

Editor's Desk

Dear Brothers and sisters

A warm Christmas Greetings to you.

Christmas – a time for sharing our joy of the birth of our Saviour with others especially non-Christians.

2000 years ago a child was born in a manger in Bethlehem, a 'house of bread'

Manger is a hay heap for cattle to feed on. It is the fodder for herbivorous animals. It is a part of vegetarian world, natural realm. It is the collection of hay dry or wet. It gives life to animals that eat of it. Often it gives warmth to anyone who sleeps on it. In villages, people spread a bed spread on manger and sleep on it during winter. It is a great experience.

As a small boy I have slept on hay heap or manger during winter while guarding the crops like paddy, sugarcane and on. My father who worked in the gold mines, he also had a farmland and cultivated many wet crops and dry crops. I used to help him in the farmland. Many a times, he asked me to go and sleep on a raised platform with hut roofing made of coconut palms and on the raised platform, dry hay was spread out and I used to climb that hay heap and sleep. It would chill you if you lie on it and covering a thick blanket you should get warmth and sleep deep.

Yes, such a manger had become bed for a child, a holy one of Israel Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world.

Let our heart be a manger for the Saviour of the world. But let there be warmth in it. Cold hearted people are cold in their relationship and warm hearted ones will be warm enough if you move with them.

Are you a warm hearted person or cold blooded person for baby Jesus?

Well you can't afford to be cold hearted person.... give your heart to Jesus as a manger.

Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2013

Editor

The Christmas Family

By Patricia Fenandoe



Sandy and Jim along with their parents John and Martha Quinn had just returned from mass and being the first Sunday in Advent, the kids were quite excited that the long awaited Christmas season was back.

John pulled out his favourite Christmas CD and as the carols played in the background, each got busy in their own way, preparing for Christmas. John took the broom and started dusting the drawing room and then began putting up the Christmas decorations while Martha went into the kitchen and began preparing a list of all the ingredients that she needed for the Christmas cake and other Christmas goodies. Jim and Sandy were discussing about the toys they would like for Christmas and began writing their letters to Santa Claus. The Quinn family was in the Christmas mood....

Martha watched the excitement all around and thanked God for the blessings bestowed on her family and the comfortable life that she and John, a software engineer, were able to provide for the kids.

Gradually Martha's mind went back to her younger days and she thought of her dear dad who was a tailor by profession. Her dad worked really hard right through the year to support the family of five. The Christmas season was particularly overwhelming. He was hunched over the sewing machine into the wee hours of the morning so that he could earn a little extra money to give his wife and four kids some new clothes and a decent meal at least on Christmas day. Martha also thought of the times where each of her siblings would use their talents to make something special for each member of the family and they would happily share their humble presents after midnight mass each Christmas day. Martha reminisced that while financially her family might not have been very well to do as their home have very simple Christmas decoration and lacked a Christmas tree but the joy and spirit of Christmas really had true meaning in their humble family.

As Martha was deep in thought, Sandy and Jim came screaming into the kitchen towards Martha with the letters addressed to Santa in their hands. It then dawned on Martha that her kids had not realized or understood the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas was "materialistic" to them. It circled around the latest toys, cakes and sweets, parties and good food and fun filled holidays! That night after the family prayer, Martha asked the kids how much pocket money each of them had saved up during the year for all the little chores they carried out. Both of them brought their little piggy banks and as Martha counted the coins and notes it totalled an amount of Rs 845/-. She asked both the kids what they would like to do with the money and there were screams of chocolates, a Barbie doll, a race car etc...

Martha gently explained that the real reason for Christmas was to celebrate the birth of Christ in their lives. It was a time for "giving" than "receiving" and a time for sharing God's blessing with their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Martha slowly asked Jim and Sandy to think about their maid Savitha that had served in their household for about eight months. Savitha's husband died in an accident a year earlier and Savitha was left to fend for herself, her two children Ram and Shyam aged 4 and 6. Ram and Shyam did not have the opportunity to go to school, they were unkempt and in rags most of the time since Savitha had to work in about 5 houses till very late into the night just to be able to pay rent for a single room to spend the night and to provide a square meal for herself and her kids.

As Sandy and Jim listened to their mother as she narrated the kind of life that Ram and Shyam spent as kids, Sandy and Jim realized that they had been very fortunate but also realized that they had been very selfish. There were many occasions when they could have shared their sweets or toys with Ram and Shyam but had never got down to doing it.

Sandy then spoke up slowly and asked her mother if they could use their pocket money to buy Ram and Shyam some new clothes and toys. Martha readily agreed and the following Sunday after mass, John and Martha took the kids out to pick up some clothes and toys. The gifts were packed and placed under the Christmas tree.

That Christmas night all the four went to their parish Church, participated piously in the beautiful Christmas Vigil Mass. John and Martha received Holy Communion thanking the Infant Jesus as Sandy and Jim still had not received their FHC. At the end of the night Mass they wished their parish priest and their friends and relatives 'Merry Christmas'. There was real gaiety and Christmas feeling all over.

On the Christmas day, Martha cooked a special meal for the family. She asked Sandy and Jim to lay the table with three extra seats as they were going to have special guests that day. Around lunch time, Savitha came in with her two children. Sandy and Jim were quite excited on seeing them. They ran to the Christmas tree and picked up the neatly packed gifts and gave them to Ram and Shyam. Martha had a special gift for Savitha too. Martha asked Savitha to dress up in the new sari and to let Ram and Shyam wear their new clothes as well.

John, Martha, Sandy and Jim then invited Savitha, Ram and Shyam to sit at the dining table with them as they shared their Christmas Lunch. There was a great sense of joy, peace and happiness that descended on everyone at the table.

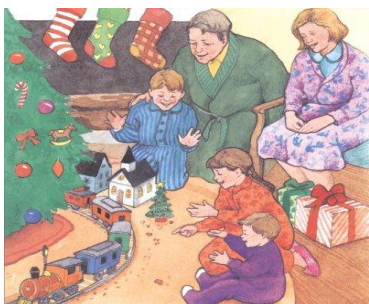
Christmas had indeed come to the Quinn family that year - for Jesus said, whatsoever you do to



the least of my brethren, you do unto me. The Quinn family had welcomed the baby Jesus in a meaningful way on Christmas Day and they were truly a "Christmas family". Are we ready to be a "Christmas Family" this season?

Christmas and Family

By Joshua Francis



Christmas is *everybody's* favourite time of the year these days, even those who do not understand the true meaning of Christmas, thanks to the commercialization of the 'Holiday

season' as it's come to be known! More often than not, we are caught up in all the material aspects of this festival – new clothes, gifts, expensive food and drink, Christmas trees & Santa Claus – that we forget that above all, *Christmas is a season of Love!* The birth of our saviour Jesus Christ in a lowly cattle shed, born into a poor family, destined to a life of simplicity & poverty and a death that was cruel & unjust beyond measure, to bring hope, love and salvation to an undeserving world, is the ultimate act of God's Love for us.

To bring back the 'Love' into Christmas, we must reach out to those around us that are in need of that Love. Very often, these people are our own family members. It's easy to miss the signs because these are people we see day in and day out, so much so that we take their presence for granted. It's easy to get caught up in the daily routine of rushing to work or school, meals eaten in a hurry or in front of the TV, everyone going about their own business, phone calls with friends or colleagues, time spent 'socializing' on the internet, that we forget to even notice our own family members. We know they're there, we know each one has a role to play, but how many of us stop and notice the *unobvious*:

- A tired mother who's been slaving in the kitchen all day long. All she needs is a warm hug or a "thank you Mum, the dinner was delicious" to rejuvenate her tired spirit.
- A moody teenager who's struggling to make friends in school due to a lack of self-confidence. All he needs is a reassuring word from his Dad that in life's ups and downs he will always have the love & support of his parents no matter what, to make him feel like he can conquer the world.
- A melancholy Grandfather who's feeling more & more useless every day as his strength & faculties start to fail. All he needs is remembrance from a child or grandchild of a warm moment shared in the past, to make him feel loved & needed.

It doesn't take much, just small thoughtful acts of kindness every day to make our family members feel loved & appreciated. And there's no better time to start than during the blessed season of Christmas. Those of us who are away from our families for the better part of the year know that this is a time we look forward to most, that we long for, because NOTHING in this world can keep us from going back home for Christmas! Being away from your family gives you the space and the time and the opportunity to miss them, to realize their value, to reminisce and to appreciate every precious moment spent with them. But we must try to do this even if we see them every day!

It's undeniable that Christmas brings a special feeling of joy, peace and hope to the world. That is the miracle of Christmas. That is the legacy of our Lord Jesus. Let's keep His legacy alive! In the words of a popular Christmas song –

"Don't get so busy that you miss, Giving just a little kiss, To the ones you love

Don't even wait a little while, To give them a little smile, A little is enough

How many people are crying, People are dying... How many people are asking for love

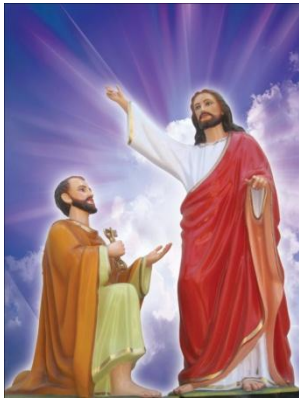
Don't save it all for Christmas Day, Find a way To give a little love everyday..."

Arthur Ashe, the legendary Wimbledon player was dying of CANCER. From world over, he received letters from his fans, one of which conveyed: "Why does GOD have to select you for such a bad disease"?

To this Arthur Ashe replied: The world over -- 5 crore children start playing tennis, 50 lakh learn to play tennis, 5 lakh learn professional tennis, 50,000 come to the circuit, 5000 reach the grand slam, 50 reach Wimbledon, 4 to semi final, 2 to the finals, When I was holding a cup I never asked GOD "Why me?". And today in pain I should not be asking GOD "Why me?"
Happiness keeps u Sweet, Trials keep u Strong, Sorrow keeps u Human, Failure Keeps u Humble, Success keeps u Glowing, But only Jesus the Lord Keeps u Going

Why do we need to become a Servant?

We all know that by serving others we serve God, but how do we practically apply in day-to-day life. In our endeavor to be successful in life we almost forget to serve even our own Parents and loved ones, we outsource every element possible and chase worldly possessions to attain greatness. We feel powerful by the number of servants we have, is that not true? But, Jesus measured greatness in terms of service, and not status. God will determine our greatness by how many people we serve. Many have spoken and written about leadership, but few on how to be a servant, except for people like Mother Teresa who have spent her life in servanthood. All of us want to lead, none of us what to be a servant. During the "Last Supper" Jesus washed His Apostles feet and said to them, "If I, your Lord, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash each other's feet". How many occasions we seek opportunity to serve others, while our parents in hospital undergoing an ailment we are busy fulfilling our professional duties in the office. Lord provides us many opportunities to serve each other, we tend to ignore or do not realize the opportunity. We need to make ourselves available to serve; we need to be ready to do the right thing and not what is convenient to us. When we choose what is convenient to us, we lose the opportunity to serve. Real servants always look out to help and serve others and make a difference in their Church and their society. Dedication is important while we serve. The True Servant becomes an excellent leader.



Christmas

Christmas *Crīstesmæsse*, meaning "[Christ's Mass](#)") is an annual commemoration of [the birth](#) of Jesus Christ and a widely observed [holiday](#), celebrated generally on [December 25](#) by billions of people [around the world](#). A [feast](#) central to the [Christian liturgical year](#), it closes the [Advent](#) season and initiates the [twelve days](#) of [Christmastide](#). Christmas is a [civil holiday](#) in [many of the world's nations](#) is celebrated by an increasing number of non-Christians and is an integral part of the [Christmas and holiday season](#).

Christmas is God with us, in our midst, for us and with us and like one of us. Jesus' birth is Christmas. The birth of the Saviour brings good tidings that God came to share our joys and sorrows and came to experience our human life. Thus Christmas is God down to earth, down to human persons.

Christmas is an assurance of life for us all.

Christmas is the guarantee of salvation to all mankind.

Christmas is celebration of joy and peace to all people of good will.

We are worthy of Christmas celebration because God descended down and dwelt among us Jn1:14.

Christmas is the coming of Heavenly Light in midst of darkness of man's life.

When did Christmas originate?

The precise year of [Jesus' birth](#), which some historians place between 7 and 2 BC, is unknown. By the early-to-mid 4th century, the [Western Christian Church](#) had placed Christmas on December 25, a date later adopted in the East. The date of Christmas may have initially been chosen to correspond with the day exactly nine months after early Christians believed [Jesus to have been conceived](#) as well as the date of the [southern solstice](#) (i.e., the [Roman winter solstice](#)),

with a sun connection being possible because Christians consider Jesus to be the "Sun of righteousness" prophesied in [Malachi 4:2](#).

Date of celebration

In the earliest centuries of Christianity, no particular day of the year is known to have been associated with the [birth of Jesus](#). Various dates were speculated: May 20, April 18 or 19, March 25, January 2, November 17 or 20. When celebration on a particular date began, January 6 prevailed at least in the East; but, except among Armenians (the [Armenian Apostolic Church](#) and the [Armenian Catholic Church](#)), who continue to celebrate the birth on January 6, December 25 eventually won acceptance everywhere.

The birth of Jesus was announced in [Luke 2:11](#), "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Moreover, the belief that [God](#) came into the world in the [form of man](#) to [atone](#) for the [sins](#) of humanity is considered to be the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas.

In the early 4th century, the church calendar in Rome contained Christmas on December 25 and other holidays placed on solar dates: "It is cosmic symbolism...which inspired the Church leadership in Rome to elect the [southern solstice](#), December 25, as the birthday of Christ, and the [northern solstice](#) as that of John the Baptist, supplemented by the equinoxes as their respective dates of conception. While they were aware that pagans called this day the 'birthday' of Sol Invictus, this did not concern them and it did not play any role in their choice of date for Christmas," according to modern scholar S.E. Hijmans.

Around the year 386 [John Chrysostom](#) delivered a sermon in [Antioch](#) in favour of adopting the 25 December celebration also in the East, since, he said, the conception of Jesus (Luke 1:26) had been announced during the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist (Luke 1:10–13), which he dated from the duties Zacharias performed on the [Day of Atonement](#) during the seventh month of the [Hebrew calendar](#) Ethanim or Tishri (Lev. 16:29, 1 Kings 8:2) which falls from late September to early October. That shepherds watched the flocks by night in the fields in the winter time is supported by the phrase "frost by night" in Genesis 31:38–40. A special group known as the shepherds of Migdal Eder (Gen. 35:19–21, Micah 4:8) watched the flocks by night year round pastured for Temple Sacrifice near Bethlehem.

In the early 18th century, some scholars proposed alternative explanations. [Isaac Newton](#) argued that the date of Christmas, celebrating the birth of him whom Christians consider to be the "Sun of righteousness" prophesied in Malachi 4:2, was selected to correspond with the southern solstice, which the Romans called *bruma*, celebrated on December 25. In 1743, German Protestant Paul Ernst Jablonski argued Christmas was placed on December 25 to correspond with the Roman solar holiday *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti* and was therefore a "paganization" that debased the true church. It has been argued that, on the contrary, the Emperor [Aurelian](#), who in 274 instituted the holiday of the *Dies Natalis Solis Invicti*, did so partly as an attempt to give a pagan significance to a date already important for Christians in Rome. In 1889, [Louis Duchesne](#) proposed that the date of Christmas was calculated as nine months after the [Annunciation](#), the traditional date of the conception of Jesus.

Christmas in Eastern Churches

The original date of the celebration in [Eastern Christianity](#) was January 6, in connection with

[Epiphany](#), and that is still the date of the celebration for the [Armenian Apostolic Church](#) and in [Armenia](#), where it is a public holiday. As of 2012, there is a difference of 13 days between the modern [Gregorian calendar](#) and the older [Julian calendar](#). Those who continue to use the Julian calendar or its equivalents thus celebrate December 25 and January 6 on what for the majority of the world is January 7 and January 19. For this reason, [Ethiopia](#), [Russia](#), [Ukraine](#), [Serbia](#), the [Republic of Macedonia](#), and the [Republic of Moldova](#) celebrate Christmas on what in the Gregorian calendar is January 7; all the [Greek Orthodox Churches](#) celebrate Christmas on December 25.

Commemorating Jesus' birth: Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus to the [Virgin Mary](#) as a fulfillment of the [Old Testament's Messianic prophecy](#). The Bible contains two accounts which describe the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Depending on one's perspective, these accounts either differ from each other or tell two versions of the same story. These [biblical accounts](#) are found in the [Gospel of Matthew](#), namely Matthew 1:18, and the [Gospel of Luke](#), specifically Luke 1:26 and 2:40. According to these accounts, Jesus was born to Mary, assisted by her husband [Joseph](#), in the city of [Bethlehem](#).

Magi According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals. A [manger](#) (that is, a feeding trough) is mentioned in [Luke 2:7](#), where it states Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" ([KIV](#)); and "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" ([NIV](#)). [Shepherds from the fields](#) surrounding Bethlehem were told of the birth by an [angel](#), and were the first to see the child. Popular tradition also holds that three kings or wise men (named Melchior, [Caspar](#), and [Balthazar](#)) visited the infant Jesus in the manger, though this does not strictly follow the Biblical account. The Gospel of Matthew instead describes a visit by an unspecified number of [magi](#), or astrologers, sometime after Jesus was born while the family was living in a house ([Matthew 2:11](#)), who brought gifts of [gold](#), [frankincense](#), and [myrrh](#) to the young child Jesus. The visitors were said to be following a mysterious star, commonly known as the [Star of Bethlehem](#), believing it to announce the birth of a king of the Jews.^[40] The commemoration of this visit, the [Feast of Epiphany](#) celebrated on January 6, is the formal end of the Christmas season in some churches.

Nativity Scene

Nativity scenes are known from 10th-century Rome. They were popularised by Saint [Francis of Assisi](#) from 1223, quickly spreading across Europe. Different types of decorations developed across the Christian world, dependent on local tradition and available resources. The first commercially produced decorations appeared in Germany in the 1860s, inspired by paper chains made by children.

The traditional colors of Christmas are [green](#) and [red](#). [White](#), [silver](#) and [gold](#) are also popular. Red symbolizes the blood of Jesus, which was shed in his crucifixion, while green symbolizes eternal life, and in particular the evergreen tree, which does not lose its leaves in the winter.



Christmas Tree: The [English language](#) phrase "Christmas tree" is first recorded in 1835 and represents an importation from the [German language](#). The modern Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun in Germany in the 18th century though many argue that [Martin Luther](#) began the tradition in the 16th century.

From Germany the custom was introduced to Britain, first via [Queen Charlotte](#), wife of [George III](#), and then more successfully by Prince Albert during the reign of [Queen Victoria](#). By 1841 the Christmas tree had become even more widespread throughout Britain. By the 1870s, people in the United States had adopted the custom of putting up a Christmas tree.

Music and carols

By the 13th century, in France, Germany, and particularly, Italy, under the influence of [Francis of Assisi](#), a strong tradition of popular Christmas songs in the native language developed. Christmas carols in English first appear in a 1426 work of [John Awdlay](#), a [Shropshire](#) chaplain, who lists twenty-five "caroles of Cristemas", probably sung by groups of [wassailers](#), who went from house to house.

The 18th century English reformer [Charles Wesley](#) understood the importance of music to worship. In addition to setting many psalms to melodies, which were influential in the [Great Awakening](#) in the United States, he wrote texts for at least three Christmas carols. The best known was originally entitled "Hark! How All the Welkin Rings", later renamed "[Hark! the Herald Angels Sing](#)".

[Felix Mendelssohn](#) wrote a melody adapted to fit Wesley's words. In Austria in 1818 Mohr and Gruber made a major addition to the genre when they composed "[Silent Night](#)" for the St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf. [William B. Sandys'](#) *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* (1833) contained the first appearance in print of many now-classic English carols, and contributed to the mid-Victorian revival of the festival.

Completely secular Christmas seasonal songs emerged in the late 18th century. "[Deck The Halls](#)" dates from 1784, and the American "[Jingle Bells](#)" were copyrighted in 1857.

Christmas cards are illustrated messages of greeting exchanged between friends and family members during the weeks preceding Christmas Day. The traditional greeting reads "wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year", much like that of the first commercial [Christmas card](#), produced by [Sir Henry Cole](#) in London in 1843.

commemorative stamp: In 1898 a Canadian stamp was issued to mark the inauguration of the Imperial Penny Postage rate. The stamp features a map of the globe and bears an inscription "XMAS 1898" at the bottom. In 1937, Austria issued two "Christmas greeting stamps" featuring a [rose](#) and the signs of the [zodiac](#). In 1939, [Brazil](#) issued four [semi-postal](#) stamps with designs featuring the [three kings](#) and a [star of Bethlehem](#), an [angel](#) and child, the [Southern Cross](#) and a child, and a mother and child.

Both the [US Postal Service](#) and the [Royal Mail](#) regularly issue Christmas-themed stamps each year.

Gift giving: On Christmas, Christians exchange gifts on the basis that the tradition is associated [St. Nicholas](#) with Christmas, and that gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were given to the infant Jesus by the [Biblical Magi](#).

Saint Nicholas: traditionally appeared in bishop's attire, accompanied by helpers, inquiring about the behaviour of children during the past year before deciding whether they deserved a gift or not. By the 13th century, Saint Nicholas was well known in the Netherlands, and the practice of gift-giving in his name spread to other parts of central and southern Europe. At the [Reformation](#) in 16th–17th century Europe, many Protestants changed the gift bringer to the Christ Child or *Christkindl*, corrupted in English to Kris Kringle, and the date of giving gifts changed from December 6 to Christmas Eve.

The modern popular image of Santa Claus, however, was created in the United States, and in particular in New York.



True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace.



"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement . . .

"TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children!

Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains

green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts



turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR.



"Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE.



"Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

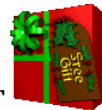
Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."



He then pulled from his bag an ORNAMENT of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."



He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him."



Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane



represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."



He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled



out a BELL,. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the centre, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD."

Important ANNOUNCEMENT

CHRISTIAN INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The manger at Bethlehem draws all peoples to the NEW BORN SAVIOUR in koinonia"



You are invited



BANGALORE ZONAL ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

THEME: CHRISTIAN KOINONIA (FELLOWSHIP) IN NEWBORN JESUS

**VENUE: ST.JOSEPH'S EUROPEAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
25, MUSEUM ROAD, BANGALORE – 25**

DATE: 8.12.2012 (SATURDAY)

TIME: 4.30 PM TO 6.30 PM

HIGHLIGHTS: Carols Singing, Inspiring Christmas messages, Choreography, Christmas High Tea

COME AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTIAN KOINONIA AND UNITY

ORGANIZED BY: BANGALORE ZONAL UNITED CHRISTIAN FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: FR.J.A.NATHAN (SEC), REV.M.C.PRASAD, CSI (PRESIDENT), REV.SAMUEL RAJKUMAR, Lutheran (TREASURER), REV.DANIEL JESUDASS, Baptist (VICE-PRESIDENT), Evan.MIRA BHUPATHI, AG (JOINT SEC)

TO CONTACT: SECRETARY, BZUCFHR, ST.PETER'S CHURCH, RUSTOMBAGH, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 017 TEL: 25264343, 9740203056 EMAIL: arokiavaticannathan@gmail.com

00000000000000000000000000000000

INAUGURATION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH AT ST.PETER'S CHURCH, RUSTOMBAGH, Bangalore

9.00 AM – Rally to the Church with hoardings and placards, singing

9.15 am: Introduction & Lighting of the Lamp

9.30 am: Praise and Worship

9.45 am: Testimony of faith

10.00 am: Special Preaching: Fr.Joseph Abraham

10.45 am: Coffee Break

11.00 am: Solemn High Mass: Msgr.S.Jayanathan (VG)

12.00: Parish Priest's Birthday- Felicitation

12.30 pm: Festal Lunch

Mass Timing- St.Peter's Church, Rustombagh, Behind Manipal Hospital, Bangalore

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: 6.30 am

Wednesday: 6.30 pm

Saturday 6.30 pm: Sunday Eve Liturgy

Every Friday : 6.00 pm Adoration, Healing Service and Sacred Heart Novena Mass

First Friday: Same as above with Tea and snacks

3rd Thursday: 6.00 pm: (in Thamizh) Adoration & Healing Service with Infant Jesus Novena Prayer and Solemn High Mass with Tea and snacks

Sunday

'Indian Mission informed Pakistan about Kasab's execution': Shinde (Update: Shinde)

New Delhi, Nov. 21, 2012 (ANI): Union Home Minister [Sushil Kumar Shinde](#) on Wednesday said the Indian Mission in Islamabad had informed the Pakistani Government about the hanging of 26/11 [Mumbai terror attack](#) accused [Ajmal Kasab](#).

"We would have considered demand for the body, however, we have not yet received any request as per our information. Our Mission has informed the [Pakistan Government](#). They did not receive the latter, so we also informed them through fax," Shinde told mediapersons here.

Shinde, who officially confirmed Kasab's execution, said the Home Ministry sent Kasab's [mercy petition](#) to President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) on October 16.

"The President sent back the papers on November 5. I signed it on the 7th and sent it to the [Maharashtra Government](#) on the 8th. The same day, it was decided that he would be hanged on the 21st at 7: 30 a.m. The action has been completed today," he said.

Kasab was hanged at Pune's Yerawada Jail at 7:30 a.m. today after [President Pranab Mukherjee](#) rejected his mercy petition.

25-year-old Kasab had been lodged in the Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai ever since he was arrested immediately after the attack in 2008. He was convicted and given capital punishment by the trial court on May 6, 2010, which was upheld by the Bombay High Court on February 21, 2011.

The Supreme Court subsequently upheld the sentence on August 29 this year.

Kasab was one of the ten terrorists who travelled to India for the attack. Other nine were killed in the operation. 166 people were killed in the Mumbai terror attack. (ANI)

You say... God says...

kitmac05152011

YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's Impossible"	"All things are possible"	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	"I will give you rest"	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	"I love you"	John 3:16 & John 3:34
"I can't go on"	"My grace is sufficient"	II Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	"I will direct your steps"	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	"You can do all things"	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	"I am able"	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	"It will be worth it"	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	"I forgive you"	I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I'm afraid"	"I have not given you a spirit of fear"	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	"Cast all your cares on ME"	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	"I give you wisdom"	I Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	"I will never leave you nor forsake you"	Hebrews 13:5
"I can't manage"	"I will supply all your needs"	Philippians 4:19

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THOUGHT FOR OUR SOUL

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING GOSPEL PASSAGE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS

READING 2 JAS 1:17-18, 21B-22, 27

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL MK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

--For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands,

Keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. – So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him,

"Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?"

He responded,

'Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: "This people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts? You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.

"From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.

All these evils come from within and they defile."

To make this more meaningful, let us practice what we preach or what we hear

Attack on servant of God

The Parish priest of Bl. John Paul II church at Sannasandra in the outskirts of Bangalore was attacked and threatened on 19 August 2012 by some linguistic fanatics and ordered him to stop Mass in the language that he celebrated for the sake of so many families belonging to their language.

Earlier a group of disgruntled Catholic men from various parishes in the city mobbed together in the parish office and held his neck to attack him. They shouted slogans against that priest and the mob went into the church and began to shout the rosary loudly in their language when Mass was about to start for the people of other language. They acted as terrorists. Yes, they are language terrorists. Although they are Catholic believers they hate one particular language and people, an anti-human right attitude indeed. This is a sort of terrorism fostered by few priests of one particular language.

And they worship the Lord. This is equal to eating biriyani sitting very next to gutter that has filth, garbage in it.

We see common scene in Indian cities men and women like eating delicious food sitting at the side of drainage that runs with stinking filth.

Well, followers of Christ attacking other followers of Christ in the name of language. What an ironical picture! Any common faithful with right understanding and faith will condemn this heinous attack on priests just because he celebrated Mass in another language that they hate.

BJP, Bajrangdal, RSS, Shivasena are some of the parties with religious fundamentals. News of their attack on other religious people are easily seen in newspapers these days. The attack on that Catholic priest is worse than non-Christian groups indulging in anti-human compassionate acts.

“LET YOUR VALUES BE HIGHER THAN OTHERS” says our Lord.

Who has given authority to attack violently priests and faithful of other languages and castes or religion or denomination? Christmas has no meaning for fanatics of every kind. They are not worthy to celebrate it.

LAW RELATING TO MAINTENANCE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Jose Sebastian, Advocate, St. Peter's Church Rustombgh.

Longevity has been one of the greatest achievements of the 20th Century. There has been a steady rise in the population of older persons in India, as is evident from the fact that in 1951, the number of older persons above 60 years was only 2 crores which increased to 5.7 crores in 1991 and 7.6 crores in 2001. The improvement in the intake of nutrition, medicines and treatment has brought about an appreciable increase in life expectancy. The life expectancy which was around 29 years in 1947, has increased manifold and now stands closer to 63 years. Understanding the need of the hour, the Indian Parliament enacted The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 comprising of 32 sections.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 sought to achieve following objectives.

- (a) Appropriate mechanism to be set up to provide need-based maintenance to the parents and senior citizens;
- (b) Providing medical facilities to senior citizens;
- (c) For institutionalization of a suitable mechanism for protection of life and property of older persons;
- (d) Setting up of old age homes in every district.

The Act provides for entitlement for maintenance by a senior citizen including parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or out of the property owned by him against one or more of his children not being a minor and in the case of a childless senior citizen against his relatives who would inherit his property.

The aggrieved person can approach the Assistant Commissioner of the respective subdivision who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Maintenance Tribunal presiding over for the purpose of adjudicating and deciding upon the orders for maintenance under Section 5 and Sub-section 2 of Section 7 of the said Act Vide Government of Karnataka Notification -2 No.WCD 479 PHP 2007, Bangalore dated 19th February 2009.

Dry Skin: Natural Remedies

For most people, the winter destroys our **skin**. It causes our **skin** to flake and dry. This is because of the cooler weather contains less humidity. However, this does not have to be an issue. There are many natural remedies that can bring the moisture back and help your skin become healthy again. **Olive oil** is one great treatment for **dry skin**. It helps to sooth the itch and moisturize your skin. A natural exfoliate will also help your dry skin, and many of these can be found in your dairy aisle, or your kitchen at home. These can include yogurt (plain), **papaya**, and **pumpkin**. These make excellent cleansers and exfoliate with lactic acid, not painful **scrubbing granules**. You can also create a scrub with simply **brown sugar** and oil, using equal

parts, and rubbing it on the skin with light and circular motions, but be sure to shower afterward. Honey is a great way to improve dry lips, heels, and elbows. Just rub a little on. One last tip is to treat dry skin from inside the body. Eating a diet that includes foods such as dark chocolate, salmon and other fatty fish, carrots, oranges, and mangoes will give you magnesium, fatty acids, vitamin C, and beta-carotene, all which naturally feed your skin from the inside. This can make it less prone to becoming **dry**. If the weather has caused your hair to dry, there is a remedy for that too: simply mix a tablespoon of liquid castle soap and one egg yolk into your shampoo. If the weather has caused your body to become a mess, you can fix it naturally. Start moisturizing your dry skin today.

How often must you repeat the cleaning of your teeth?

There are many things you can do to keep your **teeth clean**: seeing a **dentist** for a yearly cleaning, flossing, and brushing. But how often should you do these things to maintain a healthy mouth? Well, you should at the very least see a **dentist** for a yearly cleaning. Flossing is good to do at least once or twice a day, but more often is ok. As far as brushing goes, it's ok to brush twice a day, at least once before bed. At minimum, you should brush twice a day, at least once before bed. However, those of us that snack more often should brush more frequently. Brushing your **teeth** helps remove **plaque**, which is caused by **bacteria**. **Plaque** creates a nasty, sticky film over your **teeth**, and can cause two major mouth diseases: **cavities** and **gingivitis**, or gum disease. You should always brush after eating because the foods and drinks that you consume contain acids which eat away at the enamel on your teeth. Foods that are low in acid and sugars, as well as drinking lots of water, will help keep your **teeth clean** in between brushing and dental cleanings. On top of brushing twice daily, finding an antimicrobial mouthwash is a good step to keeping your mouth healthy. Also, flossing daily is a good step to cleaning really well between the teeth and in tough to reach areas. Keeping your **teeth** clean and healthy is a crucial part of a good lifestyle and keeping your smile looking amazing!



One single banana tree has yielded 477 bananas in Vasai Taluk 50 kms from Mumbai...blessed are those who bear fruits in abundance in their life as Christians....

Each one of us, how much do we bear fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

How should you look at a dedicated church building?

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain” Ps.127....Here are few tips for the flock as how to look up to the new church building:

1. Know that this is the house of God-meant for praise and worship
2. Keep the house clean and holy
3. Observe perfect silence and holiness at any time in the church
4. Holiness of the church consists in the holiness of each one who enters
5. This house of God is meant for everyone who enters
6. Feel the belongingness to the house of God that each one will take collective responsibility to keep the church solemn and silent
7. Avoid soiling the walls, floor, windows, doors and windows
8. Glass is fragile so also each individual and hence care must be taken in handling glass and hearts
9. Communitarian participation will give perfect meaning to the koinonia of our church
10. Try to leave your footwear out in order to safeguard the sanctity and cleanliness of the church
11. Prudence is required in the usage of lights and fans
12. Any choir practice must be done with diligence and not with any sport and fun and avoid profaning of the sanctity of the place while singing practice is done

13. Children must be taught discipline and silence with reverential fear for the Lord when they are in the church
14. Other than liturgical service, in other times perfect silence must be observed.
15. It has been paid for every single article or device and hence maintenance of things in the church is must by everyone.
16. No one should stand outside the church during liturgical service
17. For every Sunday Mass the ushers must be in their identity to enable the participants feel at home and feel prayerful
18. Fellowship, fraternity and equality must be felt by the faithful
19. Babies during the liturgy, must be taken care by parents or guardians so that communitarian worship is not disturbed
20. Mobile phones must be switched off during service... it is an obstruction for the piety and worship.
21. A parish is never be alone with parish priest but with congregation. Both must work hand in hand for the common good of the parish. As much as possible negative sectarian attitude must by all means be avoided in the name of language, caste, region, and so on. All must feel parish community spirit. This will destroy the fabric of this beautiful Church community.

Commissions in St. Peter's Church Rustombagh

Well, in order to augment the pastoral activities in the parish, I have initiated in 2012, ten Parish Pastoral Commissions and Committees with a secretary for each, they are: Catechetical Commission (Dr. Joseph Xavier), Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue Commission (Francis Antony), Education and Health Commission(Arun Prasad), Evangelization and Proclamation (Lona Lobo) Commission, Family Commission (Amalanathan), Liturgy Commission Roy D'Cuhna), Women Commission (Sneha Fernandes), Youth Commission (Jerome Mascarenhas), Maintenance Committee (Roger Sunil), catering and Hospitality Committee (Walter Joseph) . Most of the commissions and Committees have begun operating with various activities in the parish and I am sure they will produce tremendous fruit in this parish community in the long run. Most of the secretaries are enthusiastic about their divine call for their respective ministry. Unless one is aware of his/her call to do ministry in the parish, he / she cannot do much.

In this regard I appreciate and thank Mr.Joshua Francis, Secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council (2012 - 2013) for his zeal and creativity in coordinating these commissions and for his overall spirit of simplicity, obedience and enthusiasm in supporting me to take this parish forward. Of course, my hearty thanks to Mr. Amalanathan (2008 - 2009) and Walter Joseph (2010 - 2011) my previous PPC Secretaries for their collaboration and zeal.

Legion of Mary Precediums in English (2010) and Thamizh (O Lady of the Word of God (2012) are another spiritual progress in our parish. I appreciate Vincent de Paul Society, Choir groups (English, Kannada and Thamizh) that operate in this parish enthusiastically. Thanks to our parishioners who have shown love and concern for me during my ministry here in this parish.

Lastly, parish priests come and go, but the laity remain in the parish and their life has to go well with spiritual light and fire ignited by parish priest's mind and heart.

With good wishes

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