

VOICE OF ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's Church, 92 Ripon Street, Kolkata - 700 016



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PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE PARISH PRIEST



A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and

died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.' The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence... Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.' But the auctioneer persisted 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who

will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?' Another voice angrily: 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!' But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting...' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. 'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?' 'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.'

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel.. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!' A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!'

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.' 'What about the paintings?' 'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will... I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?' Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

When God gave us Jesus, He gave us not just His best, but also everything. We are truly rich because we have Christ, our all in all. When we have Jesus, we truly have everything. Jesus is our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, our redemption and our success. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

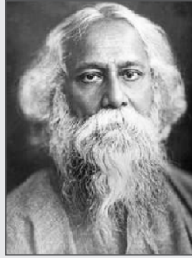
My dear friends, when you need wisdom, Christ is your wisdom. When you need righteousness, Christ is your righteousness. When you need sanctification and redemption, Christ is both to you. When you need faith, He is your faith. When you are fearful of the odds against you, He is your favour. When you are weak, He is your strength. When you are troubled and anxious, He is your peace. When you feel vulnerable, He is your shield. When you are lonely, He is your faithful companion. And when you are sick, He is your healing and health. Jesus, the great I AM says to you, "I AM to you whatever you need Me to be!" We are truly rich because we have Christ. And in Christ we are complete.

• Fr. John Mohandas

GO NOT TO THE TEMPLE

(Rabindranath Tagore)

Go not to the temple to put flowers
Upon the feet of God,
First fill your own house
With fragrance of love.



Go not to the temple to light
The candles before the altar of God,
First remove the darkness
Of sin from your heart.

Go not to the temple to bow down
Your head in prayer,
First learn to bow in humility
Before your fellowmen.

Go not to the temple to pray
On bended knees,
First bend down to lift
Someone who is downtrodden.

Go not to the temple to ask
Forgiveness for your sins,
First forgive from your heart
Those who have sinned against you.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH: 24.03.2019

On 24th March 2019 Catholic Association of Bengal – St. Mary's Church Unit and Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's Unit jointly organized the blood donation Camp. Regular announcement was made for a month or so and 58 persons had registered their names to donate blood. But, on the day of the event many of those who had registered their names failed to be present. However, those who have not registered their names came up to donate blood and eventually 33 people donated blood. Mr. Michael Lindsay took the lead in contacting LIFE CARE BLOOD BANK and making all arrangements for the doctors and their team to be present by 8.30 a.m. so that those who come for 7.15 a.m. Mass could donate their blood and then go home. Sincere thanks to those who donated blood because your blood could save many lives. The Blood donation cards will be given to those who donated blood. But their names will be registered with the parish and when in need anyone could approach the Parish priest and obtain the phone number and could request for their card to obtain blood from the blood bank. Congratulations to the members of CAB and SVP of St. Mary's Church for making all arrangements and making all efforts to collect 33 units of blood.

The Christian Life Is Lived Daily

Once a woman called in a repairman to fix her electric clock. The repairman fiddled with it for a while and then said, "There's nothing wrong with the clock; you didn't have it plugged in." She replied, "I don't want to waste electricity, so I only plug it in when I want to know what time it is."

That's an apt description of many of us. We save our religion for a rainy day. We go about unplugged and wonder why our lives are so devoid of power. How sad. Christian faith is not something to be plugged in when it is convenient or when it is necessary. The Christian life is lived daily. There is a cost involved.

ORIGIN OF MAY DEVOTION:

"God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary"

(St. Bernard)



It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A poor child gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, they sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. People who are troubled by their disorderly conduct saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they cooperated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.

This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. In our own times, we Catholics, wanting to be close to her always, offer her special presents in May: pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, little sacrifices in her honour, periods of study and well-finished work offered up to her, and a more attentive recitation of the rosary. Let the entire family come together during this month of May and pray the Rosary for peace and harmony in the family.

RECOLLECTION DAY AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH: 31.03.2019

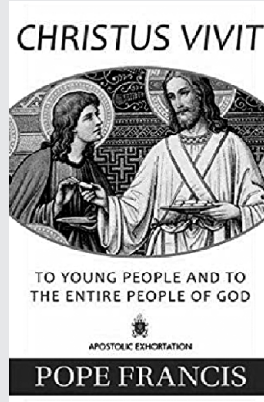
A day of recollection was organized for the parishioners of St. Mary's Church on 31st March 2019. Mr. Charles Sassoon, the Director of the Laity Cell of the Parish, contacted Fr. Linus, VC of Emmaus Center at Sarat Bose Road to organize the day's programme. About 180 persons had registered their names to join in the recollection, including a few parishioners from the Church of Christ the King and St. Thomas' Church. However, about 150 people came to spend time in prayer and reflection. The day began with Mass presided over by Fr. Linus, VC of Emmaus Centre, Kolkata and concelebrated by the Parish Priest. Fr. Linus spoke about the need to reconcile ourselves with God and with one another during this season of Lent. The purpose of organizing a day of recollection was to have a meaningful preparation to celebrate Easter. Mr. Charles Sassoon along with Ms. Sandra Singh, Mr. Dominic Saldanha and Shirin Saldanha led the people in praise and worship. After lunch Fr. Neethi Dass took over to prepare for Confession and healing. For an hour or so he spoke on the love of God and our response to him. Many people availed of the opportunity to make confession as a preparation for the celebration of Easter. Fr. Linus concluded the day with his talk and blessing of the people with the exposed Blessed Sacrament. The Parish priest thanked Fr. Linus for being with us and guiding people to reflect on their own life and see how we can reconcile with God and with one another. He also thanked Mr. Charles Sassoon for organizing the whole day's programme and Ms. Sandra Singh, Mr. Dominic Saldanha and Mrs. Shirin Saldanha for making the day's programme more prayerful with their singing.

GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS ON THE STREETS: 19.04.2019

As in the past on Good Friday the way of the Cross on the streets was held at 7.00 a.m. About 300 parishioners had gathered together in the parish hall well before time. After the introduction by the Parish Priest and singing of a hymn the procession began. The way of the Cross was prayed in three languages at different spots - *Starting from St. Mary's Church at 92 Ripon Street, the procession proceeded to Ripon Street to Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Street, Royd Street, Elliot Road and back to St. Mary's Church on Ripon Street.*

Women in the parish take active part in all parish activities. Most of the lectors are women. Like last year this year too women helped to carry the cross on the streets remembering what Jesus had done on Good Friday. Thanks to all those who joined in the way of the Cross on the streets. Let us continue carrying our daily crosses so that others may live. Jesus said to his disciples, **"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).** In Jesus' day, a cross wasn't just a symbol of pain and suffering; it was mainly a symbol of death. What Jesus is telling us is that we need to put to death our own plans and desires, and then turn our lives over to Him and do His will every day. Let us seek His will and not our own will to be happy in our lives.

EXTRACT FROM POST SYNODAL EXHORTATION "CHRISTUS VIVIT"



40. The Synod recognized that "a substantial number of young people, for all sorts of reasons, do not ask the Church for anything because they do not see her as significant for their lives. Some even ask expressly to be left alone, as they find the presence of the Church a nuisance, even an irritant. This request does not always stem from uncritical or impulsive contempt. It can also have serious and understandable reasons: sexual and financial scandals; a clergy ill-prepared to engage effectively with the

sensitivities of the young; lack of care in homily preparation and the presentation of the word of God; the passive role assigned to the young within the Christian community; the Church's difficulty in explaining her doctrine and ethical positions to contemporary society".[15]

41. Although many young people are happy to see a Church that is humble yet confident in her gifts and capable of offering fair and fraternal criticism, others want a Church that listens more, that does more than simply condemn the world. They do not want to see a Church that is silent and afraid to speak, but neither one that is always battling obsessively over two or three issues. To be credible to young people, there are times when she needs to regain her humility and simply listen, recognizing that what others have to say can provide some light to help her better understand the Gospel. A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum. How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people? Even if she possesses the truth of the Gospel, this does not mean that she has completely understood it; rather, she is called to keep growing in her grasp of that inexhaustible treasure.[16]

42. For example, a Church that is overly fearful and tied to its structures can be invariably critical of efforts to defend the rights of women, and constantly point out the risks and the potential errors of those demands. Instead, a living Church can react by being attentive to the legitimate claims of those women who seek greater justice and equality. A living Church can look back on history and acknowledge a fair share of male authoritarianism, domination, various forms of enslavement, abuse and sexist violence. With this outlook, she can support the call to respect women's rights, and offer convinced support for greater reciprocity between males and females, while not agreeing with everything some feminist groups propose. Along these lines, the Synod sought to renew the Church's commitment "against all discrimination and violence on sexual grounds".[17] That is the response of a Church that stays young and lets herself be challenged and spurred by the sensitivities of young people.

FR. MERVYN CARAPIET

Prayer Card in English and Bengali in preparation for the SCC National Convention to be held in Kolkata from 25th to 27th October 2019. All parishioners are requested to pray daily during the family payer.



God our loving and merciful Father, in Your infinite love for mankind, You sent Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ to save us from sin and give us life in abundance. We thank You for the gift of Jesus our Saviour who by His life, death and resurrection, has shown us the way of love, forgiveness and sharing. We thank You for the Community of believers, the Church that Jesus brought forth by sending His Holy Spirit on the disciples.

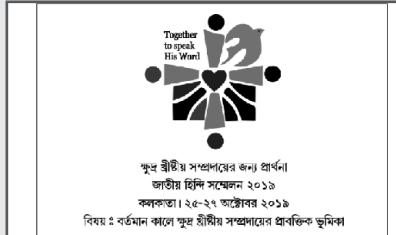
Pour out the same Holy Spirit on us, on the Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese of Calcutta. May we be of one mind and one heart like the first Christian Community. May we open our hearts to the message of Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the National Convention of Small Christian Communities.

Bless the Organising Committee, the animators and participants so that through this Convention and through the message of unity, love, generosity and concern for one another we may succeed in building the Church in parish, Archdiocese and country into a prophetic Communion of Communities.
May Mary our Mother intercede for us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.

To be prayed daily from 24.03.2019 to 27.10.2019 in the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

In all churches and religious communities:
after Holy Communion
In all families: during family prayer/Rosary

✠ Thomas D'Souza
Archbishop of Calcutta



শুধু খ্রীষ্টীয় সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য প্রার্থনা
জাতীয় হিন্দি সন্মেলন ২০১৯
কলকাতা। ২৫-২৭ অক্টোবর ২০১৯
বিষয়: ১ বর্চমান কালো শুধু খ্রীষ্টীয় সম্প্রদায়ের প্রাথমিক ভূমিকা

হে আমাদের প্রেমবশী কলকাতন পিতা পরমেশ্বর, মানবজাতির প্রতি তোমার অসীম ভালবাসার জন্য তুমি তোমার একমাত্র পুত্রকে পাঠিয়েছিলে আমাদের পাপ থেকে উদ্ধার করতে ও আমাদের প্রভুর পরিমাণে জীবন দান করতে। আমাদের মুক্তিলাভে বাঁধক দান করার জন্য আমরা তোমাকে ধন্যবাদ জানাই, যিনি তাঁর জীবন, মৃত্যু ও পুনরুত্থানের দ্বারা আমাদের পোষিয়েছেন প্রেম, ক্ষমা ও সহযোগিতার পথ। আমরা তোমাকে ধন্যবাদ জানাই খ্রীষ্টবিশ্বাসীদের সমাজ এই মণ্ডলীর জন্য, যাকে প্রভু যীশু নিখয়সের উপর পবিত্র আত্মাকে নামিয়ে এনে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছেন।

কলকাতা মহাবর্ষপত্রের শুভ খ্রীষ্টীয় সম্প্রদায়গুলির উপর সেই একই পবিত্র আত্মাকে প্রেরণ কর। আমরা যেন আলি খ্রীষ্টমণ্ডলীর মতো এক মন, এক হৃদয় হয়ে উঠি। আমরা যখন শুভ খ্রীষ্টীয় সম্প্রদায়গুলির জাতীয় সম্মেলনের প্রস্তুতি করছি, তখন যীশুর মঙ্গলবাণী ও পবিত্র আত্মার রূপান্তরকারী শক্তির প্রতি আমরা যেন আমাদের হৃদয় উন্মুক্ত করে রাখি।

এই সম্মেলনের আয়োজক সমিতিতে, সকল সঞ্চালককে এবং সকল অংশগ্রহণকারীকে তুমি আশীর্বাদ কর, যাতে এই সম্মেলনের মাধ্যমে এক ঐক্য, ভালবাসা, উদারতা ও একে অন্যের প্রতি বন্ধুত্বপূর্ণ হওয়ার বাস্তব মাধ্যমে আমরা প্রতিটি ধর্মপন্থীতে, মহাবর্ষপত্রের এবং সমগ্র দেশের খ্রীষ্টমণ্ডলীকে সম্প্রদায়গুলির এক প্রাথমিক সমাজ করে তুলতে সক্ষম হতে পারি।

শ্রী মারীয়া, আমাদের মধ্যস্থতা করুন।
আমাদের প্রভু যীশুখ্রীষ্টের নামে আমরা এই প্রার্থনা করি। আমেন।



২৪শে মার্চ থেকে ২৭শে অক্টোবর, ২০১৯ পর্যন্ত
কলকাতা মহাবর্ষপত্রের প্রতিটি গির্জার এবং প্রতিটি ধর্মপন্থে
খ্রীষ্টপ্রসার প্রহেলার পর এবং প্রতিটি পরিবারে পারিবারিক প্রার্থনা বা জপমালার পর
প্রতিদিন এই প্রার্থনা করতে হবে।

+ মহাবর্ষপত্র প্রকাশ ডি'সুজা
কলকাতা মহাবর্ষপত্র



MAY '19

- 2 Candice Domingo
- 3 Sumita Mondal
- 4 Angela Hawk
- 4 Jared De Silva
- 5 Nikita Gulpeper
- 5 Peter George
- 5 Wendy Hawks
- 6 Jared D'Silva
- 6 Sean Augustine
- 6 Michelle Gomes
- 6 Peter George
- 7 Gerald David
- 7 Karen George
- 7 Mary L. Rao
- 8 Lorna Horwood
- 8 Sagai Mary
- 10 Vanessa Liu
- 11 Norma H.
- 11 Regina Kaypee
- 11 Simon Das
- 12 Bubai Rozario
- 12 Gloria Taylor
- 12 Rita Thomas
- 12 Sarita Samson
- 13 Andrea Ambrose
- 13 Sophia Hanif
- 14 Ignatius Das
- 14 Bernice Campbell-Rogers
- 15 Kimberley Ann D'Cruz
- 15 Marshal Rixon
- 16 Janice Anthony
- 16 Melroy Brooks
- 16 Prity Chinappa
- 18 Regi Kaypee
- 18 Swapna Gomes
- 21 Owen Henderson
- 20 Reena Gomes
- 22 Joseph D'Costa
- 24 Benjamin Alliew
- 24 Mariam Das
- 25 John Gopal Rao
- 26 Janice Anthony
- 27 Aryan Nathaniel
- 27 Errol Bruce
- 27 Gajjala Simaye
- 27 Mark James
- 29 Dominic Saldanha
- 29 Jamie Ann D'Santos
- 30 Craig Didier'Serre
- 30 Noreen Celine D'Cruz
- 31 Linda Hawk

WE MISS YOU MICHAEL AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH:



Michael was a shy young man who was so passionate about music, he turned it from a hobby to a career. Michael Monnier, born on 07 October 1955 was the brother of Keith and Rocky Monnier, husband to Virginia and dad to Bjorn, Brunelle and Bianca. At an early age, he found his passion in music and for 40+ years made a career out of it. He played the bass guitar and also was a lead singer for several years. He was also one of the founding members of the St Mary's Senior Choir and no matter how tired he was or how many hours he travelled for a show you would find him there in Church at 9:30 am singing his heart out for the Lord. He was also a Parish Council member and a Lector

for many years. He was a humble man and he always spoke out on what he believed in. His untimely passing on Palm Sunday, 14 April 2019 has left a huge void not only in the Church but also in the hearts of his family and friends and many other people whom he came across. He will be remembered for his pony tail, his twang while reading and mostly for his love for God, his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

-Charles Sassoon

COMING EVENTS

1st May	6.00 p.m.	May Devotion: praying of the Rosary and crowning of the statue of Our Lady Daily praying of the Rosary at 6.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.
12th May	9.30 a.m.	Mother's Day: Special Mass
31st May	6.00 p.m.	Conclusion of the May Devotion: Praying of the Rosary, Mass and Procession with the statue of Our Lady. Beginning of the Novena to the Holy Spirit



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

MAY '19

- 16 Mary & Rahul Sequeira
- 22 Biswanath & Malati Mondal
- 25 Rakesh and Alice Ramani
- 27 Rajiv and Sarina Chinnappa

Sincere thanks to Mr & Mrs. Andrew Patridge and family for sponsoring this issue