



Book XX

APRIL 2020

VOL.IV

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THE REAL MEANING OF EASTER

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

Greetings to you all in the Resurrected name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is silent.” Isaiah 53:7

THE PLAN:

The soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others — one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS.**

THE PAYMENT:

The people stood watching and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen one.” One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us” but the other criminal rebuked him, “Don’t you fear God,” he

asked since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.

But this man has done nothing wrong Then he said "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, *I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*"

We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?* Which means, My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up his spirit: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "surely He was the son of God."

THE PROOF:

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was preparation day and the Sabbath was about to begin.

After this Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene

and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightening and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, "now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!" he said, they came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid, Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee: there they will see me.

THE PROMISE:

One of those who saw the resurrected Christ, the Apostle Peter, says concerning him "We are witnesses of everything he did. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness through His name."

Continued on page

THE EMPTY TOMB

The concept of the resurrection lies at the heart of Christianity. The resurrection of Christ is one of the most important aspects of the Christian faith. Without resurrection, Christianity becomes meaningless. The resurrection of Christ affirms to us that He is indeed the Son of God, and we can experience Him through a personal relationship with God. Many of us are still blind and cloud our vision to the truth about Christ.

The two men walking along a road toward Emmaus had been followers of Christ. They had heard Him speak, they had watched Him heal...they had seen Him die. They heard reports of the empty tomb but they did not believe them. They had hoped that Jesus would free their people but were disappointed because God did not do what they wanted him to do. Their dream of freedom and victory seemed to die with Christ. They were blind to the truth about Christ and blind to the reality of the resurrection.

1. They were blinded by their emotions: Luke 24:13-17

No doubt recent events had made them extremely emotional. As followers of Christ their hopes were dashed and their plans destroyed with Christ's death. Here they are on the road to Emmaus "talking to each other about all the things that had taken place." This was an emotionally charged discussion. While they are animatedly discussing, Christ approached them and began walking with them."

The Bible says, "their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him." They were blinded to who He really was. Here He is, right next to them, and they didn't even know it.

Quite often our emotions play a role in our faith. It's true that emotions and feelings are important, but we are not to build our faith upon our feelings. There seems to be this struggle sometimes within us between faith and facts and feelings. We allow our feelings to affect our faith negatively. We can't possibly believe in someone being raised from the dead....what would others think? We couldn't place our faith in something unseen...it just doesn't "feel" right. Like these two men, we are blinded to the truth by our emotions. Christ could be right next to us, walking beside us and we wouldn't even know it

2. They were blinded by their circumstances: Luke 24:18-24

As they begin to talk with Christ, they ask, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened these days?" They were so immersed in their circumstances that they were unable to see God behind their circumstances. They couldn't see the power of the resurrection because they were blinded by their experience. They had seen Him condemned and crucified. They saw Him die. Who would imagine that the same person who suffered and died three days before was now walking and talking with them on the road to Emmaus?

Their circumstances would not allow them to see who Christ really was. Our life situations can leave us in a place where we are blinded to Christ.

Maybe your circumstances have worked out well for you and you are living a comfortable life.

You've got everything you could ever want in life; nice car, nice home, nice family. You have got all bases covered, so you can't see your need for God. Your situation has formed a barrier that clouds your view of God and distorts your idea of God.

3. They were blinded by their unbelief: Luke 24:24-27

They couldn't imagine someone actually being raised from the dead. It's easy for us to think about it; we've heard it for years. But this was a new concept for them. They had heard the teachings of Christ that He would be resurrected but they were blinded by their unbelief. Their real problem was not in their heads but in their hearts.

One of the things that hinders us from seeing Christ is our unbelief. We miss God's blessing because we choose not to see the truth. We allow our unbelief to blind us to the truth.

The Bible says that Christ opened their eyes and allowed them to see who He really was and disappeared from them. When they discovered the truth, they ran to Jerusalem and found the followers of Christ and said, ***"the Lord has risen from the dead..."***

The world is flat.....didn't stop Columbus; the universe revolves around the earth...didn't stop Copernicus; you'll never win...didn't stop our forefathers from purchasing our freedom. Don't allow unbelief and lack of faith blind us to what life has to offer.

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a foolish fantasy.

However, if the resurrection of Christ did occur, it confirms His life, His message, and atoning work. It is the basis of our hope of life beyond the grave. Christ is alive, and the evidence is overwhelming.

1. Jesus predicted His resurrection (Matt 16:21; Mark 9:9-10).
2. The Old Testament promised it (Psalm 16:10)
3. The tomb was empty. If those who opposed Christ wished to silence His disciples, all they had to do was produce a body, but they could not (John 20:3-9).
4. Many people saw the resurrected Christ. They looked on His face, touched Him, heard His voice. (Matt. 28:16-20; John 20:11-29).
5. The lives of the disciples were revolutionized. Though they denied Christ at the time of His arrest, they later proclaimed Christ without fear (Matt 26:56, 69-75).
6. Personal experience: Men and women today testify that the power of the risen Christ has transformed their lives. We know that Jesus is alive because He has miraculously touched our lives. We will testify that Jesus Christ has changed our lives.

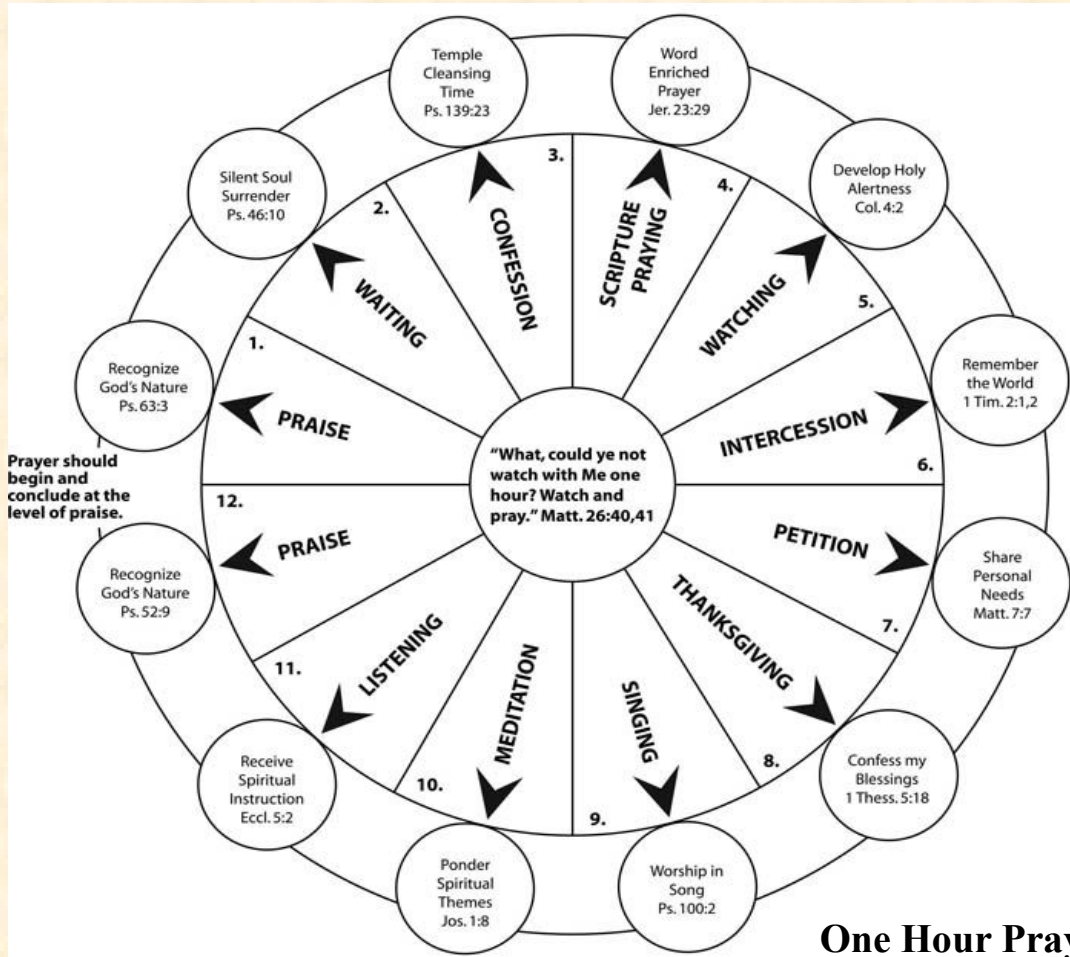
Don't be blinded by your emotions, your circumstances or your unbelief. Open your eyes to the truth of Christ. *God emptied Heaven to fill the manger; He emptied the manger to fill the cross; He emptied the cross to fill the tomb; and He emptied the tomb to fill your heart!*

Reuben Sathuri

"The Lord is Risen!" "He is Risen Indeed"

YOUTH FORUM

Are you bored at home during this lock down? Are you seeking to do something valuable in your life? Here is the suggestion to build your Prayer Time. The simple “One Hour Prayer Wheel Tool” will definitely help you spend one hour quality time in God’s presence. All you have to do is follow the 12 steps, each point 5 minutes and you will be surprised. While Jesus and His disciples were in Gethsemane, He found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" He asked Peter. (Matthew 26:40). Let us make this “Hour” more meaningful.



One Hour Prayer Wheel

ADDICTIVE IDOLS

The World Health Organisation recently classified screen addiction as the top of the pestilential heap that affects the health of children between ages 4 to 19. It can cause psychosis called as the ‘Game Transfer Phenomenon’ or the ‘Tetris Effect’. The **Tetris effect** (also known as **Tetris syndrome**) occurs when people devote so much time and attention to an activity that it begins to pattern their thoughts, mental images and dreams. It takes its name from the video game **Tetris**.

This means that kids affected by early and long term TV use, Smart phones and Internet preoccupation are unable to separate screen experience from the real world. Such is the power of video-gaming and social media. Are screens our new idol of today that compromise our purity with God?

ALMANAC FOR APRIL 2020

Date/Day/Time	Nature of Service	Lessons	Reader	Preacher
05 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	Sunday before Easter PALM SUNDAY H.C. Service: The King Of Peace Evensong: The King Of Peace	Zech 9:1-12 Eph 2: 11 – 22 Psalm 24 Mark 11: 1-11 Dan 9: 20 – 27 Hebrews 5: 1-10	Miss Mary Jennifer Mr. Arthur James Miss Rachel Joseph <u>Elements</u> P.C. Members	Parish Priest Parish Priest
09 Thu. 6.30 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY H.C. SERVICE Christ: The Life Giving Bread	Exod. 12: 12-20 1 Cor 11: 23- 29 Psalm 116 John 6: 47 – 58	P.C. MEMBERS	Parish Priest
10 Fri. 8.0 am	GOOD FRIDAY Ante Communion Service: Cross: Self Giving Love	Isa 52: 13 – 53: 12 1 Peter 2: 21 – 25 Psalm 22 Mark 15: 22 - 41		Parish Priest
10 Fri 12 noon to 3.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY	3 HOURS MEDITATION ON THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE CROSS.		VARIOUS SPEAKERS
12 Sun. 5.30 am & 8.00 am	EASTER SUNDAY H.C. SERVICE: Resurrection: Celebrating Life in Jesus	1 King 17:17-24 1 Cor 15: 42-58 Psl. 118:1-4, 14– 17 Luke 24: 1-12	P.C. MEMBERS	Parish Priest
19 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	1st Sun. after Easter H.C. SERVICE: Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God PRAISE AND WORSHIP	Exo 3:13-17 Col 1: 15-23 Psalm 93 John 20: 24-29	Mr. Nirmal Swaminathan Dr. Shailesh Gokavi Mr. Raju Sathuri Elements Mr. & Mrs. Devaprasad M	Parish Priest By Youth
25 Sat	Mark, Evangelist* Hosea 6: 1-6 /Pro.15: 28-33	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Peter 5: 5-14	Mark 14:43-52
26 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	2nd Sunday after Easter H.C. SERVICE Invitation to Christ's Hospitality Evensong:	Genesis 18: 1- 10 Hebrews 13: 1-8 Psalm 15 John 21: 1- 14	Mr. J.D.Hanagal Mrs. Jayashree John Mr. Mohan Joseph <u>Elements</u>	Parish Priest

BIRTHDAYS

1	Mrs. Esther J. George	15	Mr. Raju Sathuri
2	Mr. Daniel Ullagaddi	16	Mrs. Helen Kolhar
3	Miss Aroma Joy Mahendra	16	Mr. Mariyadas Dara
4	Mr. Devaprasad Mitta	21	Mrs. Jessy Ronson Oliver
6	Miss Mary Jennifer	24	Mr. Nirmal Swaminathan
9	Mr. Benjamin Sadamal	27	Mrs. Muriel Wilfred
9	Mr. Mohan Joseph	27	Miss Renita N. James
10	Mr. Arthur James	28	Mrs. Asha W. Joseph
10	Miss Rachel A. Joseph	28	Mrs. Tripti Gadgade
11	Miss Sneha Abraham	29	Mr. Samson R. James
15	Mr. Libin Joseph	29	Mrs. Diana Bangerra

Praying for heaven's choicest blessing for each one of you to have a happy and blessed birthday and many happier ones to come

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09	Mr. & Mrs. Robin Lewis	21	Dr. Mrs. & Dr. Shailesh Gokavi
10	Mr. & Mrs. Jestin Thomas	24	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald James
17	Mrs. & Mr. G. Gnanarajan	26	Mr. & Mrs. Mahendra Kumar
18	Mr. & Mrs. Devaprasad Mitta	26	Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Hanagal
18	Mrs. & Mr. Royston N. Chelli	30	Mr. & Mrs. Ronson Oliver

May you continue to be a wonderful husband and wife to each other; wishing you nothing but Happiness, Love and Joy in the years ahead.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS



5th PALM SUNDAY – CHURCH

9th MAUNDY THURSDAY - CHURCH

12th EASTER SUNDAY -CHURCH

19th Mr. & Mrs. Devaprasad Mitta

26th Mr. & Mrs S.R. James

GUEST SPEAKERS IN MARCH



Bro Sudhir Kirby



Mrs. Kalpana Kirby



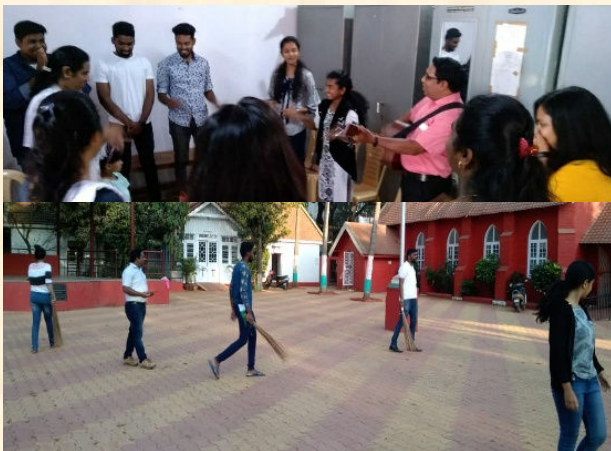
Mrs. T. Jogul



Mrs. Sudha T



World Women's Day of Prayer Special Song / Group



Youth Fellowship & Church Cleaning



Kamal Kumar's grandson

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And Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us promised, "My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

THE PRIVILEGE

Jesus Christ died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Rev. Dr. Murphy Soans

Wishing you Happy Easter