pilgrims a greater sense of unity with those who could travel to Rome.

It is not known whether the pope will

encourage the same designation in 2025. Nor has a program of Jubilee events in Rome been announced—in 2000, Jubilee events for different groups of Catholics took place throughout the year; it is expected that same kinds of events will be organized in 2025.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Graces Church, Dausa

On 12th May 2024, Our Lady of Grace's Church, Dausa celebrated its annual parish feast with great enthusiasm and spiritual fervour. The celebration was a vibrant display of faith, community bonding, and devotion.

The highlight of the event was the solemn mass presided over by Bishop Joseph Kallarackal, who delivered an inspiring sermon that resonated deeply with the congregation. His words of wisdom and encouragement uplifted the spirits of all present, reminding them of the significance of their faith and the importance of living virtuously.

During the mass, one of our parishioners, Mrs. Sonakshi, received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Kallarackal, marking a significant milestone in her spiritual journey. This sacred moment was accompanied by prayers and blessings from the entire community, reinforcing the bonds of faith and fellowship within the parish.

The atmosphere inside the church was filled with melodious hymns and prayers, creating a sense of reverence and awe. The

colourful decorations adorning the altar and added to the festive ambiance, reflecting the joyous occasion. After the mass, Our parish priest, Fr Lakwin Fernando extended heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the joy of the celebration. He expressed gratitude for the dedication and support of the parishioners, whose collective efforts made the event possible.

To further foster a sense fellowship, the parishioners gathered for a refreshing and joyful time of communal sharing and bonding. This post-mass gathering provided an opportunity for members of the parish to connect, converse, and strengthen their relationships with one another.

The parish feast celebration at Our Lady of Grace's Church, Dausa, was a testament to the vibrant faith and unity of our community. It served as a reminder of the blessings of faith and the importance of coming together in worship and fellowship. As we reflect on this memorable event, may we continue to grow in faith, love, and service to one another.

Mr. Jijo Peter, Dausa

News- Sacred Heart Church, Ghat Gate

On 12th May the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church Ghat Gate celebrated Mother's day and Nurses day. We also bid farewell to the 4 MSA Sisters of our parish.

Special prayers were offered for both Mothers and Nurses. Fr Melvin Jobard blessed them. The parish priest Fr Jijo also blessed the Mothers and Nurses. As a token of love and appreciation flowers were presented to all the women who make so much sacrifices for the good and betterment of their families.

It is indeed a known fact that sisters and fathers are not permanent residents of any place. They are sent to the parishes and Institutions to pray for the people and serve them. They have to be ready to move on their new place when they are called to do so. But we the parishioners feel sad as they become a part and parcel of our parish.

With a heavy heart we bid farewell to Sr. Lavita, Sr. Raseline, Sr. Jessy, and Sr. Aruna.

The Parishioners expressed their sincere



gratitude for all their support and cooperation rendered to the Parish. These Sophia sisters are the backbone of our Parish. We Parishioners thanked the sisters by presenting them with flower bouquets and gifts as a symbol of our love and appreciation

After the Mass refreshments such as samosas, big rice papads and lemonade were served to all which helped to cool us in this scorching summer heat.

Sonali Paul Massey
Ghat Gate

JBS Inter-Church Football Tournament – Season 2-2024 (Lalarpura Parish)

As we enjoy our holiday season during this part of the year, we at St. John the Baptist Church, along with our dedicated youth, organized an Inter-Church 7-a-Side Football Tournament at Regal Sports Club on May 11th and 12th, 2024. The primary intention of this tournament was to bring the youth of our diocese and denominations together and foster a spirit of unity and camaraderie through sports.

On May 11th, we were honored to have our special guest, Rev. Father Xavier Savarimuthu, Principal of St. Xavier's College, Nevta. His presence at our event was a testament to the passion and hard work that drive our athletes. His support encouraged us to compete with integrity and enthusiasm, setting a positive example for all participants.

On May 12th, we were equally privileged to host Rev. Bishop Joseph Kallarackal as our special guest. We are deeply grateful to Rev. Bishop for joining us on that day. His presence highlighted the importance of teamwork, respect, and dedication in sports, motivating every participant to give their best. His involvement not only enhanced the significance of this gathering but also inspired us all to strive for excellence. In total, eight teams participated in the tournament:

1. St. Andrew's Church (MCFC) , Chandpole – Captain: Aditya Edwin
2. St. John Mary Vianney Church, Bagrana – Captain: Ashish Joseph
3. Marthoma Church, Mansarovar – Captain: Edwin
4. Holy Redeemer Church, Jhotwara – Captain: Jaiwin Joy

5. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Mansarovar – Captain: Mebin Thomas
6. St. John the Baptist Church, Lalrapura – Captain: Rohit Dung Dung
7. Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Malviya Nagar – Captain: Shiju
8. St. Mary Malankara Catholic Church, Sodala – Captain: Shine Varghese

The winner of the tournament was St. Andrew's church and runner up St John the Baptist church, Lalarpura. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each player for their incredible performances. Your dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship made the event a true success. I would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Moorthilal for his unwavering support and dedication in making this event both meaningful and enjoyable.

Additionally, I would like to thank our referees and match officials who provided their invaluable support and guidance in organizing this event smoothly and fairly.

Last but certainly not the least, I would like to acknowledge the youth of our parish. Your hard work did not go unnoticed. You were the true pillars of this event, and without your dedication, it would not have been a success. Your efforts exemplify the spirit of our community and the values we hold dear.

Together, we have created lasting memories and strengthened the bonds within our diocese and inter denominations. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this tournament a resounding success. Let us continue to support and inspire each other, both on and off the field.

Liva James
St John the Baptist church, Lalarpura



Blessing and Inauguration of the New School Block and Auditorium- Chomu

The New Block of St. Anselm's Sr. Sec. School Chomu was Blessed and Inaugurated on 13th May 2024. The Inaugural ceremony was a moment of pride and celebration for the Management, Staff and Students. It was a time to Thank God for His benevolence and kindness during the construction. The entire school was filled with joy and happiness. We all experienced the abundant blessings of God the Almighty.

The event commenced with the ribbon cutting ceremony by Most Rev Bishop Joseph Kallarakal. This marked the official opening of the new school block. With this opened a new chapter in the history of St. Anselm, Chomu

providing better facilities for all the students.

The ceremony was graced by a few Fathers from the diocese. It was a joyful celebration for all of us. Soon after the blessing of the new block, we proceeded to the new Auditorium where the programme began with the lighting of the lamp. Thereafter, the students led the gathering into God's presence through a prayer dance.

An affectionate welcome was extended to all our esteemed guests by presenting them with a bouquet of flowers. The programme ended with a Big thanks to Almighty God for all his abundant blessings. The children were given sweets on this joyful occasion.

St Mary's Convent School, Jagatpura Jaipur Earth Day Celebration

The energetic buzz of environmental awareness filled the halls of St Mary's Convent Sr. Sec. School Jagatpura Jaipur on Earth Day this year. The 11th-grade class spearheaded a special assembly to inspire their peers and faculty to become stewards of the planet.

Students delivered informative speeches on pressing environmental issues, including climate change, pollution, and deforestation. They presented data and statistics in a clear and concise manner emphasizing the impact of human actions on the environment.

However, the assembly wasn't all about highlighting problems. The 11th graders also presented solutions and encouraged their fellow students to take action. They offered tips on reducing waste, conserving energy, and

adopting sustainable practices in everyday life.

The assembly culminated in a passionate call to action. Students led the entire school in an Earth Day pledge, vowing to make conscious choices that benefit the environment. The atmosphere crackled with enthusiasm as everyone raised their hands in unison, committed to a greener future.

The Earth Day assembly organized by the 11th grade was a resounding success. It not only informed students about environmental challenges but also empowered them to become agents of change. The assembly left a lasting impression, inspiring the school community to embrace a more sustainable way of living.

Alphonsa Sonu

Teacher, St. Mary's Convent School, Jagatpura

Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee of the Priesthood of Rev Fr James T.M

And he said to them, "Go into the entire world and proclaim the Good News to the whole Creation".
Mark 16:15

On Wednesday, 15th May 2024 Rev Fr James T. M commenced his Jubilee Year Celebration by offering the Holy Mass with his Lordship Most Rev



Bishop Joseph Kallarackal and with other priests of the diocese. It was a matter of great joy for the parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Mansarovar to know that it's the Silver Jubilee year of the priesthood of Rev Fr. James. Father was Ordained on 15th May 2000. He heeded the call of the Almighty to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. The Holy Eucharistic celebration began at 6:45pm in which an introduction was given by Mrs. Chrystable Jobard. She spoke about the kind deeds and benevolence of Fr James. She congratulated father on behalf of all gathered for the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr. Melvin Jobard in his homily reflected on the life of a priest and also his joy of Fr. James being a simple and humble person with a big heart always ready to help others.

Cathedral of Our Lady of Annunciation, Malviya Nagar

Nurses' day celebration

The world over Nurses' day is celebrated on 12th May, to honor the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing. At the Cathedral too, the nursing staff of the parish came forward to celebrate, pray and organize the liturgy of the Sunday Mass. Soon after the Rosary, the nurses entered the church in procession holding lighted candles symbolizing their commitment to their profession. Special prayers were offered for them so that they continue to dedicate themselves in serving the sick. After Mass the nurses were honoured with a shawl, a picture of Divine Mercy and a scapular.

It is a matter of pride for our parish that two of our nurses have received Rajasthan Government awards for their selfless service in the field of nursing. Mrs. Jessy Sabu was awarded best Sr. Nursing Officer Award while Mrs. Seema Jose received the Hospital level award for her service at Mahila Chikitsalaya. Mrs. Neena Richin, wife of Richin Johny of our parish received the best nurse award from International Nurses Council, Saudi Arabia.

We extend our hearty congratulations to all three ladies.

Felicitations to the top achievers of Class X and XII

Four of our parish children brought laurels to the community and their parents by their outstanding performance in the CBSE exam. In X Boards Miss Angelina Joji Jacob secured 96.20%. In XII Boards John Isaac Saldanha secured 95.40%, Nikhil Mathew

During the Holy Eucharist, prayers were offered for the good health of Fr. James as well as for his family members. After the mass there was the cake cutting ceremony. Everyone was then invited for a delicious fellowship meal.

On Tuesday, 21st May 2024, we celebrated the Birthday of Rev Fr James. Father was the main celebrant at the Holy Eucharist. An introduction was given by Mrs. Vimla Rawat who highlighted the good qualities of Fr. James. During the mass, prayers were offered for Fr. James and his family members as well as for the departed souls of his family. After the mass father's Birthday was celebrated with the cutting of the cake. The celebration ended with a luscious ice-cream for all those present on the occasion.

Ajay Jose, Mansarovar

93.60% while Evangelin Kaavya Arun secured 92.80%. After Mass on Sunday 19th May, Rev Fr Thomas felicitated the four outstanding performers by presenting each with a memento and a bouquet.

We extend our hearty congratulations to the toppers and wish them God's blessings for the future.

Rev Fr Bhupendra, who has been at the Cathedral as Assistant Parish Priest since December 2023, has been transferred to Alwar. On 19th May, the parishioners wished him God's Blessings as he takes up his new assignment. Rev Fr Thomas thanked him for all the help he had been rendering to the parish.

It was with a heavy heart that the parishioners wished our parish priest Rev Fr Thomas Maniparambil and Sr. Tessy Rose of CMC 'Best Wishes' on their transfers to Jhotwara and Bagrana respectively.

Fr Thomas is a people's priest, approachable and relating with one and all. We will miss meeting him every Sunday. Sr. Tessy Rose too, a simple charming person is always friendly and ever willing to offer her services, be it decorating the altar or lending an ear to anyone's problems.

We are very thankful to Rev Fr Thomas, Rev Fr Bhupendra and Sr. Tessy Rose CMC for their support, their concern for the parishioners and most importantly helping us in our spiritual journey. We extend our love to them and wish them good health. May Jesus be their constant companion, Mother Mary protect them and the Holy Spirit guide them.

Serah Fernandes, Malviya Nagar



News from St. Xavier's Parish, C-Scheme, Jaipur

April

12 youth members attended 'Revive' the youth camp at the Pastoral Centre, Ghat Gate. The Laity Commission organized a special seminar on Christ-Centred Family Life which was attended by three families from St. Xavier's parish. A special recollection for the nurses of our diocese was organized by Nurses' Guild at St. Xavier's Parish. The programme was attended by the nurses and those working in healthcare.

In a meeting of the Parish Youth on 21st April, a new team of the youth officials were elected to function. The elected members are: Ms. Priya D'Souza as President, Mr. Michael D'Silva as Vice President, Mr. James Naskar as Secretary and Ms. Tamanna Robert as Treasurer.

On 28th April 2024, St. Xavier's Parish felicitated Sr. Supriya Aind, MSA, on her Final Profession in her congregation. While we thank and praise God for calling one of the daughters of our parish to the consecrated life, we also assure Sr. Supriya Aind of our prayers and best wishes for her future ministry.

May

"I take refuge, then, in prayer and turn to Mary and our Lord always triumphs."—St. Therese

The month of May is the month of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Xavier's Parish too proceeded to dedicate the entire month of May to the Holy Rosary so that the individuals, families and communities would pray the Holy Rosary on a daily basis.

On 7th May St. Xavier's Parish and the Jesuit community were saddened by the demise of Rev. Fr. Anthony Chelakat, SJ lovingly known as Fr. Tony. He suffered from cancer for the last few years. May his soul rest in peace.

Nine Parish Youth members from St. Xavier's Parish along with youth members of other Jesuit parishes participated in MAGIS, NEVTA 24, at St. Xavier's Nevta.

With grateful hearts, St. Xavier's Parish congratulated Sr. Marie James, MC as she

celebrated the 25 years (Silver Jubilee) of Religious Profession in the Missionaries of Charity. We assure her of our prayers and felicitations.

The International Day of Nurses was celebrated on the 12th May and special prayers were offered for the nurses and for the effectiveness of their noble service. Prayers were offered for many more competent persons to come forward to serve the wounded patients in the spirit of Christian service.

International Mother's Day was observed on 12th May in the parish. Special prayers were offered through the intercession of Mother Mary Mother of God. All mothers are the visible agents of the compassionate God in the world. May they remain blessed.

On 19th May, the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated by the parishioners with joy and enthusiasm. Pentecost, in the New Testament is the day that the Holy spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus. It is a day of the new beginning, the birthday of the Church. The faithful participated in large numbers. The parishioners experienced mixed emotions on 19th May when they bid farewell to Fr. K.P. George, SJ and welcomed Fr. Nelson A. D'Silva SJ, the new parish priest of St. Xaviers. Fr K.P. George has volunteered to serve the Lord in the Mission land of Guyana, a country in South America.

Fr. Nelson D'Silva, SJ took the oath of office after Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Kallarackal's letter was read out for all. Fr K.P. George handed over the keys of the tabernacle as a sign of handing over the responsibility of the parish to the new parish priest. The parishioners extend their wholehearted cooperation to Fr. Nelson to accomplish greater things in the interest of the parish.

We extend our good wishes and prayers to Fr. K.P. George for his new mission.

Neelam Chopra
St. Xavier's Parish



Pentecost: The Creative Beginning of the Church to fulfill the Mission of Christ

In Greek Pentecost means 'fiftieth' (day). It is an Israelite-Jewish festival. It is one of the three festivals listed in Ex.23:14-17, where it is called the harvest festival, the feast of the first-fruits of the grain harvest. The feast is celebrated on the 50th day of Passover. The Pentecost day in the Christian circles is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Jesus' resurrection. In the Church there have been three events that have been more significant than any other: the birth of Jesus; the death and resurrection of Jesus; and the coming of the Holy Spirit in full power on the day of Pentecost. The feast day is linked with the descent of the Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the gift of tongues, and the formation of the first Christian Church. It is seen as the birthday of the Church. By the Spirit the Church is now empowered to fulfill the mission which was committed to her by Jesus.

Let us remember that we may also receive that power of the Spirit. That power is for all believers. Let it be our constant prayer for ourselves and for others that we may remain filled with the Holy Spirit and that His fire may continue burning brightly in our hearts. Just as the Creator God breathed the breath of life into man and so also the resurrected Jesus breathes His Spirit into us. The spirit can change us from motionless statues into dynamic beings; from chaos and confusion into orderliness and clarity; from persons of unfounded fears into bold and joyful witnesses in a broken world. We need to receive the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to be emboldened messengers of the Risen Lord who infuses a new hope into this world.

The Holy Spirit is of vital importance in

our life. It is through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit we experience the Christian virtues: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Love, and Fear of the Lord. These gifts are for the edification of Christ's body, the Church. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit produces the fruits: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity. The Holy Spirit reveals God's thoughts, teaches and guides us into truth including the knowledge of what is to come. The Holy Spirit like a friend comes along us, bears our burdens, stands as advocates on our behalf, defends us, gives us courage, teaches us good counsel to comfort us. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to God, helps us to grow and ripen to bear fruit, brings growth and maturity and restores us to become more Christ-like.

The Paraclete gives us new light and understanding whereby we are able to receive spiritual gifts, comprehend them and discern them. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are brought to salvation, made more like Jesus and guided to do the Father's will. The Holy Spirit brings conversion in us by acquitting us of sin and leading us to repentance. Through repentance, He wipes out what is malicious in us and enables us to bear good fruit. The Holy Spirit works in us through the power of the Scripture and guides our way of thinking.

Our sincere desire to submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit will draw us closer to Him. He will make our heart a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and he will generate love in our hearts and we will live in unity, peace and harmony.

Pauline Williams
St. Xavier's Parish



Ordinary Time on the Liturgical Calendar

In this earthly life-we move through time. We mark moments in time that represent important events. Time is one of the essential elements by which we measure our lives. The passing birthdays and anniversaries, major news events, historical memorials, seasons of the year-all provide a rhythm to our lives.

LITURGICAL SEASONS AND ORDINARY TIME

The same is true in our liturgy. This most important work of the Family of God is also marked by seasons and celebrations. The liturgical season of Christmas came to an end with the celebration after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Tuesday, January 9th. And now we are in Ordinary Time, the longest "season" of the Church's liturgical year. Ordinary Time comprises two parts of the liturgical year, separated by the Lenten and Easter seasons. Each year, Ordinary Time begins on the day following the first Sunday after January 6th.

Ordinary Time continues through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the observance of the Lenten Season. Ordinary Time resumes on the Monday following Pentecost and continues until the start of first Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the First Sunday of Advent.

CELEBRATING CHRIST THROUGH THE YEAR

Before we can look specifically to the meaning of Ordinary Time, we need to know something of the way the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ during each liturgical year.

"Christ's saving work is celebrated in sacred memory by the Church on fixed days throughout the year. Each week on the day called the Lord's Day the Church commemorates the Lord's resurrection. Once a year at Easter the Church honors this

resurrection and passion with the utmost solemnity. In fact through the yearly cycle the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and keeps the anniversaries of the saints.

"During the different seasons of the liturgical year, the Church, in accord with traditional discipline, carries out the formation of the faithful by means of devotional practices, both interior and exterior, instruction, and works of penance and mercy. " (General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar, Chapter 1.1)

The Church's liturgical year begins with Evening Prayer I of the First Sunday of Advent. The seasons of the Church's liturgical year that celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ's life and mission are Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Easter Triduum and Easter. The remaining 33 or 34 weeks (depending on the year) of the yearly cycle make up Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time, as the days progress through the year, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of Christ, especially on Sundays. Unlike those seasons where special focus is given to:

- the coming of Christ (Advent),
- the birth of Christ (Christmas),
- the preparation for the Passion and Death of Christ (Lent), and
- the Resurrection of Christ (Easter),

Ordinary Time recalls the events and mystery of Christ's life in their totality.

It may have seemed to you at times, that this time is, well, ordinary; in the sense that it is not as important. But that is not so. Prior Vatican II, these days were referred to as related to Sundays after Epiphany and Sundays after Pentecost. This time is called *Tempus per annum*, "time through the year." It is from this



that we render in English, Ordinary Time. Rather than meaning unimportant, it means ordered, as in Ordered Time.

FIVE WAYS TO EFFECTIVELY OBSERVE ORDINARY TIME

Ordinary Time, then, is also a time during which we can grow closer to the Lord and deepen our spiritual lives. Here are five practical ideas to get the most out of our observance of Ordinary Time. These are things we can do any time, but let's use them to renew our commitment to Christ throughout the year.

1. Surrender to Christ—There is nothing we can do to be saved or to progress in the spiritual life except by Christ. Begin each new day by surrendering yourself to Him and His Will. Replace the habit of pride with the practice of humility, trusting in the Lord.

2. Live in a Sacramental life—We can make no progress in the spiritual life if we are not in a state of sanctifying grace. Those who believed and were baptized were freed of sin and its eternal punishment. If you are not in a state of sanctifying grace, you need to be. If you have committed a mortal sin, that sin needs to be confessed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Regularly and actively participate in the sacraments, particularly Holy Mass.

3. Develop a daily prayer habit—If we

love someone, we desire to be with that person. The same is true if we love God. Prayer is how we spend time with God. Commit to pray daily prayers of Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanks giving and Praise. Devotionals, such as the Rosary and liturgy, are great practices to assist you.

4. Meditate on the Sunday Mass Readings—Spend time each week prayerfully reading and thinking about coming Sunday's Mass readings—what they mean and how they apply to your life. The Magnificat is a wonderful prayer to help you do this.

5. Be Christ to others—Jesus Christ came not to be served, but to serve. He calls His followers to do the same. We cannot claim to follow Christ if we do not serve those people He places in our daily lives. Service always requires us to be Christ to those around us, but we are also called to serve those we do not easily recognize. Ask Jesus to show you those in need for whom you can make a difference. Then get on with the Lord's good work.

The celebrations and seasons of the Liturgical Calendar, including Ordinary Time, along with all the other occasions and events that mark our passage through time, should serve to remind us that we are not accidents of nature, but rational beings created by and loved by God who made us for a high purpose.

June is the Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is 07 June. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart's, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church.

Understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term "Sacred Heart of Jesus" denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being, and his person considered in its most intimate essential: Son of God, uncreated wisdom; infinite charity, principal of the salvation and sanctification of mankind. The "Sacred Heart" is Christ, the Word Incarnate, Saviour, intrinsically containing, in the Spirit, an infinite divine-human love for the



Father and for his brothers. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a wonderful historical expression of the Church's piety for Christ, her Spouse and Lord: it calls for a fundamental attitude of conversion and reparation, of love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and his saving work.

Twelve Promises of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary

In the apparitions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus gives these twelve promises for those who are devoted to His Sacred Heart.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of their death.
5. I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
9. I will bless the homes where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced.
12. The all-powerful love of My Heart will grant to all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final

repentance; they shall not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving their Sacraments; My heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour.

A short Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart of Jesus,
filled with infinite love,
broken by my ingratitude,
pierced by my sins,
yet loving me still,
accept the consecration which I make to you,
of all that I am and all that I have.

Take every faculty of my soul and body,
and draw me, day by day, nearer and nearer
to your sacred side:

There, as I can hear the lesson,
teach me your blessed ways. Amen

Ways to Grow in Eucharistic Devotion :

1. **Attend Mass** with renewed dedication. Give Jesus your complete attention as God's Word is proclaimed. Consider daily Mass attendance beyond regular Sunday attendance.
2. **Go to Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction** or make a private holy hour. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament or the tabernacle increases our longing to receive Communion. You can also make a spiritual communion anywhere, anytime.
3. **Go to confession.** If burdened by serious sin, then penance and reconciliation are needed to partake of the Eucharist. These two sacraments are vitally connected and necessary. (If you've forgotten what to do or how to go to confession, tell the priest and he'll guide you through it.)
4. **Study key Scripture verses.** See Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke



- 22:19-20; John 6:33, 50- 51, 63-64; 1 Corinthians 10:18-21 and 11:23-26
5. **Sing or listen to time-honored hymns** .The Eucharist inspired Thomas to write *Panis Angelicus* (Angelic Bread or Bread of Angels), *Tantum Ergo Sacramentum* (Therefore, so great a Sacrement), and *Adoro Te Devote* (I Deevoutly Adore you) and more.
6. **Invoke Mary's faithful help.** "There is a profound analogy between the *fiat* which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the *amen* which every believer says when

receiving the body of the Lord" (St. John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, par. 55).

7. **Call on saints renowned for Eucharistic devotion.** Learn about St. Cyril of Jerusalem, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Margaret Mary, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Peter Julian Eymard, St. Katharine Drexel and St. John Neumann. St. Thérèse of Lisieux declared: "The best means to reach perfection is through receiving Holy Communion frequently. Experience sufficiently proves it in those who practice it."

The Gaze of Jesus

Picture this. Five rich men are seated in a dark room around a table. We can see all of their faces clearly except one young man's. His face is shadowed, bent down toward the table as he counts his money. Jesus stands in the doorway. He has just entered the room with one of his disciples. Light streams in from behind and above and shines on the faces of the men. It is as if it followed its Maker there. The men seem to be thinking, Why is Jesus here? He points to the man who is looking down. His finger is not firmly outstretched the way most people point when they demand something. It is gently curved. Does the man in the shadows know Jesus is there? Or does he just not want to look up?

What was just described for you is a famous painting called *The Calling of St. Matthew* by Renaissance master Caravaggio. The man in the shadows is St. Matthew, who became one of Our Lord's 12 apostles. Nobody understood why Jesus would pick Matthew. One of the men looks at Our Lord and points at

Matthew as if to say, "Him? You want *him*?" Matthew was a tax collector, which meant that he got rich by cheating his fellow Jews by collecting taxes for their arch enemy, the Romans. Did Jesus know what sort of sinner Matthew was? Of course he did. He knew everything and everyone. He called him anyway and made him a great saint. Later, Matthew would even die for Jesus.

You never know who Jesus is going to call. The painter drives that point home by showing Jesus and his disciple wearing scruffy beards and Bible robes while Matthew and the other rich guys are well groomed and in their modern-day clothes. OK, they're wearing feathers on top and tights on the bottom and material that looks like upholstery in between — but back in the Renaissance these clothes were like designer suits are today. It is as if Caravaggio is telling modern-day men that they could be called to get up and leave the world just as St. Matthew did. Just look up and meet the gaze of Jesus.



Six Reasons Why We Make the Sign of the Cross

Catholics often make the Sign of the Cross casually, just as a nice gesture for beginning and ending their prayers. But when we learn to take this act seriously, signing ourselves frequently with faith and reverence, remarkable results can take place. We find ourselves doing measurably better in our Christian life: praying with more passion, resisting our bad inclinations more effectively, and relating to others more kindly.

The Sign of the Cross, after all, is not merely a pious gesture. It is a powerful prayer, a sacramental of the Church. Scripture, the Church Fathers and saints, and Catholic teaching offer six perspectives on the Sign of the Cross that reveal why making it opens us to life-transforming graces. Once we grasp them, we can make the gesture with more faith and experience its great blessings.

1. A mini-creed: The Sign of the Cross serves as an abbreviated form of the Apostles' Creed. Touching our forehead, breast and shoulders (and in some cultures, our lips as well), we declare our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we sign ourselves we are making ourselves aware of God's presence and opening ourselves to His action in our lives. That much alone would be enough to transform us spiritually, wouldn't it?

2. A renewal of baptism: First-century Christians began making the Sign of the Cross as a reminder and renewal of what happened to them when they were baptized. It still works the same way for us. When we sign ourselves we are declaring that in baptism we died sacramentally with Christ on the cross and rose to a new life with Him. We are asking the Lord to renew in us those baptismal graces.

3. A mark of discipleship: When we sign ourselves, we are affirming our loyalty to Jesus. By tracing the cross on our bodies, we are denying

that we belong to ourselves and declaring that we belong to Him alone (see Lk 9:23). Signing ourselves recognizes that we are Christ's sheep and can count on His care; His soldiers, commissioned to work with Him in advancing His kingdom on earth; and His servants, dedicated to doing whatever He tells us.

4. An acceptance of suffering: Jesus promised us that suffering would be a normal part of a disciple's life. So when we mark our bodies with the sign, we are embracing whatever pain comes as a consequence of our faith in Christ. Making the sign is our taking up the cross and following Him (Lk 9:23). At the same time, however, it comforts us with the realization that Jesus, who endured the Crucifixion for us, now joins us in our suffering and supports us.

5. A two-edged move against the devil: When the devil watched Jesus die on the cross, he mistakenly believed he had won a great victory. Instead, the Lord surprised him with an ignominious defeat (see 1 Cor 2:8). From the first Easter morning through the present, the Sign of the Cross makes the devil cower and flee. Making the sign is a defensive move, declaring our inviolability to the devil's influence. It also announces our cooperation with Jesus in the indomitable advance of the kingdom of God against the kingdom of darkness.

6. A victory over the flesh: Making the Sign of the Cross expresses our decision to crucify the desires of the flesh and to live by the Spirit. Like tossing off a dirty shirt. Making the sign indicates our stripping ourselves of our evil inclinations and clothing ourselves with the behaviour of Christ (see Col 3:5-15). No matter how strongly we are tempted, we can use the Sign of the Cross to activate our freedom in Christ and conquer even our besetting sins.

Go through these six signings often and watch the grace flow through this ancient sacramental in the days to come.



Inspirational StoryDo you love me ?

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Saviour!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

"The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?"

With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!" I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you

pray the earnest?"

I had no answers ... only tears.

The Lord continued, "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers and I have answered them all. **Do you truly love me?**

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child." The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child." I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?" The Lord answered, "Because you are My creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever." Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do You love me?" The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.



St. Barnabas, Apostle

St. Barnabas was a prominent early Christian figure and disciple of Jesus Christ. According to tradition, he was born in Cyprus and became a follower of Jesus during the ministry of John the Baptist. He is first mentioned in the Bible in the book of Acts, where he is described as a "good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith." After the ascension of Jesus, Barnabas travelled to Jerusalem and joined the nascent Christian community there. He quickly became an influential member of the group, known for his generosity and his ability to encourage others. It was Barnabas who, upon seeing the new converts Saul (later known as Paul), introduced him to the apostles and vouched for him, despite the fact that many members of the community were sceptical of him.

Barnabas is also believed to have been one of the 70 disciples appointed by Jesus, which is another factor that made him one of the respected figures of early Christianity. His name, which means "son of encouragement" or "son of prophecy", was also well suited to his role in the early church. Barnabas and Paul then set out on several missionary journeys together, spreading the message of Jesus Christ throughout the Mediterranean region. They visited many cities, including Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, and established many Christian communities along the way. Barnabas played a key role in these missions, acting as a mediator between Paul and the Jewish Christians and helping to build bridges between the different factions of the early church. One of the most notable stories of Barnabas is related to his visit to the city of Antioch, where he encountered a group of Gentile converts who were being rejected by the Jewish Christians. Barnabas saw the value in these new converts and recognized that they should be accepted as equal members of the Christian community. He worked to convince the other leaders of the church to accept the Gentiles, an effort that eventually led to the council of Jerusalem, a gathering of early Christian leaders that issued a ruling allowing Gentile converts to join the Christian faith without first becoming Jews.

In addition to his work as a missionary,

Barnabas is also remembered as a martyr. Tradition holds that he was stoned to death in the city of Salamis on the island of Cyprus, where he had returned to spread the gospel. The year of his death is not recorded but traditionally believed to be around 61-62 AD. After his death, Barnabas was remembered and honored by the Christian community, and eventually came to be considered a saint. His feast day is celebrated on June 11th in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and on June 14th in the Roman Catholic Church. He is one of the most well-known saints from the early Christian period and is remembered for his encouragement, wisdom, and generosity.

The legacy of St. Barnabas is still carried on by the Christian community today, and he is remembered for his role in spreading the message of Jesus Christ, for his efforts to build bridges between different factions of the early church, and for his encouragement of new converts to the faith. His memory is preserved not only through the stories and traditions that have come down to us, but also through the many churches, schools, and other institutions that have been named in his honor.

Saint Barnabas was of the tribe of Levi, but born in Cyprus and, as Holy Scripture relates, was one of the seventy-two disciples of Jesus. The first mention we find of him is in the Acts of the Apostles (4:36), where it is related that "the multitude of believers had but one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that aught of the things which he possessed was his own".

No one in particular is mentioned on this occasion but Joseph, a rich Levite from Cyprus, who sold his land "and brought the price and laid it at the feet of the Apostles". The Apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, the son of consolation. It was he who "introduced" St. Paul to the Apostles, and thus to the Church. Later St. Barnabas accompanied St. Paul the Apostle during his evangelization of the pagans in Cyprus.

Although Barnabas was not one of the "Twelve", the Church has always honored him as an Apostle. According to tradition, St. Barnabas died for the Faith in Cyprus.



Popes down the ages.....

Pope Paul I: A Guiding Light of Humility and Service

In the early days of the Roman Pontificate, there was a story that had echoed through the marbled walls of Vatican City, hinting at the legacy about to be left by an unexpected hero - Pope Paul I. A humble man, whose path to sainthood was marked not by grand gestures but by love, compassion and dedication to his calling.

Early Life and Ascension to Papacy:

Born in Rome, Italy, Pope Paul I led a life deeply rooted in the love of Christ. His journey into priesthood began at a young age, demonstrating a profound spiritual maturity. Upon taking his religious vows, he adopted the name Paul, after Saint Paul the Apostle, foreshadowing his future role as leader of the Catholic Church. When his brother, Pope Stephen II, whom he served as a secretary, passed away, Paul was unanimously elected to fill the vacant Seat of St. Peter on May 29, 757. His leadership was characterized by a profound compassion and dedication to service, virtues that translated into his policy decisions and interaction with his flock.

His Influence and Achievements:

During his reign, Pope Paul I helped guide the church through a period of significant political and social change. Even in the face of monumental challenges, Paul I stood firm in his dedication to the teachings of Christ, wielding the power of his faith as a shield against adversity. He was particularly renowned for his efforts to preserve relics and sacred art. His passion for preserving the heritage of the church culminated in the restoration of numerous churches within Rome, including the Church of Santa Maria Antiqua and the Lateran Basilica, thus ensuring that the rich history of the Catholic faith remained accessible to future generations.

Spiritual Legacy: As a faithful servant of God, Pope Paul I's influence extended beyond his administrative contributions. His deep spirituality was evident not only in his personal conduct but also in his various writings and sermons, which

continue to serve as a beacon of hope and guidance for the church community today.

"O Almighty God, we pray to you for our Holy Father Pope Paul I, who has been bestowed upon us as a symbol of your love and mercy. Bless him with wisdom and courage to guide the Church, reflecting your eternal light upon us all."

Reflection on his Ministry: Pope Paul I will forever be remembered as an embodiment of humility and unwavering dedication to the service of God and his people. His actions demonstrated that true leadership is not about power or prestige but about putting oneself in service of others, emulating the example set by Christ Himself.

Ultimate Sacrifice and Canonization: Paul I's commitment remained steadfast till the end. He continued to fulfil his administrative duties despite his failing health until he was called to his eternal home on June 28, 767. His consistent demonstration of deep spirituality, humility and love led to his veneration as a saint. "Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of Pope Saint Paul I. Let his life be a testament to your infinite love and mercy, inspiring us to live out our faith with genuine love and compassion. Amen."

Pope Paul I: An Undying Legacy - The remarkable life of Pope Paul I serves as a reminder of the power of humility, service and unwavering faith. His legacy as a humble servant of God, a protector of Christian heritage, and a beacon of spiritual enlightenment has illuminated the path for countless Catholics, confirming his place in the annals of the Church's history as a revered saint. Each time we walk the hallowed halls of the restored churches in Rome, we are touching a part of the legacy left by Pope Paul I. These sacred relics stand not just as symbols of our past, but as enduring testimonials to a humble soul whose love for Christ and his church knew no bounds. As we celebrate his memory, let us also aspire to live by his example, embracing humility, love, compassion and service to all.



Rev Fr Anthony Chelakat, SJ **(Feb 7, 1935 – May 7, 2024)**

Fr Anthony Chelakat, SJ was born on February 7, 1935 at Koothakallu, Kottayam Dt, Kerala. He joined the Jesuit Province of Patna on June 20, 1955. As a religious he studied at various places in India and was ordained a priest on March 12, 1967. He made his final profession in the Society of Jesus on April 22, 1976. He completed his studies in catechetics at East Asian Institute, Manila (1971-72). He had pastoral care as his concern all his life.

As a priest he served as an assistant pastor and pastor in various places in Bihar like Chuhari, Bishop's House, Patna, Arrah Catholic High School before being appointed as an assistant to the novice master. He served in this capacity from 1978 to 1982. His novices fondly remember his strict yet caring attitude. His impersonal address to the brothers with the words "you chap" was well balanced by his caring nature. He was known to punish them for their mistakes but provided fruits to them to make up for their lost game time.

He was appointed to teach in St Xavier's Jaipur (1984-88) where he was known for his keen focus on spoken English and grammar. Thereafter he joined the newly formed Jesuit mission in Delhi eventually to be a province. In the Delhi Province he contributed in various capacities like teacher, pastor and social worker. During interactions he and others would tell of his escapades from Behror to Jaipur, Bandikui and other places on a moped.

His love for those in need had no bounds. He was the messiah for some families in Behror and Varanasi. He continued to help them even till the end of his life. Another love of his was in being with children and appreciating their arts. He loved going for annual functions and other programmes in schools. He specially admired Madhuri Dixit for her elegant, rhythmic and graceful dance moves.

He lived a disciplined life which could be seen that even two days before his demise he was the first one to read the newspapers. He was a man with a green thumb; anything he planted bloomed and blossomed. Till a year back he was seen in the garden planting seeds and harvesting the fruits of his labour. After his death looking for some records, Ids, etc. one could find packets and little containers of seeds collected for the next season.

He was a holy man. He never complained about his pains or demanded any exceptional treatment. His holiness could be seen by the beautiful experience around his demise. He breathed his last on May 7, 2024 (10:30 pm) after a time of prayer with the community and being anointed (7 pm). Though he is not physically present with us, we Jesuits in different communities and the people will continue to remember him and enjoy the fruits of the trees that he planted. May he rest in peace.

Fr Nelson D'Silva SJ

Superior, St Xaviers, C- Scheme



Bible Quiz - May 2024

ANSWERS

- 01 Mount Olives (Acts 1:12).
- 02 Pentecost (Acts 2:1).
- 03 He walked and leaped (Acts 3:8).
- 04 Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:10-12).
- 05 They marvelled (Acts 4:13).
- 06 The Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3).
- 07 They said they must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).
- 08 Matthias (Acts 1:26).
- 09 The angel of the Lord (Acts 7:53).
- 10 Simon (Acts 8:18-20).
- 11 The Lord Jesus (Acts 9:17-18).
- 12 Damascus (Acts 9:17-18).
- 13 Joppa (Acts 10:5-6).
- 14 Peter (Acts 10:47).
- 15 A sheet knitted at the four corners (Acts 10:11-12).
- 16 Herod Antipas (Acts 13:1).
- 17 Gods come down in the likeness of men (Acts 14:11-12).
- 18 He struck him blind (Acts 13:11).
- 19 They turned to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46-47).
- 20 The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).

Bible Quiz - June 2024

QUESTIONS

- 01 What was Timothy's heritage, as described in Acts 16?
- 02 During Paul's vision in Acts 16, who appeared to Paul, pleading for help?
- 03 Which goddess was the focus of the craftsmen's trade that led to riot against Paul in Ephesus?
- 04 Who fell asleep and tumbled out of a window during Paul's lengthy preaching in Troas?
- 05 To whom did Paul's sister's son reveal the plot to kill Paul?
- 06 To whom does Paul quote the Holy Spirit as saying, "In every city, bonds and afflictions abide me"?
- 07 Who advised Paul not to go up to Jerusalem, fearing that he would be bound and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles?
- 08 In Acts 21 what was the name of the prophet who predicted Paul would be bound by the Jews in Jerusalem?
- 09 According to Acts 21, what vow did Paul purify himself to show the Jews that he walked orderly and kept the law?
- 10 In Paul's defense to the people in the Jerusalem, whose student does he claim to be?
- 11 Which Roman governor did Paul appeal to as a Roman citizen after he was accused by the Jews?
- 12 Who does Paul identify as having commissioned him to witness to the Gentiles during his speech on the stairs of the barracks?
- 13 In Acts 23, to which group does Paul belong that caused a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees?
- 14 What was the reaction of the high priest Ananias when Paul called him a "whited wall"?
- 15 How many men conspired to kill Paul and would not eat or drink till they had killed him?
- 16 True or False: According to Acts 20, Paul declared that he was innocent of the blood of all men.
- 17 True or False: According to Paul's recount in Acts 22, Ananias who helped Paul regain his sight was a devout man according to the law.
- 18 True or False: The number of souls added to the church after Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost was about three thousand.
- 19 True or False: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them.
- 20 True or False: The proconsul Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity after witnessing Elymas the sorcerer being struck blind.





SUNDAY READINGS AND MEDITATION

प्रभु खीस्त के पवित्रतम शरीर तथा रक्त का महोत्सव

योहान 15:13 में प्रभु येशु कहते हैं, “इस से बड़ा प्रेम किसी का नहीं कि कोई अपने मित्रों के लिये अपने प्राण अर्पित कर दे”। प्रभु येशु यही सर्वोत्तम प्रेम क्रूस पर प्रस्तुत करते हैं जब वे कलवारी पहाड़ी पर क्रूस पर हमारे लिए, सारी मानव-जाति के लिए अपने प्राण अर्पित करते हैं। प्रेम के इस बलिदान को अटारी में शिष्यों के साथ अंतिम भोज के समय एक अमर चिह्न के रूप में प्रदान कर प्रभु ने यूखारिस्तीय संस्कार की स्थापना की। इसलिए यूखारिस्त सर्वोत्तम प्रेम का बलिदान है।

पुराने विधान में पशुओं के बलिदान चढ़ाये जाते थे। परन्तु नये विधान में एक अनोखा बलिदान चढ़ाया जाता है। इस संदर्भ में इब्रानियों के पत्र में प्रभु का वचन कहता है, “प्रधानयाजक ही, वर्ष में एक बार, पिछले कक्ष में वह रक्त लिये प्रवेश करता था, जिसे वह अपने और प्रजा के दोषों के लिए प्रायश्चित के रूप में चढ़ाता था।... किन्तु अब मसीह हमारे भावी कल्याण के प्रधानयाजक के रूप में आये हैं और उन्होंने एक ऐसे तम्बू को पार किया, जो यहूदियों के तम्बू से महान् तथा श्रेष्ठ है, जो मनुष्य के हाथ से नहीं बना और इस पृथ्वी का नहीं है। उन्होंने बकरों तथा बछड़ों का नहीं, बल्कि अपना रक्त ले कर सदा के लिए एक ही बार परमपावन स्थान में प्रवेश किया और इस तरह हमारे लिए सदा-सर्वदा रहने वाला उद्धार प्राप्त किया है।” (इब्रानियों 9:7, 11-12)

निर्गमन 24:6,8 में हम देखते हैं कि मूसा ने बलि-पशुओं का आधा रक्त लोगों पर छिड़कते हुए कहा, “यह उस विधान का रक्त है, जिसे प्रभु ने उन सब आदेशों के माध्यम से तुम लोगों के लिए निर्धारित किया है”। अंतिम भोज के समय प्रभु येशु “ने प्याला लिया, धन्यवाद की प्रार्थना पढ़ी और कहा, “इसे ले लो और आपस में बाँट लो क्योंकि मैं तुम लोगों से कहता हूँ, जब तक ईश्वर का राज्य न आये, मैं दाख का रस फिर नहीं

पिऊँगा”। उन्होंने रोटी ली और धन्यवाद की प्रार्थना पढ़ने के बाद उसे तोड़ा और यह कहते हुए शिष्यों को दिया, “यह मेरा शरीर है, जो तुम्हारे लिए दिया जा रहा है। यह मेरी स्मृति में किया करो”। (लूकस 22:17-19) उसी आज्ञा के अनुसार आज भी दुनिया भर के गिरजाघरों में वही बलिदान प्रभु येशु की स्मृति में मनाया जाता है।

जब प्रभु इस्राएलियों को मिस्र देश से छुड़ाने पर थे, तब ईश्वर ने आज्ञा दी थी कि हर इस्राएली परिवार में एक मेमने का वध किया जाये और उसका रक्त घर के चौखटों पर पुताया जाये ताकि विनाशक दूत मेमने के रक्त से पुते इस्राएली घरों को कोई हानि नहीं पहुँचाये। इस्राएली लोग निर्गमन से संबंधित घटनाओं को याद करते हुए हर वर्ष पास्का त्योहार मनाते थे। प्रभु येशु नये विधान का मेमना है। संत योहान बपतिस्ता अपने शिष्यों को येशु से परिचित कराते हुए कहते हैं, “देखो—ईश्वर का मेमना, जो संसार का पाप हरता है” (योहान 1:29)। हम उन्हीं प्रभु के रक्त से खरीदे गये हैं, बचाये गये हैं। संत पेद्रुस कहते हैं, “आप लोग जानते हैं कि आपके पूर्वजों से चली आयी हुई निरर्थक जीवन-चर्या से आपका उद्धार सोने-चांदी जैसी नश्वर चीजों की कीमत पर नहीं हुआ है, बल्कि एक निर्दोष तथा निष्कलंक मेमने अर्थात् मसीह के मूल्यवान् रक्त की कीमत पर।” (1 पेद्रुस 1:18-19)

कलवारी पर प्रभु येशु के बलिदान की महानता की ओर इशारा करते हुए नबी इसायाह कहते हैं, “विश्वमण्डल का प्रभु इस पर्वत पर सब राष्ट्रों के लिए एक भोज का प्रबन्ध करेगा: उस में रसदार मांस परोसा जायेगा और पुरानी तथा बढ़िया अंगूरी। वह इस पर्वत पर से सब लोगों तथा सब राष्ट्रों के लिए कफन और शोक के वस्त्र हटा देगा, वह सदा के लिए मृत्यु समाप्त करेगा। प्रभु-ईश्वर सबों के मुख से आँसू पोंछ डालेगा। वह समस्त पृथ्वी पर से अपनी प्रजा का कलंक दूर कर देगा। प्रभु ने यह कहा है।” (इसायाह 25:6-8) इसी कारण इस बलिदान में बड़ी शक्ति है। राजाओं के पहले



ग्रन्थ के अध्याय 19 में हम पढ़ते हैं कि नबी एलियाह ईश्वर के दिये हुए भोजन के बल पर चालीस दिन और चालीस रात चल कर ईश्वर के पर्वत होरेब तक पहुँच कर वहाँ ईश्वर के दर्शन करते हैं। आज विश्वासी लोग यूखारिस्तीय बलिदान से अपने दैनिक जीवन की चुनौतियों का सामना करने की शक्ति पाते हैं। येशु के द्वारा रोटियों के चमत्कार तथा पानी को अंगूरी में बदलना यूखारिस्तीय संस्कार की ओर शिष्यों को ले चलने वाली घटनाओं के रूप में भी देखे जा सकते हैं। इस महानतम संस्कार को योग्य रीति से ग्रहण करने के विषय में संत पौलुस कहते हैं, “जो अयोग्य रीति से वह रोटी खाता या प्रभु का प्याला पीता है, वह प्रभु के शरीर और रक्त के विरुद्ध अपराध करता है। अपने अन्तःकरण की परीक्षा करने के बाद ही मनुष्य वह रोटी खाये और वह प्याला पिये।” (1 कुरिन्थियों 11:27-28) आइए, हम इस बलिदान में भाग लेने योग्य बनने के लिए ईश्वर की कृपा माँगे।

वर्ष का दसवाँ रविवार

फिलिप्पियों 2:5-11 में संत पौलुस कहते हैं कि प्रभु येशु ने ईश्वर होते हुए भी, ईश्वर की बराबरी करने की क्षमता रखते हुए भी अपने आप को दीन-हीन बनाया। शायद हम इस प्रकार दीन-हीन बनने की जटिलता को सही ढंग से नहीं समझ पाते हैं। आज का सुसमाचार हमें बताता है कि येशु इतने दीन-हीन बन गये कि लोग कहने लगे कि उन्हें अपनी सुध-बुध नहीं रह गयी है। (देखिए मारकुस 3:21) कुछ शास्त्री यह भी कहने लगे कि वे नरकदूतों के नायक बेलजेबुल की सहायता से ही नरकदूतों को निकाल रहे हैं। सोचने-समझने की कृपा मनुष्यों को प्रदान करने वाले साक्षात् ईश्वर पर ही अपनी सुध-बुध खोने का इलजाम लगाया जाता है।

शैतानिक ताकतों को अपनी जान की कुर्बानी दे कर हराने हेतु इस दुनिया में आने वाले ईशुपुत्र पर अपदूतों के नायक बेलजेबुल की सहायता से अपदूतों को निकालने का आरोप भी लगाया जाता है। हम अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि वास्तव में प्रभु येशु ने अपने को कितना दीन-हीन बनाया। क्या येशु इतने विवश थे कि उन आरोपों का खंडन नहीं पाते थे। नहीं, बल्कि वे अपने को दीन-हीन बना कर उन आरोपों को विनम्रता के साथ

ग्रहण करते हैं। “वध के लिए ले जाये जाने वाले मेमने के सदृश” (यिरमियाह 11:19) वे सब कुछ सह लेते हैं।

मानव जाति में शायद ही ऐसे लोग होंगे जिन के ऊपर इस प्रकार के आरोप लगे हो। अगर ऐसे लोग भी हों, तब भी हम जानते हैं कि उन्होंने भी किसी-न-किसी प्रकार का पाप कभी न कभी तो किया होगा। येशु पर जिनके विषय में धर्मग्रन्थ ही साक्ष्य देता है कि उनके कोई पाप नहीं था इस प्रकार का आरोप लगाया जाना कितनी विचित्र बात है! संत पौलुस लिखते हैं, “मसीह का कोई पाप नहीं था। फिर भी ईश्वर ने हमारे कल्याण के लिए उन्हें पाप का भागी बनाया, जिससे हम उनके द्वारा ईश्वर की पवित्रता के भागी बन सकें” (2 कुरिन्थियों 5:21)। फिर भी येशु ने अपना संयम खोये बिना विनम्र बन कर उनके तक-वितर्क की अनुपयुक्तता तथा अनौचित्य से उन्हें अवगत कराते हैं।

जब हम येशु के जीवन पर दृष्टि डालते हैं, तब हमें पता चलता है कि येशु अतुलनीय रीति से दीन-हीन बन गये थे। उनकी माँ के गर्भ में ही वे गलत समझे जाते हैं। उन्हें अपना बचपन अपने गाँव से दूर मिश्र देश में बिताना पड़ता है। वहाँ उनके परिवार के ऊपर राजा के क्रोध का भय हमेशा मंडराता रहता है। वे अपने बाल्यकाल और किशोरावस्था नाजेरेथ के अपने गरीब परिवार में बिताते हैं। सभी प्राणियों के भोजन के प्रबंध करने वाले प्रभु कई बार भूखे प्यासे रहते हैं। तीस साल की आयु तक का समय वे एक अज्ञात जीवन बिताते हैं। छोटी उम्र में ही उनके पिता उनसे बिछुड़ जाते हैं। फिर वे तीस साल की आयु में अपने बपतिस्मा के बाद गाँव-गाँव घूम कर स्वर्गराज्य का सन्देश सुनाते हैं। जब एक दिन किसी व्यक्ति ने उनसे कहा, “आप जहाँ कहीं भी जायेंगे, मैं आपके पीछे-पीछे चलूँगा” तो उन्हें कहना पड़ा, “लोमड़ियों की अपनी माँदें हैं और आकाश के पक्षियों के अपने घोंसले, परन्तु मानव पुत्र के लिए सिर रखने को भी अपनी जगह नहीं है” (लूकस 9:58)। ऐसे एक व्यस्थ जीवन के अन्त में उन्हें झूठे आरोप लगा कर चार कचहरियों में खड़ा किया गया। उनके मुख पर थूका गया, उनके कपड़े उतारे गये, उनकी हँसी उड़ायी गयी। अन्त में उन्हें एक तिरस्कृत कुकर्म के समान क्रूस पर चढ़ाया गया। उनकी लाश को किसी दूसरे की कब्र में रखा गया। इस से अधिक कोई भी अपने को दीन-हीन कैसे बन सकते हैं। जब हमारे प्रभु सर्वशक्तिमान ईश्वर ही हमारे प्रति प्रेम से प्रेरित हो कर इतना दीन-हीन बनते हैं, तो हमें कितना अधिक विनम्र बन

कर उनकी सेवा करनी चाहिए?

यह सब उन्हें हमें और सारी मानव जाति को शैतान की गुलामी से बचा कर मुक्ति प्रदान करने के लिए करना पड़ा। हमारे आदि माता-पिता ने ईश्वर की बराबरी करने की कोशिश की और पाप में फंस गये। परन्तु प्रभु येशु स्वयं ईश्वर होने के बावजूद भी ईश्वर की बराबरी न कर हमारे समक्ष दीन-हीन बनने का आदर्श प्रस्तुत करते हैं। क्या हम इस चुनौती को स्वीकार कर सकेंगे?

वर्ष का ग्यारहवाँ रविवार

आज के सुसमाचार में प्रभु येशु कहते हैं, “ईश्वर का राज्य उस मनुष्य के सदृश है, जो भूमि में बीज बोता है। वह रात को सोने जाता और सुबह उठता है। बीज उगता है और बढ़ता जाता है हालाँकि उसे यह पता नहीं कि यह कैसे हो रहा है। भूमि अपने आप फसल पैदा करती है—पहले अंकुर, फिर बाल और बाद में पूरा दाना। फसल तैयार होते ही वह हँसिया चलाने लगता है, क्योंकि कटनी का समय आ गया है।” किसान खेत में मेहनत तो जरूर करता है, परन्तु वह यह नहीं कह सकता कि मैंने कुछ पैदा किया है। फसल तो ईश्वर की देन है। स्तोत्र 127:1-2 में हम पढ़ते हैं, “यदि प्रभु ही घर नहीं बनाये, तो राजमन्त्रियों का श्रम व्यर्थ है। यदि प्रभु ही नगर की रक्षा नहीं करे, तो पहरेदार व्यर्थ जागते हैं। कठोर परिश्रम की रोटी खानेवालो! तुम व्यर्थ ही सबेरे जागते और देर से सोने जाते होय वह अपने सोये हुए भक्त का भरण-पोषण करता है।”

हमारे बच्चे भी ईश्वर के वरदान हैं। कार्लिन को जन्म देने के बाद हेवा ने कहा, “मैंने प्रभु की कृपा से एक मनुष्य को जन्म दिया” (उत्पत्ति 4:1) ईश्वर ने पति-पत्नियों को विवाह संस्कार के अंतर्गत बच्चे पैदा करने की क्षमता दी है, परन्तु वास्तव में बच्चे ईश्वर की देन हैं। उत्पत्ति 20:1-2 में हम देखते हैं, कि “जब राहेल ने देखा कि उससे याकूब को कोई पुत्र नहीं हुआ है, तब वह अपनी बहन से जलने लगी और उसने याकूब से कहा, “मुझे बाल-बच्चे दो, नहीं तो मैं मर जाऊँगी” याकूब को राहेल पर क्रोध आ गया। वह कहने लगा, “मैं क्या ईश्वर बन सकता हूँ। उसी ने तो तुम्हें सन्तान से वंचित किया।” ईश्वर ने इब्राहीम और सारा को उनके

बुढ़ापे में एक बच्चे का वरदान दिया।

हम हर कार्य के लिए ईश्वर पर निर्भर हैं। इसलिए स्तोत्रकार कहते हैं, “यदि प्रभु ने हमारा साथ नहीं दिया होता, तो जब लोगों ने हम पर चढ़ाई की और हम पर उनका क्रोध भड़का, तब वे हमें जीवित ही निगल गये होते। बाढ़ हमें डुबा गयी होती, प्रचण्ड धारा ने हमें बहा दिया होता और चारों ओर उमड़ती लहरों में हम डूब कर मर गये होते।” (स्तोत्र 124:2-5) संत याकूब हम से कहते हैं, “आप लोग जो यह कहते हैं, “हम आज या कल अमुक नगर जायेंगे, एक वर्ष तक वहाँ रह कर व्यापार करेंगे और धन कमायेंगे”, मेरी बात सुनें। आप नहीं जानते कि कल आपका क्या हाल होगा। आपका जीवन एक कुहरा मात्र है—वह एक क्षण दिखाई दे कर लुप्त हो जाता है। आप लोगों को यह कहना चाहिए, “यदि ईश्वर की इच्छा होगी, तो हम जीवित रहेंगे और यह या वह काम करेंगे”। याकूब 4:13-15)

इसी कारण हमें ईश्वर के प्रति हमेशा कृतज्ञ बने रहना चाहिए। एक डाक्टर ने एक 65 साल के मरीज के हृदय का ऑपरेशन किया। उसे यह कहा गया कि कम से कम 5 साल के लिए उसे डरने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। ऑपरेशन का खर्च था 3 लाख रुपये। बिल देख कर उस मरीज ने ईश्वर को धन्यवाद दिया। डाक्टर को आश्चर्य हुआ और उन्होंने उस मरीज से पूछा, “मैंने सोचा कि आप इतना बड़ा बिल देख कर दुखी होंगे। परन्तु आप खुशी से ईश्वर को धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं। ऐसा क्यों?” तब उसने उत्तर दिया, “आप पाँच साल मेरे हृदय को चलाने के लिए 3 लाख रुपये ले रहे हैं। परन्तु पिछले 65 सालों में उसे चलाने के लिए मेरे ईश्वर ने मुझ से एक पैसा नहीं लिया। यह सोच कर मैं ईश्वर को धन्यवाद देता हूँ।”

राजाओं तथा शासकों को भी ईश्वर के अधिकार का आदर करना चाहिए। प्रज्ञा ग्रन्थ 6:1-5 में कहा गया है, “राजाओं! सुनो और समझो। पृथ्वी भर के शासको! शिक्षा ग्रहण करो। तुम, जो बहुसंख्यक लोगों पर अधिकार जताते हो और बहुत-से राष्ट्रों का शासन करने पर गर्व करते हो, मेरी बातों पर कान दो क्योंकि प्रभु ने तुम्हें प्रभुत्व प्रदान किया, सर्वोच्च ईश्वर ने तुम्हें अधिकार दिया। वही तुम्हारे कार्यों का लेखा लेगा और तुम्हारे विचारों की जाँच करेगा। तुम उसके राज्य के सेवक मात्र हो। इसलिए यदि तुमने सच्चा न्याय नहीं



किया, विधि का पालन नहीं किया और ईश्वर की इच्छा पूरी नहीं की, तो वह भीषण रूप में अचानक तुम्हारे सामने प्रकट होगा क्योंकि उच्च अधिकारियों का कठोर न्याय किया जायेगा।" समुएल के पहले ग्रन्थ, अध्याय 17 में हम देखते हैं कि दाऊद फिलिस्ती महापराक्रमी गोलयत से कहते हैं, "तुम तलवार, भाला और बरछी लिये मुझसे लड़ने आ रहे हो। मैं तो विश्वमण्डल के प्रभु, इस्राएली सेनाओं के ईश्वर के नाम पर तुम से लड़ने आ रहा हूँ, जिसे तुमने चुनौती दी है।" उसी ईश्वर की शक्ति से बालक दाऊद ने फिलिस्ती महापराक्रमी को मार गिराया। बाद में दाऊद भी घमण्ड कर अपनी ताकत पर भरोसा रख कर जनगणना की आज्ञा दे कर पाप करते हैं। न्यायकर्ता के ग्रन्थ अध्याय 7 में हम देखते हैं कि गिदओन 32,000 सैनिकों को लेकर मिदियानियों के विरुद्ध युद्ध करने जाते हैं, तब ईश्वर उन से कहते हैं, "तुम्हारे पास लोगों की संख्या बहुत अधिक है। इसलिए मैं मिदियानियों को उनके हाथ नहीं दूँगा, क्योंकि इस से इस्राएली डींग मारेंगे कि हमने अपने बाहुबल से अपना उद्धार किया है।" तब प्रभु 31,700 सैनिकों वापस भेजने की आज्ञा देते हैं। ईश्वर की शक्ति पर निर्भर रह कर गिदयोन ने केवल 300 सैनिकों के साथ युद्ध में जा कर मिदियानियों को पराजित किया।

इस प्रकार पवित्र वचन हमें यह शिक्षा देता है कि ईश्वर के बिना हम कुछ भी नहीं कर सकते हैं। प्रभु येशु कहते हैं, "जिस तरह दाखलता में रहे बिना डाली स्वयं नहीं फल सकती, उसी तरह मुझ में रहे बिना तुम भी नहीं फल सकते।" योहन 15:4)

वर्ष का बारहवाँ रविवार

आज वर्ष का 12वाँ इतवार है। प्रभु येशु के सार्वजनिक जीवन का उद्देश्य अपने शिष्यों एवं लोगों को यह दिखाना था कि ईश्वर कौन हैं? और उन्हें ईश्वर के पास पहुँचाना। इसे हम सुसमाचार में पाते हैं, जब प्रभु येशु पाँच हजार लोगों को पाँच रोटियाँ और दो मछलियों से तृप्त करते हैं, जब वे पानी के ऊपर चलते हैं, जब वे विकलांग को स्वस्थ करते हैं, उस स्त्री को स्वतः स्पर्श करने देते हैं, ये सब ईश्वर की उपस्थिति को दिखाता है, और वे उनके बीच एक मनुष्य की तरह चलते हैं।

आज के पहले पाठ योब के ग्रन्थ में दैवी शक्ति के विषय में अभिव्यक्त किया गया है। सभी इस्राइली पुर्ण

रूप से अवगत थे कि केवल ईश्वर ही सृष्टि को नियंत्रित कर सकते हैं। योब का ग्रन्थ इस संसार में कई प्रकार के बुराई की समस्या पर प्रश्न करता है। हम लोग इस संसार में निर्दोष लोगों की पीड़ा को सोचने लगते हैं। क्यों निर्दोष लोगों को दुःख भोगना पड़ता है? योब जो निर्दोष था क्यों अपने ही मित्रों द्वारा तिरस्कृत किया गया? लेकिन फिर भी वह ईश्वर पर भरोसा रखता है और अंत में सभी शक्तियों पर ईश्वर की विजय होती है।

आज के दूसरे पाठ में संत पौलुस धर्मान्तरियों से कहते हैं कि उन्हें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि ख्रीस्तीय होने का क्या तात्पर्य है। उन्हें एक नया जीवन दिया गया है जब प्रभु येशु उनके लिए मरे और जी उठे हैं। वे उन्हें आशान्वित करते हैं कि किसी का प्रेम इससे बढ़कर नहीं जो अपना जीवन दूसरों के लिए गंवा दें। प्रभु येशु स्वयं इस प्रेम की चर्चा संत योहन के सुसमाचार में अपने अंतिम वार्तालाप में करते हैं।

आज के सुसमाचार में प्रभु येशु अपने पहचान को क्रमशः प्रदर्शित करते हैं। जब वे कफरनाहुम में (उपदेश) बीमारों को चंगा कर रहे थे, जहाँ भीड़ उनके उपदेश को सुनकर आश्चर्य चकित हो जाते हैं। लेकिन उनके शिष्य हतोत्साहित थे वे प्रभु को जगाते हुए कहते हैं "प्रभु, क्या आप को हमारी चिंता नहीं। हम लोग डूब रहे हैं।" आइये हम आज प्रभु से प्रार्थना करें कि जब जीवन में तूफान आती है उस समय हम प्रभु का शरण लें सकें।

वर्ष का तेरहवाँ रविवार

आज के सुसमाचार को सैंडविच सुसमाचार भी कहते हैं। क्योंकि येशु जैरूस की मृत पुत्री को जिलाने जाने के रास्ते में ही बारह साल से रक्तस्राव से पीड़ित महिला को चंगाई प्रदान करते हैं। इन दोनों चमत्कारों को देखते हुए हमें दो बिन्दुओं पर नजर डालना चाहिए।

1. दुःख तकलीफ में प्रभु पर विश्वास रखना है।

रक्तस्राव से पीड़ित महिला बारह साल से परेशान थी। लेवी ग्रंथ 15:19 में लिखा है "यदि किसी स्त्री का मासिक स्राव हो, तो वह सात दिन तक अशुद्ध रहेगी और जो उसका स्पर्श करेगा, वह शाम तक अशुद्ध रहेगा।" आगे लेवी 15:25 में लिखा है "यदि किसी स्त्री को उसके मासिक धर्म के दिनों के सिवा अन्य दिनों में अथवा मासिक धर्म पूरा होने के बाद रक्तस्राव होता रहे, तो वह उस समय ऋतुकाल



की तरह अशुद्ध है।" इससे हम अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि बारह साल की इस बीमारी से वह कितनी परेशान हो गयी होगी। बारह साल तक किसी ने उसको स्पर्श नहीं किया होगा। लोगों को या किसी वस्तु को स्पर्श करने से वह डरती थी। उसे येसु को स्पर्श करने की हिम्मत नहीं थी। इसलिए उसने पीछे से जाकर उनका कपड़ा छू लिया। इसके पूर्व उसने बहुत से वैद्यों के पास इलाज करवाया और बहुत पैसा भी खर्च किया लेकिन बावजूद भी उसे कोई राहत नहीं मिली। तब वह प्रभु पर आखरी भरोसा रखते हुए उनके पास आती है। उसका विश्वास था कि प्रभु उसे ठीक कर सकते हैं।

जैरुस सभागृह का अधिकारी था उसके पास पैसे की कोई कमी नहीं थी। शायद उसने बहुत लोगों की मदद भी की होगी। अपनी बेटी को अच्छा से अच्छा इलाज दिया होगा इसके बावजूद भी जब बीमारी में कोई फर्क नहीं दिखा तो वह प्रभु के पास जाता है। उसकी निःसहाय अवस्था को दर्शाते हुए बाइबिल में लिखा है कि वह प्रभु से अनुनय विनय करने लगा। एक अधिकारी प्रभु के सामने अपने आपको दीन हीन बनाता है। उसको प्रभु पर भरोसा था। प्रभु पर आसरा और भरोसा रखने वालों को प्रभु कभी नहीं छोड़ते।

2. प्रभु छोटे विश्वास को भी बढ़ावा देते हैं:

रक्तस्राव से पीड़ित स्त्री के मन में यह विचार था कि वह प्रभु के वस्त्र के पल्ले को छू भी ले तो वह ठीक हो जायेगी। और जैसे ही वह ठीक हुई वह संतुष्ट थी और वहाँ से चुपचाप निकलने का इरादा था। लेकिन प्रभु ने उसके इस विश्वास को लोगों के सामने प्रस्तुत किया। वे उसको सबके सामने लाये और अपने विश्वास का साक्ष्य करवाया। उस स्त्री के विश्वास के कारण वहाँ पर प्रभु ने एक विश्वास भरे जन समूह की स्थापना की।

जैरुस जब प्रभु से मिलने आये तब उनके मन में

केवल एक ही चिन्ता थी कि उसकी बेटी ठीक हो जाये। वह प्रभु के पास इसलिए आया कि उसको प्रभु पर विश्वास था। प्रभु ने उनके विश्वास को बनाये रखते हुए बेटी की मृत्यु होने पर भी उसको जिलाया। प्रभु द्वारा अपनी बेटी को चंगाई दिलाने का जैरुस का विश्वास बड़ी मात्रा में वहाँ पर उपस्थित लोगों के विश्वास में परिवर्तन होता है।

हर एक व्यक्ति का ईश्वर पर विश्वास करने और उस विश्वास को प्रकट करने का अपना अलग अलग तरीका है। कुछ लोग ऊँची आवाज से प्रार्थना करते हुए प्रभु की स्तुति करते हैं इसी प्रकार कुछ लोग मौन रूप से प्रार्थना करना पसंद करते हैं और कुछ लोगों को लगातार बाईबिल या कोई आध्यात्मिक किताब पढ़ना अच्छा लगता है। हम जैसे भी अपने विश्वास की साधना करते हैं या प्रकट करते हैं उन सब को प्रभु देखते हैं। हमारा छोटा विश्वास भी बड़ा काम कर सकते हैं इसलिए प्रभु ने कहा "यदि तुम्हारा विश्वास राई के दाने के बराबर भी हो और तुम इस पहाड़ से यह कहो यहाँ से वहाँ तक हट जा, तो यह हट जायेगा और तुम्हारे लिए कुछ भी असंभव नहीं होगा (मती 17:20)।

अब हमे मनन चिंतन करना चाहिए कि हमारा विश्वास कितना मजबूत है? क्या हम अपनी दुःख तकलीफ में प्रभु के पास जाने की हिम्मत रखते हैं? प्रभु को हमारा इंतजार है। वे हमारा विश्वास मजबूत करना और बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। हम प्रभु में भरोसा रखना सीखे वह हमें संभालेगे। हमारा विश्वास कुछ ऐसा रहे जैसे कोलोन शहर की एक दीवार पर लिखा है, "सूरज की किरण नहीं देखने पर भी मैं सूरज पर विश्वास करता हूँ। प्यार का एहसास नहीं होने पर भी मुझे प्यार में विश्वास है। ईश्वर को नहीं देखने से भी मैं उन पर विश्वास करता हूँ।"



BIRTHDAYS

Fr Sebastian Assarikudy	SJ	6th
Fr Sangeeth Raj	SJ	11th
Fr Cyprian Rodrigues		13th

Dates to Remember - June 2024

ORDINATIONS

Fr Melwyn Saldanha	29/2008
Fr Georgish Britto	03/2017
RIP	
Fr Stephen Sahay	09/2021





Pastoral Visit, Confirmation and Church Feast, Dausa



Farewell to MSA Sisters, Ghat Gate



Mothers Day and Nurses Day Celebration, Ghat Gate



JBC Football Tournament - Season 2



Earth Day Celebration - St Mary's Convent School, Jagatpura





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OBITUARY



REV FR ANTHONY CHELAKAT, SJ

BORN ON : 07.02.1935

ORDINATION : 12.03.1967

ETERNAL GLORY : 07.06.2024

*"He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91)*

May his soul Rest in Peace

*Fondly Remembered by:
The Bishops of Jaipur diocese, Jesuit Fathers
diocesan Fathers, Religious, Sisters
and Laity*

*With Best Compliments from
The Management, staff & students of*
Bikaner Boys School, Bikaner

