

## BIRTHDAYS

|    |                          |    |                            |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1  | Col. Edwin J. Birnur     | 17 | Mr. Finney M. Soans        |
| 1  | Mr. Calvin J. Devadas    | 17 | Mrs. Sarah I Koti          |
| 3  | Mr. Abhilash J Hanagal   | 18 | Mrs. Vishala G. James      |
| 8  | Mr. Nithin Joseph        | 20 | Mr. Isaac D Koti           |
| 8  | Mr. Enoch Babu           | 21 | Mr. Uttamkumar Alice       |
| 11 | Mrs. Irene G. Nagulvaram | 22 | Baby Janice G. James       |
| 15 | Mr. Joel M. Soans        | 24 | Mrs. Anitha Thomas         |
| 16 | Mr. Robert Taylor        | 24 | Mr. Sumanth B. Hannikeri   |
| 16 | Mrs. Sneha A. Johnson    | 28 | Mr. Asher Ebenezer Tatpati |

**May the Grace of God enfold you, the love of Christ uphold you and the Spirit of truth set you free, this birthday and always.**

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

|    |                              |    |                    |
|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso S. Joseph | 16 | Mr & Mrs. Sachin   |
| 10 | Mrs. & Mr. Soheli Dantes     | 28 | Mr. & Mrs. L Luwis |
| 15 | Rev & Mrs. Murphy Soans      |    |                    |

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Congratulations on another year spent in togetherness. Wishing you Love and Laughter for the years to come.**



## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

02/02 Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso Joseph & family  
 09/02 Mr. & Mrs. Mohan Joseph and family  
 16/02 Mr. Abilash Hanagal and family  
 23/02 Mr. & Mrs. George James and family



Rev. Murphy Soans's grandson



Theodore's message on Republic Day



**Book XVIII**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**VOL.II**

## **A FAST ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD, ISAIAH 58: 3-12**

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Lent marks a season — a season of human repentance and an earnest effort to set things right. What is not right as conceived by many, are the habit of drinking, use of flesh, and what they think stand as an obstacle to the goal of entering into the kingdom of God.

As the season ends, all these habits reappear, and people continue to lead the same old life.

### **I HYPOCRISY:**

First hypocrisy in observing a fast as condemned by the prophet is its showy nature. Those who fast show people that they are religious, but they do not practice religion. ....The prophet asks: Why do you seek your own pleasure in the day of your fast?

Why do you oppress all your workers? Do you fast only to quarrel and to fight with the wicked first?

God's interest is in the result of a fast. But human bowing down his head like a bulrush, spreading sackcloth and ashes under him are seen by others, but not accepted by God. God intends us to be stewards of His commandments.

Following commandments in spirit, is something that transcends its physical observance. We have our sackcloth and ashes under us, like forgoing flesh and meat, strong drinks till the end of the season only to reappear with added vigour and strength.

### **II GOD'S EXPECTATION:**

The prophet brings to light God's expectations. God's expectation are numbered here.

1. Loose the bands of wickedness.
2. Undo the things of the yoke.
3. Let the oppressed go free.
4. Break every yoke.

5. Share bread with the hungry.
6. Bring the homeless to your home
7. Cover the naked.
8. Do not hide yourself from your own flesh.

It is true that our Christian living aims at fulfilling God's expectation. That is why and how the church exists.

But do we realize that our joining the church in giving justice is to escape from our personal responsibility of doing justice at home. Let us move closer to the prophet particularly to item 6 above. What does the scripture say? "Bring the homeless poor into your house." Providing home to the homeless poor is a personal responsibility.

I personally knew two pastors, one without any children and one with one child only. On a visit later, I found a girl child at home. To my query, they said, Pastor, we have one more child. I understood they arranged for the 'additional child's' marriage first and for their own child later.

The meaning of a fast is clearly depicted in the words of the prophet. In this example, the integration into

commandments is what is acceptable to the Lord.

### III FAST ACCEPTABLE TO GOD:

The prophet brings to light the results of observing a fast acceptable to the Lord. He who observes a fast acceptable to the Lord will shed light to others. Others will witness. It is good to see him and his actions. He is good to the people, good to the church and good to the Lord God.

A fast acceptable to the Lord sets human relationships right. The truths we have seen so far point to this very important factor. A fast aims to set the right course for human relationships.

The end result is in verse 9, that we will find our God who will answer us when we call, who will say, "here I am (Emmanuel) when we cry.

He will guide us continually and satisfy our soul when in drought. He will strengthen our bones and we shall be like a well watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Let us examine ourselves and ask: Lord, is my fast acceptable to you?

**Rev. Dr. Murphy W. Soans**

### LENTEN PROGRAMME

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2020

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2020

\* Special Holy Communion Service will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at 6.30 p.m. on the occasion of Ash Wednesday.

\* Lenten Meditation will be held on Wednesdays and Sundays at 6.30 pm during Lent. May God Bless and guide us with His Spiritual Blessing

Based on the watch's design, we would assume it had a designer. But there is far greater design and precision in the world around us. Our measurement of time is not based on wristwatches, but on God's handiwork - the regular rotation of the earth (and the radioactive properties of the Cesium-133 atom).

The universe displays great design, and this argues for a Great Designer. Not only has God made an intricate and finely tuned physical world; He has also instilled a sense of eternity in the heart of every person (Eccl 3:11). Our sense of eternity manifests itself in at least two ways; law-making and worship.

Every civilization throughout history has valued certain moral laws, which are surprisingly similar from

culture to culture.

For example, the ideal of love is universally esteemed, while the act of lying is universally condemned. This common morality - this global understanding of right and wrong - points to a Supreme Moral Being who gave us such scruples. In the same way, people all over the world, regardless of culture, have always cultivated a system of worship. The object of worship may vary, but the sense of a "higher power" is an undeniable part of being human. So there is no excuse to deny these facts. God reveals to all people, at all times and in all places that God exists and He is powerful, intelligent and transcendent.

(Source: Everystudent.com).

**Gloria Franklin**  
to be continued...

### PRESCRIPTION

A missionary found herself without means among a heathen people, far from any source of supplies. In her distress she claimed the promise of God that He would supply her need. She was also in poor health. From a businessman in another part of the country came several large boxes of Scotch oatmeal. She already had several large cans of condensed milk, so with these two commodities she was obliged to sustain life for four long weeks. As time went on, it seemed to agree with her better; and in four

In relating the experience some time later to a company of people, which included a physician, she was asked more particularly the nature of her former illness. The physician said, "The Lord heard your prayer and supplied your need more truly than you realize. For the sickness from which you were suffering, we physicians prescribe a four weeks' diet of nothing but oatmeal gruel for our patients. The Lord prescribed it for you, and saw to it that that was all you took. It was the proper remedy."

### Selected

**\*Healing Ministry Sunday will be observed on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.**

**All medical and paramedical personnel to take part in the H C Service.**

Hezekiah then asks Isaiah for a sign that his healing was from God. He wanted to know if the healing was the result of the medical herbs alone or was it the response of a sovereign God?

Perhaps he wanted to clarify that God was the healer not just for himself but for the nation, after all it was he that had had the bronze serpent destroyed that Moses had made ..... the bronze serpent that had been a symbol of healing by the Lord ..... but that had been corrupted by the idolatry of the people!

Perhaps this whole episode of near death was for this reason alone. When God allows suffering in His faithful servants it is to achieve some purpose or goal!

The sign would signal Hezekiah's return to the "Temple of the Lord!" and Hezekiah's fellowship in God's house would be fully restored!

Restored physically, restored fellowship with God, restored fellowship with God's people, restored leadership, restored image of God as healer! God is in the restoration business!

Hezekiah is asked to choose which way he wanted God to make a statement, by either making the shadow on the stairs move forward 10 steps or backwards 10 steps!

Hezekiah realized that moving forward 10 steps might not be viewed as that supernatural, but to have it go backwards 10 steps is contrary to all known laws! Who in heaven's name could do this? This would involve overriding the laws of the universe!

The God of Hezekiah was not some localized deity; He was the EL SHADDAI – the "*Almighty God!*"

While some scientist might have found a way to explain Hezekiah's healing by the poultice given to him by Isaiah, how could anyone explain time flowing backwards?

The ruler of the universe responds to the faithfulness of a servant!

He will reverse the effects of time to demonstrate His power! He will heal and restore those who walk with Him! Don't underestimate the response of God to those who can say with an honest heart, "*Remember My Faithfulness.*"

The Lord does respond to faithfulness on the part of His children! God does hear the cries of the faithful and His heart is moved to consider the requests of His children. Nothing is more satisfying in this life than to be able to come before the Lord in a moment of crisis and be able to say "*Lord, remember my faithfulness*" – not as a form of manipulation, but as a reminder to self and to others that faithfulness counts, that God's heart is always on the remnant that walk faithfully with Him!

The Bible teaches us that being faithful to the Lord opens the door for God to move in our life in unique ways that He otherwise could not or would not be able to do so

God has always kept a unique hand on the faithful remnant who follow Him! He is sure to respond positively to those who put their trust in Him.

**Reuben Sathuri**

## **YOUTH FORUM**

### **Answering Tough Questions**

The greatest challenge Christian youth face amongst their friends is about their faith. They face tough questions which they are unable to handle. When we asked one of the Christian students to share his faith with friends, he could not because of their friendship norm which says, 'no one should talk about religious things, religions brings division.'

While some are bound with norms like these, others are fearful, and some end up in arguments because of the lack of knowledge about God. Some don't believe in existence of God itself. Some believe in money, influence, position and lifestyle which according to them are god. They are many other things which hinder them to speak about their creator. Let me take this forum to address this issue.

When we talk about God most people conclude that we are talking about our religion; but God is not religion - He is spiritual. God made man while religions are man made. God never brings division among people because He is God of universe. Col 3:11 says, "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free; but Christ is all, and in all." And Rev 7:9 says, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their

hands. There are many scriptures which talks about God's love for the whole world proving He is God of universe with no division in Him.

Today's fast pace of science and technology makes us think there is no God for our generation. Science is amazing, it has increased human knowledge. It teaches about life, the earth, the universe. But same time it fails to explain why these came to existence. Big Bang theory or theory of Evolution cannot explain one of the greatest mysteries of science: how did consciousness arise in living things?

Where do symbolic thinking and self-awareness come from? Science is nowhere near to explaining these deep mysteries.- (Amir Aczel-Why Science does not disprove God).

There are two things that point to the existence of God: they are general revelation and special revelation. General revelation means general truths about God that can be known through nature. The most basic proof of God's existence is simply what He has made. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" ([Rom 1:20](#)). "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." ([Psalm 19:1](#)).

If we found a wristwatch in the middle of a field, we would not assume that it just "appeared" out of nowhere or that it had always existed.

| ALMANAC FOR FEBURAY 2020       |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                                          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Date/Day/Time                  | Nature of Service                                                                                                                                                                            | Lessons                                                                                        | Reader                                                                                                                | Preacher                                 |
| 02 Sun. 7.30 am<br><br>6.30 pm | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany<br>H.C. Service:<br><b>True Piety</b><br>Evensong:<br><b>Presentation of Christ In The Temple</b>                                                      | Micah 6:1-8<br>James 1:19-27<br>Psalm. 42<br>Matt. 6:1-8<br>Rom. 11:33 - 12:2<br>Luke 2:22-40  | Mr. E.J. Birnur<br>Mr. Calvin Devadass<br>Mr. Alfonso Joseph<br><b>Elements</b><br><b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. A.S. Joseph</b>  | Parish Priest<br><br>Parish Priest       |
| 09 Sun. 7.30 am<br><br>6.30 pm | 9 <sup>th</sup> Sun. before Easter<br><b>Healing Ministry Sunday</b><br>H.C. Service:<br><b>Compassionate Love and Healing</b><br>Evensong:<br><b>Sabbath As The Culmination of Creation</b> | Isa. 42:1-9<br>James 5:13-18<br>Psalm. 103:1-14<br>Mark 7:31-37<br>Heb. 4:2-13<br>Mark 2:23-28 | MEDICAL AND<br>PARAMEDICAL<br>PERSONNEL                                                                               | Ms. Lydia<br>Sharon<br><br>Parish Priest |
| 15 Sat.                        | St. Stephen the Martyr*                                                                                                                                                                      | 2 Chron. 24: 17-22                                                                             | Acts 7:51-60                                                                                                          | Matt. 10:16-22                           |
| 16 Sun. 7.30 am<br><br>6.30 pm | 8 <sup>th</sup> Sun. before Easter<br>H.C. Service: <b>Fall As The Violation Of The Purpose Of Creation</b><br><br>Evensong: <b>Fall As The Violation Of The Purpose Of Creation</b>         | Gen. 6:1-13<br>Rom. 7:4-25<br>Psalm. 32<br>Matt. 7:15-23<br>Gen. 3:1-13<br>Rom 5:12-21         | Mr. Robert Taylor<br>Mr. P.E. Johnson<br>Mrs. Vishala James<br><br><b>Elements</b><br><b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J Hanagal</b> | Parish Priest<br><br>Parish Priest       |
| 23 Sun. 7.30 am<br><br>6.30 pm | 7 <sup>th</sup> Sun. before Easter<br>H.C. Service:<br><b>Lent; A Time Of Transformation</b><br><br>Evensong:<br><b>Lent; A Time Of Transformation</b>                                       | Isa. 44:21-28<br>Rom. 11:13-24<br>Psalm. 6<br>John 2: 1-11<br>Eze. 18:25-32<br>1 Tim 1:12-17   | Mr. S.B. Hannikeri<br>Mr. L. Luwis<br>Mrs. Anitha Thomas<br><br><b>Elements</b><br><b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George James</b> | Parish Priest<br><br>Parish Priest       |
| 26 Wed 6:30 pm.                | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br><b>H.C. SERVICE</b><br><b>Cross: A Call To Repentance</b>                                                                                                            | Isa. 1:16-20<br>2 Cor. 7:8-16<br>Psalm. 51<br>Mark 1:12-15                                     | P.C.MEMBERS                                                                                                           | Parish Priest                            |

**REMEMBER MY FAITHFULNESS**  
*Thus saith the Lord.....I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee. 2 Kings 20:5*

Hezekiah was one of the few great kings of Judah! He walked faithfully and God blessed him. Hezekiah tore down all the altars and high places and set his heart to serve God and cleanse the nation from sinful practices.

This was remarkable in light of the fact that his father Ahaz had been such a wicked king! Hezekiah destroyed the bronze serpent that Moses had made because the people began to worship it like a magic charm.

Hezekiah exemplified trust in God, it was the pattern of his life. Righteousness for him was a life-style; but it did not exempt him from suffering. Hezekiah calls out to God in prayer with a request for healing so that he might live longer to praise and worship the Lord – and lead others in God's ways!

This becomes even more clear in **ISAIAH 38:10, 18-19**. Here the prayer of Hezekiah is recorded, the prayer that he prayed when he was healed, and how in the prime of life he asked God to heal him so he could yet continue to worship and praise and influence others for righteousness! Notice that Hezekiah's request was not for some personal whim, it was for ministry!

The appeal for healing is based on a very important fact here; he

appeals to God by asking God to "Remember His Faithfulness!"  
2 Kings 20:3 "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly."

This is not an appeal to force God's hand by good works but an acknowledgement that God does honor faithfulness. What a testimony to be able to appeal to the Lord based on a clear conscience of faithful walking with the Lord!

Note the immediate response from God to a man who had walked faithfully with Him! Isaiah hadn't even left the courtyard when God responded! God would heal him completely in 3 days and even tells him how much longer he will live! An extra 15 years! True to God's nature, this was far more than Hezekiah bargained for! God does reward the faithful!

It is interesting to note here the process of healing God chooses to use! While Isaiah is clearly told to tell Hezekiah that the Lord would heal him, Isaiah uses a known pharmacological mixture to administer as medicine to Hezekiah's boil to enable the cure to take full effect!

God's healing doesn't require us to run away from doctors or medical knowledge! Many times God uses the medical discoveries of the day to carry out His healing! God may have told Isaiah what to use in the process of healing Hezekiah, but clearly it was God who initiated the healing.