

BIRTHDAYS

3	Mrs. Malathi A. Joseph	19	Mr. Stanley Tatpati
4	Mrs. V. Aruna	21	Mrs. Eyleen Eikos
6	Mr. Harsha B.G.	21	Miss John Justina
8	Mrs. Kumari Mahendra	23	Mrs. Rubecca James
9	Mr. Joel Yesupriya Naveen	23	Mr. S. Kamalkumar
9	Mrs. Reshma R. Lewis	23	Mr. Sohel Dantes
10	Mrs. Bharathi Ganachari	27	Mrs. Nirmala Sathuri
11	Mrs. Sandra Hylvina Koneri	28	Mrs. Kavitha J Thomas
16	Mrs. Surekha R. Taylor		

Wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. ...

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Wishing you endless happiness, joy, and love on your anniversary and always.

3rd March Mrs. & Mr. Franklin Benjamin

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020
MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2020
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2020
HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2020
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2020



FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH

01/02/20 John Suresh Kumar & Family
 08/02/20 Bharati M. Ganachari & Family
 15/02/20 Robert Taylor & Family
 22/02/20 Dr. Dorothy Hanagal
 29/02/20 Lesley Birnur & Family



Healing Ministry Sunday P&W



Ms. Lydia Sharon



Mr. Richard Pothgoli



Book XIX

MARCH 2020

VOL III

THE INVISIBLE NAILS WHICH HELD JESUS TO THE CROSS

Dearly Beloved in Christ.....

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we meditate upon the Lenten Season let us ponder on the title: **'The Invisible Nails which held Jesus to the Cross'**.

People walked by and hurled insults at Jesus. They shook their heads and said, "You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. So save yourself! Come down from that Cross if you really are the Son of God"! Matt 27:40

We too had this kind of question in our childhood days. The Bible definitely tells us what held Jesus to the cross. It was not simply nails, though he was nailed to the cross. The Son of God has the power to raise the dead, heal the sick, make the blind see, still the storm-tossed sea. He surely had power to step down from a cross, even though he was nailed to it. It was not human weakness that bound

him to the cross, for he said regarding his life, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down; I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" John 10:18

It was not because he was friendless that he stayed on the cross. In the garden of Gethsemane, when Peter drew his sword and began to battle in defense of the master, Jesus said, "Thinkest thou not that I cannot now say to my father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels"? The twelve legions of angels were still available when Jesus was on the cross.

What then is the answer that held Jesus to the cross? Here is the answer: **HIS LOVE FOR US HELD HIM TO THE CROSS:**

Jesus said nothing and did nothing when the scoffers passed by reviling him and wagging their heads. They recalled the statement he had made regarding his death and resurrection.

He had said that if they destroyed the temple, He would raise it up in three days. He was speaking of himself, but they thought he spoke of the temple in Jerusalem; therefore, they said, "Thou that destroyed the temple and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

The chief priests, the scribes, and elders said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

Surely these taunting statements were enough to try the soul, even of the Son of God. He did not come down from the cross, for his love for a lost mankind held him to the cross.

Many verses declare this great truth unto us. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." "Paul tells us in Galatians 2:20 that the Son of God loved us, and gave himself for us."

John tells us in 1 John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren".

HIS SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL HELD HIM TO THE CROSS:

The bitter; angry mob, especially the religious leaders told him to come down from the cross if he were the Son of God. One of the malefactors railed him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." In the common language of today, they were saying, "If you are not a liar and a hypocrite, come down from the cross."

If you are what you claim to be, then show us by coming down from the cross". But Jesus could not come down, for His submission to God's will bound him to the rugged cross.

Let me pause here to make this plea. May our lives be so submissive to the will of God that we will be unable to do anything but say, "**Thy will be done**" "May our submission to his holy will bind us to separated living, to soul winning, to consecrated service, to liberal giving, to earnest praying. May our submission to the Father's will bind us to do his divine purpose and plan for our lives."

Jesus said, "Lo, I come to do thy will", it was the will of God that he should die for sinful mankind. It was the will of God that he should enter into the holy of holies, and there make one sacrifice for sin forever. It was the Father's will that he should pour out his blood upon Calvary's hill. Jesus was submissive to the will of God.

OUR SINS HELD HIM TO THE CROSS:

The trail of sin from the Garden of Eden to the present time is a bloody and tragic one.

*Sin separates men from God, just as it drove Adam and Eve from the garden.

**Sin brings shame. Adam and Eve sought to hide from God. Sinners are still ashamed, and try to hide their sins – therefore, men love darkness rather than light.

***Sin brings sorrow. The life of sin will end in sorrow.

****Sin brings suffering. All of the world's suffering came about because

Continued from Page 2

of sin. But the act of sin came to end in the death of Christ. But let us remember it was our sins which nailed him and held him to cross." Our selfishness, our pride, our sinful habits, our curse, hypocrisy.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed".

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way" Isaiah 53:5,6"

Continued from Page 5

he has spoken to us through His Son "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." God became a human being, in the Person of Jesus Christ, to identify with us, to set an example for us, to teach us, to reveal Himself to us, and, most importantly, to provide salvation for us by humbling Himself in death on the cross (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus Christ is the ultimate "Special Revelation" from God.- (www.gotquestions.org)

Gloria Franklin

TWO GARDENS

The Bible is a story of two gardens: **EDEN** and **GETHSAMANE**. In the first, Adam took a **FALL**. In the second, Christ took a **STAND**.

In Eden, Satan led Adam to a tree that led to **DEATH**. Jesus went to a tree that led to our **LIFE**! Guess what? Eden means "**PLEASURE**", Gethsamane means **OIL PRESS**.

In Eden, Adam was "**BLESSED**", in Gethsamane, Christ was "**PRESSED**"! Adam was put in the garden of Eden to have the "**PLEASURE**" of life and he "**FAILED**". Christ went to the garden of Gethsamane to have the "**PRESSURE**" of death and He "**SUCCEEDED**"!

In the garden of Eden, mankind by way of their choice had to face the agony of a "**HOPELESS END**"! In the garden of Gethsamane, Jesus made His choice so that those who believe in Him will have an "**ENDLESS HOPE**"! Christ went to the garden of Gethsamane to have the "**PRESSURE**" of death and He "**SUCCEEDED**"! No wonder His sweat was like drops of blood.

In Eden, man "**FAILED**", but in Gethsamane, the man Jesus was "**VICTORIOUS**". **AMEN**

experiencing a bit of freedom that makes me gladly thankful for God's grace at work in me.

After Jesus had healed the demon-possessed boy, the disciples asked Him, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

One reason they already knew – lack of faith. But Jesus gave them two other reasons for their inability (remember they were given the power earlier to cast out demons).

They had not prayed enough and they had not fasted. In some situations it is necessary to fast in order to receive our requests from God. Many have experienced great results from prayer – more power, more blessing and more guidance – when they fasted.

Instead of or in addition to fasting during Lent, you might add a spiritual exercise or discipline to your life. You may want to participate in some act of kindness, such as feeding people at a homeless shelter. I like to add something that I can do every day. For example, it wouldn't be a bad idea if I decided to get up at 5:00 a.m. to pray for an hour each day of Lent. If you have no idea what to do during Lent, let me suggest the following. Set aside some time of quiet to ask the Lord what he wants you to do. See if the Spirit of God guides you to something. If nothing comes to mind, I'd recommend that you read a chapter of a gospel each day. If you start with Mark, you'll have time to read all of Mark plus one other gospel during Lent. So, as we enter the season of Lent, I pray that God will draw us closer to him, and prepare us for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter.

May God's peace be with You!

Reuben Sathuri

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

One Sunday afternoon the young Isaac Watts was complaining about the deplorable hymns that were sung at church. His father, the pastor of the church, rebuked him with "I'd like to see you write something better!"

Though intended originally as a communion hymn, the song gives us plenty to contemplate during Lent as focus is on Christ on the cross. The hymn is said to be based on Galatians 6:14 (May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.) which is evident in a verse that Watts' eliminated from later editions of the hymn:

***His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.***

Perhaps Watts eliminated this verse in order to focus more attention on our response to Christ's crucifixion than the crucifixion itself. Notice how he starts with contemplation of the cross and the fact that all our worldly achievements and possessions pale in comparison.

Next he shows that Christ went to the cross out of love for us. In the most powerful image of the hymn, he affirms the deity of the suffering Christ with the brilliant juxtaposition: "Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?" And the last verse shows that the only proper response to this amazing love is complete devotion — Greg Scheer.

YOUTH PAGE

Answering tough questions:

In the previous article in the Newsletter of February '20, we discussed about General Revelation of God. Now let us look into His special revelation. God has chosen to reveal Himself through miraculous means. Special revelation includes physical appearances of God, dreams, visions, the written Word of God, and most importantly – through the person of Jesus Christ.

The Bible records God appearing in physical form many times ([Genesis 3:8, 18:1](#); [Exodus 3:1-4, 34:5-7](#)), and the Bible records God speaking to people through dreams ([Genesis 28:12, 1 Kings 3:5](#); [Daniel 2](#)) and visions ([Genesis 15:1](#); [Daniel 7, 2 Corinthians 12:1-7](#)).

Of primary importance in the revealing of God is His Word, the Bible because they use human words, are more direct and therefore more intelligible to us than the revelation of God in nature. God doesn't issue direct, linguistic commands through nature. Instead, He creates a natural order that is designed, that has purposes, trends, trajectories. All of creation is governed by God's fixed and established laws and principles. But that process takes time and effort and maturity, and therefore, Scripture, by giving us God's revelation in human language, is more direct, even if both Scripture and nature are clear.

The obscurity of general revelation which we experience is not only owing to the fact that it takes time,

effort and maturity to comprehend God's revelation in nature; it is also owing to the Fall.

Because of our truth-suppressing rebellion, in our natural state we are deaf to God's voice and blind to His beauty. Again, [Romans 1](#) says that, even though we know God (through nature), we suppress what we know and we refuse to honour God as God and give thanks to him ([Rom. 1:21](#)). Same time general revelation is sufficient to condemn us. The authority and clarity of general revelation leaves us without excuse, but it is not sufficient to save us. —Justin Taylor.

God miraculously guided the authors of Scripture to correctly record His message to mankind, while still using their own styles and personalities. The Word of God is living and active ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). The Word of God is inspired, profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)).God determined to have the truth regarding Him recorded in written form because He knew the inaccuracy and unreliability of oral tradition. He also understood that the dreams and visions of man can be misinterpreted. God decided to reveal everything that humanity needs to know about Him, what He expects, and what He has done for us in the Bible.

The ultimate form of special revelation is the Person of Jesus Christ. God became a human being ([John 1:1, 14](#)). [Hebrews 1:1-3](#) summarizes it best, "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days

Date/Day/ Time	Nature of Service	Lessons	Reader	Preacher
01 Sun 7:30 am 6:30 pm	1st Sunday in Lent H.C. Service: The Cleansing Christ Evensong: The Cleansing Christ	Zech 13:1-9 1 John 1: 5-10 Psalm 130 Mark 1: 40- 45 Exodus 12: 21-28	Mrs. Malathi Joseph Mr. Franklin Benjamin Mr. Harsha B.G. Elements Mr. & Mrs. John Sureshkumar	Parish Priest
08 Sun 7:30 am 6:30 pm	2nd Sunday in Lent H. C. Service The Forgiving Christ WORLD WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER Evensong: The Forgiving Christ	Genesis 4: 8- 16 Romans 5: 6-11 Psalm 25 Mark 2: 1- 12 Jonah 4: 6-11	WOMEN	Guest speaker
15Sun 7:30 am 6:30 pm	3rd Sunday in Lent H. C. Service The Accepting Christ Praise and Worship Service	Hosea 2: 14-23 Philo 1-21 Psalm 87 Matt 15: 21- 28 Ruth 4: 1-10	Ps. Stanley Tapati Mrs. Bharathi G. Mrs. Lucy Lewis Elements Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor	Parish Priest
22 Sun 7:30 am 6:30 pm	4th Sunday in Lent H. C. Service: The Liberating Christ Evensong: The Liberating Christ	Exodus 3: 1-13 Psalm 82 Gal 5: 1-12 Luke 13: 10- 17 Isaiah 12: 1- 6	Mrs. Nirmala Sathuri Mr. Kamal Kumar Mrs. Kavitha Thomas Elements Dr. Dorothy & Mrs. Bharathi	Parish Priest
25 Tuesday	The Annunciation to Mary	Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 41:1-10	Galatians 4:1-7 Luke 1: 26-38	
29 Sun 7:30 am 6:30 pm	5th Sunday in Lent H. C. Service PASSION SUNDAY Cross and Restoring Christ Evensong: Cross and Restoring Christ	Job 42:10 – 17 Eph 2: 1-10 Psalm 126 Mark 10: 46 – 52 Jer 30: 1-10	Miss Mary Jennifer Mrs. Subhashini Mitta Mr. Mohan Kolhar Elements Mr. & Mrs. Lesley Birnur	Parish Priest

LENT

Growing up as a Christian, I experienced Lent as little more than a joke. “What are you giving up for Lent?” my friends would ask. “Homework,” I’d say with a smirk, or “Obeying my parents.”

Lent was one of those peculiar practices demanded of Christians. It never even occurred to me that Lent was something I might actually benefit from or come to value as a way of getting to know God better.

Lent (the word comes from the Middle English word for “spring”) is a six-week season in the Christian year prior to Easter. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays, or 46 days in total.)

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Part of this preparation involved the Lenten “fast,” giving up something special during the six weeks of Lent

Historically, many Protestants rejected the practice of Lent, pointing out, truly, that it was nowhere required in Scripture. These Protestants saw Lent, at best, as something completely optional for believers, and, at worst, as a superfluous Catholic practice that true believers should avoid altogether.

At this point, that if you think of Lent as a season to earn God’s favor by your good intentions or good works, then you’ve got a theological problem. God’s grace has been fully given to us

If you see Lent as a time to make yourself more worthy for celebrating Good Friday and Easter, then perhaps you shouldn’t observe the season until you’ve grown in your understanding of grace. If, on the contrary, you see Lent as a time to grow more deeply in God’s grace, then you’re approaching Lent from a proper perspective.

FASTING DURING LENT

First, the act of sacrifice reminds me of my commitment to God and my desire to make him first in my life.Second, by giving up something I enjoy on a daily basis, I have sometimes found myself yearning for that thing. Frankly, I’ve been tempted to give up fasting at times and that it’s unnecessary and certainly not taught in Scripture. But, though I don’t think my effort at fasting makes God love or bless me more, I do think it raises my awareness of how much I depend on other things in life rather than God.

Third, when I give up something I like and then feel an unquenched desire for it, I’m reminded of my neediness as a person. And neediness, I believe, is at the heart of true spirituality.

Jesus said, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*” Matthew 5:3,6.

Of course feeling hungry for one of life’s pleasures isn’t quite the same as hungering and thirsting for righteousness. But when I feel my hunger, I can use this to get in touch with my hunger and need for God.

Fourth, as I continue with my Lenten fast, I find myself less eager for the thing I’ve given up and as I learn to depend more upon God, I am