

## Key of the kingdom may 2013



### From Editor's Desk

#### A Remarkable Pope



Pope Francis is a name first of its series in the popes' names. Jorge Cardinal Mario Bergoglio 76 years, took this name owing great tribute to St. Francis of Assisi, who was known for his simplicity and humility. The pope was fascinated by the name 'Francis' and wanted to honour the latter because the saint was an admirer of nature and a servant to the poor and destitute.

St. Francis of Assisi was born with silver spoon in his mouth, the son of a rich cloth merchant. But he lived in rags among beggars at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He wandered about the countryside preaching to the people in a very simple language. He was so famed for his sanctity that he was canonized just two years after his death in 1226.

One day the Friar Francis took with him his fellow friar and made a long walk. The co-friar not knowing where they were off to enquired brother Francis where they were going. Friar Francis replied they were going to preach. After a while the co-friar asked the saint for the people and Francis was silent. During their walk, Francis greeted beggars, physically challenged poor, senior citizens, even animals like dogs, cats, donkeys and birds. He greeted them on the way with fraternal love enquiring their welfare and granting them peace. For the question raised by co-friar, the saint explained that he already preached to every creature on the way by imparting his peace. He said there is no greater preaching than to give peace and forgiveness to everyone we meet.

By taking the name Francis, the Argentina born Pope Jorge Mario Bergoglio gave a lavish tribute to the saint for his service to the poor, love for every human person and nature. The pope has earned a greater reputation just in 2 weeks from his enthronement as pope.

While he began his papacy with simplicity and humility, he also has challenged the traditional Catholics' mind and other secular world by setting a new precedence of including two young girls (juvenile delinquents) among the 12 who were prisoners whose feet the pope washed on Maundy Thursday 28.3.2013. This, no one expected and of course the world is watching his every word and move. His outgoing gesture has been welcomed by many but vast majority in the Catholic world looks with awe. The women rights activists are enthusiastic by the pope's gesture of washing two young ladies and this soon will bring in them (women activists) many more related demands probably like women ordination and so on. Whatever our Holy Father makes decision either by breaking traditions or retaining them, there will a sure meaning in them for the safety of the Catholic faith and welfare of the Catholic flock, after all, the Lord guides him. Let us stand by him in all his plans, executing faith oriented policies and human concern activities. He is our beloved leader and our holy father. **HABEMUS PAPAM....Viva Papa..tanti tant' auguri....We Love you Holy Father...you will do very well**

**Fr. J. A. Nathan**  
**Editor**

### **Editorial Supplement**



Dear Readers, thank you very much for all your support extended to me for the past 5 years ever since I started this journal. This special edition focuses on 2 things: our newly elected Pope Francis and my Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee event that falls on 10.5.2013. My hearty thanks to those who sent their good wishes for my Jubilee. You will find them interesting to read. I look forward to your response and reactions in the forthcoming days to this special edition.

**Editor**

### **My Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee**

**A special feature with personal reflection in**

**Fr.J.Arokianathan**

I feel great when I think of the days I walked through in the last 25 years as a Catholic priest. I count blessings from Heaven more of what I had been than what I achieved. To remain a priest faithful to the Lord and to the Church as I consider is a lengthy page of life to read and reflect.

A priest friend asked me, 'as you are celebrating the silver jubilee of your priesthood, do you have any regrets?' My answer was frank: **yes and no.**

I regretted for the moments I felt I was denied of my basic human rights and respect not only as a priest but even as a person and also for the dark side of the HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH'....

At the same time, I do not regret: as the priesthood is a God given special gift to some who accept. I accepted this call willingly and therefore I lived with every limitation and shortcoming found in this way of life. No one is perfect and no way of life is perfect. Everyone inherits goodness by birth and everyone acquires evil by day to day experience. So also in the Catholic priesthood I experienced heavenly beauty and temporal richness as well as negative side of this life too. It is up to everyone how one looks at it. All priests are not successful in their call and all priests are not disloyal to their commitment. This priesthood is inherited from Christ's priesthood. He is **the only perfect high priest**, however as he is divine and human, his mystical body the Church is divine and human too. Hence priests coming from the families in the world will certainly be holy and unholy. But we cannot make compromise for our ungodliness because we are called to be **alter Christus**-another Christ.

The Church that I witnessed in 1977 when I entered the seminary is different from what I witness today.

As knowledge and comforts have so grown, even priestly class in our society, downplays values and life principles. Robert H Schuller says, "Tough times never last, but tough people do!" I have kept up my faith and priestly commitment despite of my weakness and shortcomings in midst of my tough times. **My humble beginning**



I was born in 1960 December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kolar Gold Fields, a gold mining town, 90 kms east of Bangalore.

My father M.Jayanathan after his marriage in St.Francis Xavier's Church Koviloor, Dharmapuri Thamizhnaadu, shifted to KGF and lived his marriage very faithfully and happily in KGF. He was a simple man with great and tough mind and loving heart. He worked in the Bharat Gold Mines Limited as a head foreman for 33 years. He kept up Christian principles of life till his end allowing every poor and needy to find solace and help through him. I, as a little boy admired the stability of the mind of my father who knew many languages as many as he knew many people. The same aptitudes specially the language skills I have in my blood.

I know Thamizh, English, Kannada and Italian fluently and I speak little of Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.

My mother Mrs. Sebastianammal was a simple but saintly woman. She bore 10 children and raised them up with Catholic fervour and faith. She was affectionately called by the neighbours as 'Kovilammal' (a woman who more often frequented the Church). She would be seen early morning in white dress by the neighbourhoods walking through the lanes of D Block in Champion Reef area in KGF to our Lady of Victory's Church for Mass. She trained us to kneel in front of Sacred Heart, Holy Family, O.L.Vailankanni and St.Francis Xavier pictures every evening before supper for daily family rosary. In fact, no food was served to us without family rosary.

***What I am today is all because of what my beloved mother was. She was a holy woman who dared not to hurt anyone at any circumstance. She was like a tall and well grown mustard plant inviting birds to nest and feel good. I would rather say that it was my mother who sowed the seed of vocation to priesthood in me as well as vocation to religious life in my sister Prakash's life too. She is a nun in St.Anne's Congregation, Bangalore. My mother's life was a perfect example to the nearby Catholic families. I owe a lot to my beloved mother and I miss her a lot in my life and I feel honoured to pay tributes to my beloved parents through this program"***

### **My 3 life ambitions conceived**

As a school boy I developed 3 ambitions for my life: either to become a film actor, or to become a priest and also to visit United States of America. I rather say all the three were fulfilled in one way or other. I thank my Lord for the same.

### **My early days**

Being the 10<sup>th</sup> of 10 children I was not so nutritious in body, however I was very studious and sportive and took part in Scout, mono acting, singing, foot ball and cultural group dances. In 1969 when I was in standard 3, I received First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Our Lady of Victories Church Champion Reef, from the then Bangalore Archbishop D.S.Lourdusamy who was later appointed as Cardinal whom I met in Rome every other day as the Lord's call for me was to serve in the Holy See after 27 years.

On the day I got my 10<sup>th</sup> standard result passed in distinction in May 1977, my friends shared their thoughts and plans for the future. When his turn came to share, he said to them that he would join seminary to become a priest. It was late Fr.Joseph D'Silva who was appointed by the Holy See as bishop of Bellary and Fr.D.S.Arokiasamy who were his mentors for priestly vocation.

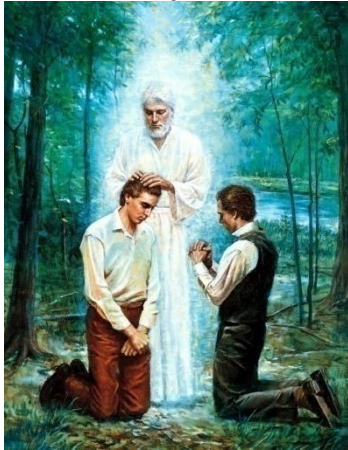
### **My family**

As the last child at home I grew up in midst of my three brothers late Mr.Alace, Mr.Maria Dass, Mr.Jayaraj, my sisters Mrs.Savarimanie, late Mrs.Pauline Mary, late Mrs.Natchathira Mary, Mrs.Mary Regina, Rev.Sr.Prakash and Mrs.Mary Stella. I thank all of them for their fraternal love and support all these years. For what my parents showed the Catholic values, so much they are well settled in life. Responding to the call

of God, on Monday 27.6.1977 I bade good bye to my family and my beloved mother walked with me up to the local bus stand in Andersonpet, KGF to travel to Bangalore and from there on to Mysore. By evening I reached St.Mary's Minor Seminary Mysore. That was my first day life out from my home.

After 3 years of study in the Minor Seminary I moved to Bangalore in 1980 to study Philosophy and Theology in St.Peter's Pontifical Seminary and I ranked fourth in the B.Th exam.

It was quite tough to get going in the seminary but as Knute Rockne said, "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going". Yes, I got it going tough that my tough time got going well. I was very firm to become a priest and decided to live a life that should be a



lauded.



On 10.5.1988 Wednesday I was ordained a priest at St.Mary's Basilica Shivajinagar witnessed by my beloved mother and my family, along with other priests



Fr.A.S.Anthony Samy,



Fr.Roys Gnanamanie and Fr.Sandyagu by His Grace Dr.Alphonsus Mathias, a loving, pastoral and intelligent archbishop. As Emile Zola says, "If you ask me what I came into this life to do, I will tell you: I came to live out loud". Yes, I am living out this life loud for Christ. And to the spiritual reputation of my family there are many priests and nuns in family circle namely: Fr.Dominic Savio, Fr.Sagayanathan (B'lore diocese), Fr.Selvarathinam SJ, Fr.Francis Xavier SDB, Fr.IrudayaKumar (Delhi diocese), Srs.Prakashi, Stella & Irudayapushpam (all from St.Anne's, B'lore), Sr.Motchamary (St.Anne's, Chennai), , Sr.Pushpajothi (SMMI) and many others. Deacon Bro.Selvakumar (B'lore diocese) is to be ordained next year.

### **My Appointments**

"My appointment as assistant parish priest first at St.Peter and Paul church, Royapuram and later at St.Francis Xavier Cathedral and Our Lady of Lourdes Church Ulsoor gave me sufficient time and energy to develop my preaching charism, and desire for the liturgical celebrations. In fact I began my priestly ministry with my dictum 'To set free the oppressed'.

In 1992 April 28, I lost my beloved mother and before I could over my grief I was appointed as the diocesan Youth Director and parish priest of Christ the King Church, Byrathi. Both his responsibilities consumed a lot of energy and he fell ill critically for a while.

"I thought my health would not take me long way in my life...but by my possibility thinking with a white cloud of hope I placed in the cross of Jesus I conquered my fear. Thanks to the Lord who stood with me in my tough times. Tough times never last, but tough people do.

### **My Vatican Radio Ministry**

Who knows when does a turning point come to us? I could not believe it would happen...Well, I had no dream of flying abroad. My concentration was in Bangalore diocesan ministry. But the Heaven knows when you need to have a change in your life... A Jesuit priest Fr.Stephen Joe in one of the National Youth Directors' Meetings in Indian Social Institute, Bangalore opened the door to work in the Radio Vatican Thamizh section. Immediately I made hay when the sun shone! I thank God for Fr.Joe SJ...you caused a great turning point in my ministry...

Well, if it was not for archbishop Alphonse Mathias, no other would have encouraged me so much as he did to pursue this opportunity. In mist of many hurdles the good archbishop Alphonsus Mathias permitted me to respond positively to the Radio Vatican broadcasting ministry. Thanks to the archbishop Mathias for his good understanding of

his priests. Thanks also to Fr.T.Bernard who supported me for the new mission. This was a big turning point in my priestly career. A ladder to climb indeed!

### **Flight to Rome**

On 29 July 1996 I flew by Air India to Rome, my first international flight journey. Great and thrilling experience indeed! I felt quite honoured by the Lord, a priest from that humble and simple town of KGF I am travelling to the eternal city Rome to work...!

Yes, after one month study of Italian language, in Rome I began broadcasting programmes in the Radio Vatican in Thamizh along with two other staff. I felt greatly blessed to be the first priest from Karnataka to serve in the Holy See.

I considered this rare occasion as a great boon in my life and a gem in the crown of glory of my life to enjoy privileges of Vatican by living in this eternal city for 5 years long. I thank the merciful Lord for his love and blessing.

Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi invented radio and the first radio message was aired to the world in 1931 by Pope Pius IX and from then on the Jesuits took over the control of the radio station.

Today Radio Vatican broadcasts programs in 45 world languages in SW, FM and internet. Pope's message, discourses of various Church leaders, matter pertaining to human rights, Gospel reflections, interviews, world news, ecological issues, global concerns are some of the contents that the RV concentrates. For the Indian listeners, an Indian desk was opened in 1985 and English, Hindi, Malayalam and Thamizh were recognized for the programs for the Indians living in the Gulf and the Indian sub-continent. There are 3 staff working in each language. I am the first full time priest in the Thamizh section from 1996 to 2001.

Vatican is the smallest city state with Pope as its spiritual head as well as political leader of the territory belonging to Vatican both within the boundary as well in the city of Rome as extra-territorial property of the Holy See.

Vatican is a full fledged state with the world's largest St.Peter's Basilica that holds in the crept tombs of many popular popes, Radio station, Television centre, Petrol Bunk, Bank, Super Markets, Swiss Guards along with Italian police regiment meant to safeguard the state as well as the Pope, Vatican Press with its official paper L'Osservato Romano, Mess meant for the staff working in various offices and workshops, Residences for Cardinals and Bishops apart from papal palace, age old famous Vatican Garden, Vatican Museum with Sistine Chapel where conclave is held to elect new pope, and number of offices. More than 175 countries of the world have diplomatic relationship with the Holy See. I am happy to say I was a part of the fewest citizens of Vatican just 1000 in number.

### **Privileges I enjoyed during my ministry in the Vatican Radio**

I met the beloved and great Holy Father Pope John Paul II on 2.8.1996 at Castel Gondelfo



his summer residence and again on 5.4.1998 in his private chapel, also privileged to read the Gospel passage for the Mass in his presence

In Aug 1997 the Radio Vatican asked me to attend the World Youth Day Convention held in Paris

On Sep 13, 1997, I was deputed by the Radio to Calcutta to cover the funeral service of Blessed Teresa

In 1998 October I had the privilege of organizing the RV listeners' Meet in Chennai, Madurai, Kovai, and Trichy.

In 2001 Feb, I spoke in the Sun TV in Vanakkam Thamizhagam program.

I had interviewed ambassadors to Holy See from Israel, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Ghana, UK, Pakistan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Italy.

From Rome I worked in VATICAN and I visited CALIFORNIA & LAS VEGAS (US), LONDON, LIVERPOOL (UK) HOLY LAND (ISRAEL), SINGAPORE, BAHRAIN, DUBAI SHARJAH, ABU DHABI (UAE), TURKEY, AMSTERDAM & ROTTERDAM (HOLLAND), BRUSSELS (BELGIUM), BILBAO, LOYOLA, XAVIER (SPAIN), LISBON (PORTUGAL), BASEL (SWITZERLAND), MONACO, PARIS, LOURDES (FRANCE).

In 1999 I was deputed by the Radio to cover the Special Asian Bishops' Synod held at Vatican for 10 days.

Visiting countries like UK, Portugal, France, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Holy Land (Israel), Singapore, Bahrain, Dubai, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, was a great experience in life as priest. Living in Italy is one of my most blessed and honoured times for me in my 25 years of priestly life. I would say this was a golden era of my priestly career. Luck would knock at our door but once it is said.

I brought out a music album "MANIDHATHAI NOCKI" for the Great Jubilee 2000 financed and supported by Fr. Pasquale Borgomeo the then Director of the radio station and Fr. Federico Lombardi the then program director and the present spokes person for the Holy See. I owe much to both of them. Grazie a voi padri!

Though I was requested to continue my ministry in the RV after completing my 5 year term, I was called back to the diocese and thus I returned to the archdiocese on sheer obedience to the archbishop on 11 Sep 2001 the day when the American twin towers were air crashed by the Taleban terrorists that morning. Another tough time began for me...



On my return from Rome my assignment to St. Antony's Shrine TC Palya as parish priest was not a rosy one.

We believe that when one door closes God opens another door for us. When the tracks and train are not compatible, either one has to be altered. Thus was sent on his request in 2002 to Mother of Mines Shrine in KGF one of the parishes that he cherished in rich ministry.



Rosary Garden, renovation of Mother of Mines shrine chapel and Infant Jesus shrine building, John Paul II Cultural stage, Grotto garden, laying of interlock bricks on the parish campus floor, a students' library, a charitable project for 57 poor students with every financial assistance for their education are few remarkable examples of his progressive ministry there and the people of Mother of Mines hold Fr. Nathan in their hearts even today.



### **St. Peter's Church, Rustombagh**

It is quite natural when you do the best of your ability you look for incentive and acknowledgment from your superiors. I too did so. But to my pastoral and priestly calculation, the present church was not in my list. Well, what man proposes, God disposes even through one's superiors that may be to test your patience, faith and integrity. Of course, I have been tested so many times in my 25 years priestly career. Of all what is this? Yes, I came to St. Peter's Church Rustombagh, a small church with many limitations. But in midst of many trials, the Lord impelled me to pursue the long awaited church. It is impossible to fail if you dare to try. For two years I studied the situation in this parish. Then I gave a try for the endeavour to start. If it's going to be, it's up to me. Surely, many of predecessors made their effort.... but I pushed through the hard core principle of doing the new church construction. I sought transfer from this parish in one year, but the Lord wanted me to go through the tough times that He accomplished the delight of this beautiful and elegant house of the Lord. People who win over tough times are people who never stop believing. They have faith in themselves and their Lord and in the ideas that God gives them.



Yes, the Lord was with me and with our parishioners here in Rustombagh to see the desired Church blessed and opened by the archbishop Bernard Moras on 26.10.2012. Glory to you O Lord!



As I love music I composed many songs in Thamizh and published many albums such as Manithathai noacki, Siluvaiyin Oliyil, Chellame en sondhame, Andha 3 Naatkal, Kuzhandhaiyaaga Maaruvom. Now I am on the move producing a DVD of songs.



As an actor, I acted in a telefilm called “Maadhavin Manasai paarkka vaa”

I also wrote number of way of the cross booklets in Thamizh and English and he edits and puslishes monthly journal in English THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM since 5 years.



I am also a member of the Ethics Committee in Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road

I am helping 57 poor children with education aid since 10 years totally..



I mastered in Sociology, Journalism and Bachelor of Education is an orator, actor, singer and a good preacher.

I work as Secretary for the Bangalore Zonal United Christian Forum for Human Rights, an ecumenical organization.



### **My Final impression**

Today as I celebrate my 25 years Jubilee of my priesthood, I stand up to my Lord with all my humility thanking Him for his steadfast love and unceasing mercy to me his servant. Though regrets were truly in my life, I gained strength from my Lord to pursue my priestly life. Good lot of people have travelled with my in my journey. I thank them all for their accompaniment. I know success won't come to me just like that but by deep faith, positive and possibility thinking, self confidence and self analysis. I hardly believe in the principle of reliability on others by stooping down but standing on my faith and self confidence totally trusting upon the Divine Providence and my love for humanity.



Priesthood is to live in unity. But man's weakness repels the ideology of unity but with idealism of selfishness. How nice when priests live in unity... but who to bell the cat to chain the evil spirit of disunity among the priests of Christ?...

### **Readers' Opinion**



Dear Father Nathan, every issue brings me real interest to read through. In this television world, reading practice is almost no remarkable. But some journals like THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM' evokes curiosity to read and to know the Catholic world. Thanks.

**Sandhanam, Sultanpet, Bangalore**



I would always love to receive your KEY OF THE KINGDOM. Now the new name is so. Earlier it was The KEY. I also got to know that the journal is approved by RNI. It is a good news. Also the article on 'HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HEART' was very useful for me. I shared the content with my friends.

**Maria Juliet Braganza, Babasab Palya, Bangalore**



Dear Father, I went through the Easter issue of the Key of the Kingdom. The quality of printing is really an improved one. You may add few more relevant pictures to the articles.

**Wiiliam Whiteman, Hyderabad**



Father your editorial is very interesting to read. Moreover I get lot of interesting points for my homily. Thank you for your effort. The magazine is equal to any standard magazine.

**Fr.Bhaskar Alphonse, Bangalore**



Father, the article, 'No Resurrection without Cross' is really superb. It carried lot of theological and scriptural aspect of Jesus' suffering and resurrection. A connectivity of the Jesus' cross to our life in the article is very beneficial to everyone. I appreciate you Fr.Nnathan for your journalistic calibre.

**Andre' Gomes, Mumbai**

## **THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM WISHES**

### **AD MULTOS ANNOS**

**our SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILARIANS Ordained on 10.5.2008**

**From the Archdiocese of Bangalore**



**Fr.J.Arokianathan**



**Fr.A.S.Anthony Samy**



**Fr.Roys Gnanamanie**

**And Fr.J.Sandyagu**



### **Cardinal Bergoglio versus Pope Francis**



Bergoglio, 76, is the first Jesuit to become pope, and was the archbishop of Buenos Aires, where he had criticized Latin priests whom he calls "hypocrites" for refusing to baptize

children born out of wedlock. He's the first Jesuit and the first Latin American in modern times to lead the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

Here are five things to know about Pope Francis:



### **1. His name says a lot about him**

Unlike other recent pontiffs -- John Paul II, Benedict XVI -- Pope Francis doesn't have a numeral after his name. That's because he's the first to take the name Francis.

#### **Why Francis?**

The pope wanted to honor St. Francis of Assisi, an admirer of nature and a servant to the poor and destitute.

### **2. He's not actually the first pope from outside Europe**

Sure, Francis is the first non-European pope in modern times. But back in the 8th century, a Syrian -- Pope St. Gregory III -- led the church from 731 to 741 A.D.

We also had popes from Bethlehem (St. Evaristus, from 97 to 105 A.D.), Jerusalem (Pope Theodore I, from 642 to 649) and modern-day Libya (Saint Victor I, from 189 to 199). Several other Syrians have also been pontiff in the last few millennia.

Of course, the majority of popes have been Italian. But with Francis' appointment, the tide could be shifting to outside Europe.

### **3. He's a pope of the people**

In some ways, Pope Francis is just a normal guy.

"The new pope is a very humble man," said the Rev. Eduardo Mangiarotti, an Argentine priest. "He takes public transport every day."

He also chose to live in an apartment instead of the archbishop's palace, passed on a chauffeured limousine and cooked his own meals, CNN Vatican analyst John Allen wrote in a profile published by National Catholic Reporter.

In his first public act as pontiff, Pope Francis broke with tradition by asking the estimated 150,000 people packed into St. Peter's Square to pray for him, rather than him blessing the crowd first.

"He is a very simple man," said Luis R. Zarama, auxiliary bishop of Atlanta. "It's very clear from the way he approached the people and asked them to bless him and pray for him. It's a beautiful sign of closeness and humility."

The pontiff broke with another tradition by refusing to use a platform to elevate himself above the cardinals standing with him as he was introduced to the world as Pope Francis.

"He said I'll stay down here," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "He met each of us on our own level."

#### **4. He comes with a side of controversy**

Francis opposes same-sex marriage and abortion, which isn't surprising as leader of the socially conservative Catholic church.

But as a cardinal, Francis clashed with the government of Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner over his opposition to gay marriage and free distribution of contraceptives.

His career as a priest in Argentina coincided with the so-called Dirty War -- and some say the church didn't do enough to confront the military dictatorship.

As many as 30,000 people died or disappeared during the seven-year period that began with a coup in 1976.

Francis, in particular, was accused in a complaint of complicity in the 1976 kidnapping of two liberal Jesuit priests, Allen wrote. Francis denied the charge.

"The best evidence that I know of that this was all a lie and a series of salacious attacks was that Amnesty International who investigated that said that was all untrue," said Jim Nicholson, former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. "These were unfair accusations of this fine priest."

#### **5. He faces a host of challenges ahead**

Francis takes the helm of a church that has been rocked in recent years by sex abuse by priests and claims of corruption and infighting among the church hierarchy.

He may need to find a way to draw new Catholics into the church where it is in decline, said Phillip M. Thompson, executive director of the Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University.

And he'll also need to find ways of working with shifting viewpoints among Catholics. In the United States, for example, 90% of Catholics are using contraception and 82% think it is morally permissible.

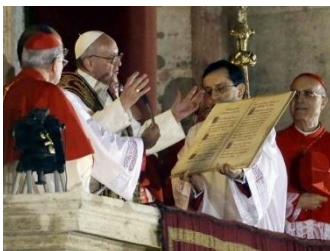
"The church has conservative positions on human sexuality, bioethics, etc., but liberal positions on issues such as economic regulation, the death penalty and immigration," Thompson said. "A church divided against itself seems unlikely to renew our political or cultural structures."



Pope Francis puts flowers on the altar inside St. Mary Major Basilica, in Rome, on Thursday 14.3.2013 .(Photo: AP/L'Osservatore Romano)



Pope greets the crowd before he gets into the pope's mobile



Pope prays the angelus



*The pope's message on day one*



*Vatican leaks new pope's election news*

**Few interesting tips about our new pope**



New pope is Argentina's **Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio**, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires, The announcement came on Wednesday March 13, 2013, the first full day of the cardinals' conclave in the Sistine Chapel

Francis, 76, is the first non-European pope in the modern era, the first South American pope and the first Pope Francis. First Pope in 1000 years..He has a plain wooden cross. Other popes wore gold crosses. At 7.07 pm Rome time The white smoke billowed from Sistine Chapel's chimney He had one of his lungs removed due to his ill health long ago.

"Habemus papam" said Card Louis Tauran senior Cardinal

" We shall offer prayer for the peace of the world, lets offer prayer for previous pope Benedict XVI' said the new pope in his maiden greeting

'Preghiamo in silenzio, preghiamo per tutti al mondo'..Lets pray in silence, lets pray for all in the world, he called the audience. The crowd grew silent as Francis, 76, recited the Lord's Prayer and a Hail Mary. He asked the crowd to pray for him before he blessed them.

"Let us pray for the whole world," he said.

Buona notte buon riposo' (Good night, have good rest) said the new pope at the end of his briefest address after he appeared before the people first time as pope..

Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected Pope yesterday, becoming the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium. He chose the name Francis, associating himself with the humble 13th-century Italian preacher who lived a life of poverty.

The new pope Francis also spoke by phone with Benedict after his election and plans to see him in the coming days, the Vatican said.

Appearing before cheering crowd in St.Peter's square, the happy looking pope addressed "Brothers and sisters, good evening, "You know that the work of the conclave is to give a bishop to Rome. It seems as if my brother cardinals went to find him from the end of the earth, but here we are. Thank you for the welcome," he said.

He often rode the bus to work, cooked his own meals and regularly visited the slums that ring Argentina's capital. He considers social outreach, rather than doctrinal battles, to be the essential business of the church.

One of his lungs was removed due to infection when he was a teenager.

A winner must receive 77 votes, or two-thirds of the 115, to be named Pope.

For comparison's sake, Benedict was elected on the fourth ballot in 2005 — but he was the clear front-runner going into the vote. Pope John Paul II was elected on the eighth ballot in 1978 to become the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years.

He becomes the 266th pope and the first pontiff in more than a millennium to be born outside of Europe.

He made a name for himself leading a simple life, preparing his own meals, living in a Spartan apartment and riding public transportation, all the while eschewing the luxurious mansion in which he was entitled to live.

Bergoglio was in 2005 considered a runner-up to Pope Benedict XVI, who resigned earlier this month.

Barrack Obama offered his prayers and "warm wishes" to newly elected Pope Francis. Obama called him "a champion of the poor and the most vulnerable among us," and also said his election as "the first pope from the Americas ... speaks to the strength and vitality of (that) region."

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was present for the pope's coronation. Biden is the first Roman Catholic to serve as vice president.



Pope Francis celebrates his inaugural Mass with cardinals inside the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on Thursday.(Photo: CTV via AP)

The pope stayed on for a few days at a VIP apartment in the same Casa Santa Marta residence that hosted all the cardinals during the conclave. "It features a number of rooms (as compared to the simple one he stayed in as cardinal), which he will need for papal audiences," the Vatican's deputy spokesman Rev. Thomas Rosica, said.

### **What the world talked about the new pope after the election?**

Francis' papacy is one of firsts: He is the first Jesuit, the first non-European in modern times and first Latin American pope. He also is the first to take the name Francis, for the saint devoted to the poor.

The Vatican's lead spokesman, Rev. Federico Lombardi, who like Pope Francis is a Jesuit, expressed surprise at Wednesday's choice.

"We're (Jesuits) not used to seeking office like this, so I was stunned at what happened yesterday as I saw my brother come out on the loggia," said Lombardi. "It's a great calling, but a calling none of us aspired to. It's a call of extreme service. The idea of a Jesuit priest is very strange, I wasn't prepared psychologically. We are used to serving, not being the ones in charge. But I see it as a special compliment."

"We need this pope the son of God for our Argentina' said a citizen from Argentina.

"Incredible" said a man from Argentina.

"It signals is this: this is Latin American Period, Latin American time is here" said a bishop after the election of the new pope.

Cokki, ambassador to the Holy see said...' a long American tradition, Vatin and Jeuits have had long history of difference, they take obedience to the pope, but they have own ways too, Pope said our father, hail Mary, shows he is down to the earth. Most of the Jesuits take the vow of poverty.. but we must see how will this pope be....'

"It's a huge gift for all of Latin America. We waited 20 centuries. It was worth the wait," said Jose Antonio Cruz, a Franciscan friar at the St Francis of Assisi church in the colonial Old San Juan district in Puerto Rico.

Father Federico Lombardi,spokesperson for the Holy See a Jesuit himself like the pope said that in accepting the election, Francis must have felt it "a strong call to service," an antidote to all those who speculated that the papacy was about a search for power

a woman from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, told CNN. "That is something very exciting. I feel that Mexico has been a country that has suffered a lot, and so has Latin America, but it is a people that has always put trust in God, so it is absolutely wonderful to represent our part of the world this time around."

Rev. Thomas Rosica, the Vatican's deputy spokesman. "Here's this pope known for his care for AIDS patients and people who are very sick. Who is known for his concern with single mothers whose babies were refused to be baptized by priests in Argentina his own archdiocese.

"He scolded those priests last year and said, 'How can you turn these people away when they belong to us? '"

James O'Rourke, a management professor at the University of Notre Dame, a Roman Catholic school in South Bend, Ind., said Francis will need a strategic vision, team-building and financial skills and what he calls "charismatic empathy."

Many North American Catholics want a greater role for women in the church, O'Rourke said, while many Europeans oppose such a move. Catholics in Latin America want more vibrant parishes and the fast-growing Catholic population in Africa needs more priests, he said.

Our Catholic Church is a pride of the world. We should pray for stronger and united church. I believe our beloved pope Francis would address some of the present and longstanding issues pertained to priests and religious namely priests' celibacy, women empowerment (not women ordination), priests' sex abuse cases, social liberalism etc... May the Lord the good shepherd of our church guide our new pope said Fr. J. A. Nathan, an ex-Radio Vatican broadcaster.

## TRIBUTES TO OUR BELOVED EDITOR SILVER JUBILARIAN

**FR.J.AROKIANATHAN**



### **MESSAGES AND WISHES**

Dear Fr. Arokianathan,

***From Archbishop Bernard Moras, Bangalore Archdiocese***

*I am happy to learn that you will be celebrating your silver jubilee of your ordination on 10/5/2013. As you prepare for yourself for this important and great day of your life. I congratulate and wish you God's choices blessings.*

*25 years in the service of God and of the people in the church of Christ, is a great privilege Lord has given. A priest is a priest forever, who is expected to walk in the footsteps of Christ to bring love, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness to all. I am sure it has been a joy for you to serve the Lord during these last 25 years. I pray God to shower on you his choices blessings, as you renew your commitment to serve the Lord in his vineyard in the years to come.*



**From Fr. Prof. Joseph Francis**

**Former Rector & Professor  
St.Peter's Pontifical Seminary  
Malleshwaram, Bangalore**

I am happy to note that you would be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of your ordination. Yes, your times in the Seminary were glorious days indeed and you were among the promising students of the time. You have done well: what with a stint at Rome at the Vatican Radio. Silver Jubilee is only a land mark, a pause to say thank you to God and then to continue with our onward journey completing the Mission God has given us in life to the best of our ability, within the parameters of opportunities provided by Divine Providence. God has helped you all these years and He will continue to help in the future also to complete your life task! With prayers and GOD'S BLESSINGS

**MESSAGE**

My dear Fr. J.A. Nathan,

It is with great joy that I wish you a very happy Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee and join you in thanking God for the gift of the past twenty five successful years of priesthood and also in seeking his continued support and blessings for your future ministry. We are indeed privileged to have such a dynamic priest in our Archdiocese who is blessed with multifarious gifts. You're a great thinker, voracious reader, dynamic preacher, versatile writer, efficient programme designer and a very good organizer. Only a few persons are blessed with very many gifts, and we're proud to know that you're one among them. Yes, with these qualities you do stand out in the crowd!

During your 25 years of priesthood, you have undoubtedly touched the lives of thousands of people and brought them closer to God. What a rewarding ministry!

On occasion like this, it is fitting that we, along with you, reflect on the greatness of priesthood. Let us recall the words of Fr. James, SDB, this year's retreat preacher who said: "***A priest is the one who has a great passion for Christ, and a deep compassion for his people.***" One of the most satisfying things about being a priest is being part of a faith community and being a pastoral leader. This involves proclaiming and breaking the word God, administering the sacraments and building the community based on God's love. We priests are called upon to enter the lives of people when life is darkened with sadness and difficulty. Even through these difficult moments, we can experience a profound satisfaction that we have been an instrument of God.

We are also called to be the messengers of hope! Jesus Christ has an incredible impact on the world. The teachings of Christ have shaped the values of many societies and continue to shape those values today. A critical part of a priest's mission is to tell Christ's story of hope. That story brings comfort to those who are weak and without a voice. The story is intended to disturb and activate those who have the power to make

the world a better place. Jesus' message of hope is not always popular; many people have been killed for preaching the Gospel, but it is a powerful message that must be told. Yes, we are called to develop our personal relationship with God, to learn the ways of God and to lead others on those paths.

May all of us follow the exemplary life of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

It is also my earnest wish that this Silver Jubilee Celebrations may reinvigorate your priestly zeal and inspire you to move forward.

Congrats and good luck, Fr. J.A. Nathan. *Ad multos annos!*

**Msgr. S. Jayanathan**

***Vicar General***

**From Fr.A.Sagayanathan, St.Patrick's Church, Bangalore Archdiocese**

Blessed John Paul, who lived a very fruitful and exemplary priestly life for 59 long years, says that 'Priesthood is a Gift and Mystery'. Indeed, it is a gift, for no one can merit whatever may be one's depth of holiness, "Oh, how great is a priest! If he understands this himself he would die...God obeys him; he speaks two words, and Our Lord comes down from Heaven at his voice, and shuts Himself up in a little Host," (St. John Vianney). No one understands this gift, nor does John Paul claim to; it is a mystery, beyond human comprehension. It is like the Eucharist, a gratuitous gift. It is a free gift to hold in high esteem; a mystery to treasure for life.

The Priesthood is not something that each priest merely 'has', but it is something which all priests 'share'. Our sharing in the priesthood can be compared to leaven in the dough to priestly function, beneficial to each priest himself, to his fellow priests and consequently to the 'flock'.

Silver Jubilee is a milestone for Fr. Nathan who held this priesthood as a gift. He has been nourished by this gift for 25 long years and as his priestly motto, 'Body broken for others and Bloodshed for others', he has been a great source of joy and inspiration to hundreds of faithful entrusted to his care in various parishes.

We take this opportunity to thank God and Jesus the High priest for the Gift of priesthood to Fr. Nathan and wish him many more jubilees. *Ad multos annos!*





**From Joshua Francis. Secretary, Parish Pastoral Council, St.Peter's Church**

"Let the grace that is in you through the laying on of hands be rekindled." (2 Tim. 1:8)

We are all called to serve him. Every call of God originates from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It was God who called Abraham, and blessed him to be the Father of a nation. It was God who called our Parish Priest 25 years before for his ministry.

To labour in the Master's field is long and hard, it needs a lot of patience and perseverance. It is also joyful as well, knowing that Jesus is doing the work through him, despite lot of constraints and pain. That takes a great deal of faith, and thank God for his gift to us!

When Most Reverend. Fr. J. Arokianathan celebrates his 25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY, It is about CHRIST whom he exemplifies, and the way he touches the lives of so many especially the St. Peter's Church Rustam Bagh Parishioners. I express HIS love and gratitude to Fr. J. Arokianathan. It is an incredible experience to serve as a Parish Pastoral Council Secretary with him.

I have seen personally his commitment and compassion to build this parish as a faithful and vibrant community. We need to be grateful to him to provide us the entire necessary infrastructure including the new and magnificent Church. He was also instrumental in reviving the pious associations like Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary and all the Commissions which help us to serve god and be united.

Unity in the Church is so important; God deeply desires that we experience oneness and harmony with each other. Our Parish Priest always strives to keep the flock of Rustam Bagh Parishioners together.

There are number of development activities happening in our Church, construction of Grotto for our Mother Mary, A permanent room for Pious Associations, Rebuilding of new wash room, New Conference Room, Remodelling of the Parish Hall.

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."(Phil 2:13) . May the Lord bless you on this special day and for all the years to come!

**From Sr. C L Clare, dsp Directress - Archdiocesan CEC Bangalore**  
**Email : [cecijs.bangalore@gmail.com](mailto:cecijs.bangalore@gmail.com) Website: [cecbangalore.com](http://cecbangalore.com)**

I am very happy to know that your Sacerdotal Ordination Silver Jubilee falls on 10/05/2013 and you are intending to release a souvenir on the day. At this juncture, let me congratulate you for having lived these Twenty Five years as a priest of God.

On this occasion, I extend my thanks and praise to God for having known you personally for the past five years, from the time you took over the charge of Spiritual Director of CEC in July 2008. On behalf of CEC Staff and Co-workers, I thank you for your Spiritual guidance, specially for your presence during our monthly meeting and get-togethers.

I deem it a great privilege just to tell you in all simplicity that we admire you and we feel at ease with you. During these past years you have been guiding us and enriched us with your special message not depriving us of your words of support and encouragement. We recognize the efforts you make to appreciate our services in the Archdiocesan CEC through your thought provoking messages in our CEC Annual report and in all our CEC Celebrations during the year.

We love you and we thank you Fr. Nathan for your 25 years of serving God and the people as a Shepherd. CEC has experienced your encouragement in many ways.

May the Good Shepherd keep you close to His heart, filling you with His blessing and graces. This is my wish and prayer for you Fr. Nathan on this happy occasion.



From **Dr. Dominic Dixon (Psychologist) –  
Provost – ETHOS INSTITUTE**

In unfolding the inner truth about Fr. Arokia Nathan, one needs to understand his dictum. In hearing the voice of God to serve as a Priest, he professes the following Scripture in Luke chapter 4 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” If you were to ask Fr. Nathan why he serves the lowly, he would reply, “I serve the lowly, so that the rumor of God may not completely disappear.” Friends, the rumor is, that Christ came to set the oppressed free!

Accepting and taking seriously the great commission to make disciples of all nations, Fr. Nathan has travelled to 14 nations, interviewed ambassadors to Holy See from Sri Lanka, Israel, Sierra Leone, etc. He was sent to cover the international Youth Convention in Paris in August 1997 and was deputed to cover Mother Teresa’s funeral service on 13 Sep, 1997 in Calcutta for the Vatican Radio. He is the Secretary, Bangalore United Christian Forum for Human Rights. And finally, he now, obediently serves as the Parish Priest at St. Peter’s Church since June 17, 2008.



A Priest, who is anointed as King David, does as King David. He loves to preach, communicate, sing, act and fellowship with all of creation. What else would a psalmist Priest do on an endless night, but sing praises to his Creator!

A man of God with passion for God's people, Fr. Nathan's thesis for his B.Th. was "The liberation forces of Christ in India. He has taught us the attitudes of Christ, to have compassion and to be sensitive to the pain of others.

Look back on your life, and you will probably find that Fr. Nathan would have blessed your marriage, baptized your children, buried a family member, or has been involved in some other important point in your life. The life of a priest is one of service to others and Fr. Nathan has done it all; he has served God and the laity to the best of his ability, enduring every trial and turbulence. As a Catholic Priest, Fr. Nathan all through his vocation has offered sacrifices and lived his life as a sacrifice for God's people and today, he renews that sacrifice – A sacrifice of praise.

As it is said, the door of a physician should never be shut and the door of a Priest should always be open, Fr. Nathan is one such physician for the soul and one such Priest for the uplifting of one's spirit. With a Priest as Fr. Nathan, the passion of our Lord envelopes us as he faithfully continues to redemptive work of Christ. As a good shepherd, Fr. Nathan has shown us the way to the treasures of heaven. A faithful steward, a good administrator, a wonderful communicator of the Gospel, he is not a priest for himself, but he is a priest for us and an efficacious sign of Christ.

On behalf of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Bangalore and the Parishioners of St. Peter's Church, I wish Rev. Fr. Arokia Nathan a very blessed Silver Jubilee as a Priest. We carry the fondest memories and the deepest gratitude for your faithfulness to your vocation.



**From Pastor Johnson V, Bethel Church, Bangalore**

Lord Jesus never did drama. Well, except once. He always taught with such clarity that every listener's imaginations went into theatrics. His speech was compelling, convicting and reviving. In fact the common people recognized his teaching to be very different from that of the usual Rabbi.(Mark 1:22). He taught on heaven, hell, life, death, salvation, judgement and innumerable topics but when it came to teaching on leadership he went into dramatics. Because Christian leadership cannot be contained in words, it required action.

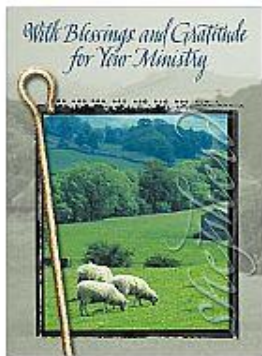
The leadership lesson was taught amidst great stress. Lord Jesus know that Calvary was very close. The Devil had already got into disciple Judas and would soon betray Christ. Rome was preparing the cross and the Father was soon going to experience the pain of overseeing the son's funeral. But yet, Christ fulfilled his mission that night with utmost diligence. He took the towel and the basin with water, washed his disciple's feet. They were frigid rigid with fear and surprise. They were never schooled to react to such nobility. It was tradition that a slave or servant would wash the feet of the Jewish masters but Christ took that mandate on himself and said "he who want to be a master must learn to wash the disciples feet" (John13:15)

Rev. Arokia Nathan has been into the "towel and basin" for the last 25 years. Hats off to you brother! May HIS will continue to be fulfilled through your life and ministry as you serve HIM in such wonderful leadership. Blessings!



**From Mr. Ettore Marzano, Casorate Sempione, Near Milan, Italy**

Dear Father,



Congratulations on your Anniversary from all of us. Thanks for your precious service to people and to our Church.

We are sure God will keep on blessing you throughout the future days.

On this particular occasion, I send you a thought of St. Ambrose also from Cardinal Carlo Cardinal Maria Martini's Way of the Cross:

St. Ambrose: (Doctor of the Church, Archbishop of Milan in 347 AD. , converted and baptized by Saint Augustine)

**Written in Italian:** "Cerca di penetrare il senso della povertà di Cristo, se vuoi essere ricco. Cerca di penetrare il senso della sua debolezza, se vuoi ottenere la salute. If you want to Cerca di penetrare il senso della sua croce, se non vuoi provare confusione; il senso della sua ferita, se vuoi sanare le tue; il senso della sua morte, se vuoi guadagnare la vita eterna;

il senso della sua sepoltura, se vuoi trovare la resurrezione."

**English Translation:**

"Try to penetrate the sense of Christ's poverty., If you want to be rich  
Try to penetrate the sense of his weakness., If you want to be in good health  
Try to penetrate the sense of Christ's Cross., If you do not want to be confused  
the sense of his wound If you want to heal yours., the sense of his death

if you want to gain everlasting life., The sense of his burial If you want to find Resurrection”

### **From Ellen Maietta Los Angeles, USA**



I met an energetic priest Fr. Nathan in 1998 at Los Angeles International Airport. A friend of mine who is a Protestant introduced him to me. My friend and Father, had met the week prior, because my friend is a Christian Gospel singer, and had the privilege of meeting Father Nathan, at a Christian fellowship meeting, while he was touring the United States back in 1998. As it turns out, she met him days before she and I were to leave for Rome. He happened, (providentially) to be booked on the exact same Delta flight, that she and I were booked on just days later. She called me and said, "Ellie, you will not believe this. I met a priest this evening, a Father Nathan from India, who is working at the Vatican in Rome. He is broadcasting news from the Vatican to the people in Southern India. He happens to be on our same flight next week".

My friend and my trip to Europe was a first for both of us. The reason we were going, I was taking advanced courses in Photography for my Bachelor's degree. My professor suggested that I photograph the Vatican for my senior project, given my love of my Catholic faith. I met Fr. Nathan literally, in line at the Delta check in desk. As the people aboard the long transatlantic flight settled in, Father and I began to the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

He was from India, I from the United States, but both Catholic and a desire to know God intimately in our earthly experience.

The 10 days in Rome turned out to be a very rich experience for me in many ways. Culturally, it opened my eyes and mind to a different way of living. Photographically, it was packed with opportunity, when I got back to processing my photographs, I had a hard time editing, and I wanted to keep them all! But, mostly, it opened me to experience the world with a new vision of the awesome message of Christ that his message is for all people. Seeing the home of the Catholic church on earth in Rome at St. Peter's was life changing. Fr. Nathan was a huge part of that, with his example as a faithful priest traveling abroad and being a servant, bringing the news back to his homeland.

Fifteen years later, and much growth and change, in ourselves, and in the church, we are still friends. It is a blessing to have good friends to inspire, and encourage, as we march

forward trying to fulfil God's will for his kingdom on earth.

Fr. Nathan is a wonderful example of steadfast love and in order to attain the great gift of love of neighbour one has to be selfless. How fitting is it that priest title is Reverend. Not all live up to it. To be reverend is to be holy. This attribute gives him courage for life, courage for self-sacrifice and service. A call to give oneself to life in joy and in happy goodwill. If we have experienced the sacredness of being, we want to protect it by active devotion. We place ourselves in the service of life.

But this can happen only if we revere life, honour it help it to become more beautiful and more alive. In this way life becomes intense, and many times very hard. We again find pleasure in life, in happiness, but above all in the joy of others and service to Gods people.

This joy, Fr. Nathan has extended to me and my family, as well as many others far and wide on this earth. I am so thankful for his life and the profound example and impact it has had on my Christian walk.

### **From Sr.Maggie Ishaq, Karachi, Pakistan**

#### **Congratulations and wishes**

It was a great moments of excitement in Rome everywhere the preparation for the opening of the Asian Synod 1998 was going on. Me and my two others companions Srs: Meena and Khushnoon were studying in Regina Mundi.

My heart was filled with gratitude and delight when from our university I got the opportunity with some other companions to participate in the Liturgical dance at the inauguration Mass of Asian Synod in Basilica of St. Peter.

It is this historical and unforgettable event in the life of the Church and my life I meet Rev. Fr. Nathen in St. Peter's Basilica at the end of the Mass.

He asked in his usual joyful, warmly, friendly mood "Oh Sister from which part of India you are from"?

"I am not from India but I am your enemy because I came from Pakistan. And since we are in the **Holy City** let us be a good friend. Promptly I responded to him Indeed I said these words jokingly It's obvious the people of both nations long to meet each other and promote dialogue but what prevent us it is all political metter.

But my joke became reality while we remained in Rome Fr. Nathan became very good friend who totally dedicated his time, talents energies as refine journalist at broad casting service at Radio Vatican.

I saw Fr. Nathan happy and committed thus I admire his spirit of dedication. Being a student whenever I approached him for any sort of help for research and assignment I found him as my good advisor and support.

After returning back to Pakistan the mutual exchange of news via e. mail about our pastoral life , mission and activities continued among us. It has been always great source of joy to hear from Fr. Nathan how the grace of God had accompanied him to do the marvelous work for the growth and up lifting the local community in his parish.

Thinking of you as you are celebrating your silver jubilee of priestly ordination my heart is filled with gratitude. I thank the Lord for your life as diligent priest, loving pastor of the souls, good friend, and advisor. May the Lord bless you with good health so as your life has been set apart to celebrate the mysteries of Christ, may you continue to save the Lord through sacramental life with love, care and dedication?

May the grace of God always strengthen you.

Congratulations God's blessings!

### **Congratulations Fr Nathan – 25 glorious years of priesthood! André Gomes**



*A priest is chosen by God to take on the role of Jesus and even to manage on earth God's own concerns and interests. Every priest is designated to be an official and public ambassador for God. He is called to represent God to the people and to represent the people to God, especially by offering prayers for them.*

As I write this reflection on our beloved parish priest Fr J A Nathan, the shepherd of the flock in our parish St Peter's, I am reminded of these words from Paul's letter to the Colossians; *"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience"* (Colossians 3:12 NRSV). These are the virtues that aptly describe Fr Nathan as a priest, the one chosen by God to lead our parish over these last few years. In tribute to Fr Nathan as he celebrates 25 glorious years of his Episcopal Ordination to the priesthood, I would like to dwell on these five virtues of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience that so aptly describe him both as a human being and as a shepherd to the flock, adding to the list the aspect of his fortitude.

**Compassionate:** I remember Fr Nathan as he took over as the new parish priest of our Church in 2008. It did not take him long to feel the pulse of the parishioners, realising that this Church was blessed with a culturally and linguistically diverse community. He realised that he must render the Gospel effective to people in their own language and quickly went about facilitating the celebration of the Holy Mass and catechises in English, Kannada and Tamil. He was *compassionate* to the people, bringing them their daily bread - the Word of God through various programs and parish ministries that he instituted in different languages. He not only drew the flock near to Jesus, he also brought Jesus to them.

**Kind:** It is said that the highest form of human kindness is the very presence of a person listening with a patient ear. Fr Nathan has been an *epitome of kindness*, always being there for people, endearing and enthusiastic. His office always seems open and more importantly he is always approachable. He listens, he is warm and he cares for his people. He knows his flock and his flock by now have understood him. I remember the words of St Ambrose who wrote that the priest, as the true minister of the altar “is born for God and not for himself.”

**Humble:** If one walks down the Rustam Baug lane any evening, one would often find Fr Nathan either playing badminton or chatting up with residents. From the caretaker of the area to the children around, everyone knows Fr Nathan. He is *humble*, the highest virtue mandated by God for the Holy Order of the priesthood. I remember when I first met him and he was taking an evening walk, he asked me to accompany him. His humility and simplicity amazed me and I was taken aback, when he stopped on the way to buy a packet of peanuts for both of us to share. Here, was a man in whom I could witness God’s love.

**Meekness:** The best analogy of meekness is that of a sheep being led by the shepherd to graze in the pasture. That meekness in Fr Nathan in his obedience to authority is a testimony to his 25 years as a priest. Whether through his passionate and powerful stint as journalist and broadcaster at Vatican Radio in Rome, or in his obedience to authority in the Archdiocese of Bangalore, or even in his soliciting ideas and thought on ecumenism as he leads the Ecumenical Council in the Archdiocese of Bangalore as its Secretary, Fr Nathan is *meekness* itself.

**Patient:** A man so powerfully blessed by the fruits of the Holy Spirit, Fr Nathan shines through in the virtue of *patience*. I often used to commend him on both his resilience and patience when the construction of our new church was being undertaken. Through months of dust, delays and disturbances, he bore the agony of this project for the sake of the parishioners. He knew we needed a spacious church where we could be well accommodated to concentrate on the Holy Mass or come and spend time in prayer and he bore all the discomfort; and that too single-handedly. Being the lone priest in the parish, it certainly must have been lonely for him with no one to share his problems and

anxieties, but he always found solace in the Lord and in his commitment to building the faith of this community.

**Fortitude:** This is another striking aspect of Fr Nathan's personality that is noteworthy. For many of the parishioners who have interacted with Fr Nathan on matters pertaining to the Church, one would find in him that rare quality of *fortitude*. Though he is blessed with a commanding presence in personality, he is actually gentle by nature; but stands firm in his resolve on matters pertaining to the Church. With 25 years having gone by, one would expect a traditionalist priest, but in Fr Nathan we find a person who is contemporary in thought, deploying various communication media to render the message of Jesus alive and effective.

*We thank you Fr Nathan for your unconditional love, unflinching support and for sowing and nourishing the seeds of our faith. We thank our God for you and assure you of our prayers, as I remember the words of our Lord Jesus; "You did not choose me, but I chose you...to go bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16 NRSV). God bless you!*

.....

## LOVE

By Freddy Raj, a Youth from St. Peter's Church, Rustombagh

### What is Love or who is Love?

1 John 4:8 - "God is love and God himself is love"

### What is not love?

Instinct is not love. Ex: Mother's feeling for a child is not love since it is registered in the DNA. Liking a person is not love at all; especially youth's need to understand that liking a person is not love at all.

Love your God and your neighbour. Absolute of every virtue in a person is God himself. God's love is infinite and not of this finite world. The love of this mortal world is not what God actually means by love.

When Philosophers, Teachers and Scholars talk about love they are sharing their views of finite love (created love). Bible mentions about the uncreated and unconditional love which is the infinite love. (Love that was displayed by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary)

The Love which God mentions in the bible is not from our own liking, understanding, affection and feelings. God's love should be received from the spiritual realm. When we start to love with infinite love we won't be tired. When we use created love out of feelings, liking, emotions, understanding, etc we will be tired (bored) and we start to blame, criticize, hate, and discourage our closed ones. **Ex:** People often say everybody is using me or I am not loved and understood. All these finally this leads to frustration.

**John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life”**

If we love a person but fail to give Jesus Christ to him/her then such love cannot be considered as love biblically. In the above word of God it says that “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son”. Therefore, if we love someone then we need to give them Jesus Christ first. Also Jesus’ love is totally manifested upon us when he obeyed God the Father’s will to be crucified on the cross, thus fulfilling the work of redemption by giving his own life for us, the children of God.

**Pray in the name of Jesus. One can love God only through Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We know that every religion talks on love in their own way with many religious aspects. But dear saints in Christ without Jesus no love can be perfected and it is not the form of worship that God the Father would desire. Now, how does God wants us to worship him? Gospel of John 4:23 – Jesus says to the Samaritan women, **“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth”**. Now, what is truth? John’s Gospel 17:7 – **“Sanctify them in truth; your word is the truth”**. Finally, what is word? John 1:1 – **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”**.

Gospel writer is mentioning about the **“Word”** here, this Word is nothing but God incarnate Jesus Christ himself. (Note: In John 1:1, Word is written with capital ‘W’ which signifies a person i.e. Jesus Christ)

There is a great need for each individual to spiritually discern and understand one thing; that Satan like a roaring lion is constantly trying to resist us in loving God and our fellow brothers and sisters as per the commandments. According to Luke 10:27 – Jesus says, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself”**.

We are being deceived by the lie of enemy with false and created love in this world. Love attains perfection only when Jesus is given and received among believers. Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life.

Firstly, to love God is to have his commandments and keep them without failure. Holy Spirit of God is the one who can help us to keep God’s commandments as He is the advocate whom Jesus gave us after his ascension into Father’s house. Romans 5:5 – **“And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us”**.

Secondly, do we love ourselves as the word of God says to, “love your neighbor as yourself”? If I am not loving/understanding me in Christ and If I don’t know my rightful position in Christ then I can’t love myself as the Lord wants. I will have worries, troubles, anxiety etc because I don’t know who I am. Many are not accepting their personality because of many words/suggestions given by parents, teachers, friends in the past. We feel depressed, insecure, and rebellious by not knowing the assurance that



we have in Jesus' name. Many a times we do have thoughts such as these; **I do not know what the Lord has done for me or why am I created in this way or why are things happening only to me** and many unwanted fears which are not at all required for the one who truly believes in the mighty blood, name and word of our saviour and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Saints as a testimony one thing I would share to encourage all, when we attain the perfection and completion in Jesus' love then our trials, tribulations, infirmities, fear and every unwanted worries gets nullified because God's love casts out all fear.

When we have something is when we can give others as well. For an instance, if I have Rs 100/- is when I can give another person when he seeks my help for Rs 50/-. Similarly, on a spiritual basis if only I have Jesus within me I can take and give him to others as well. Therefore, if I have God's love dwelling within me then I can share the same with my fellow brothers and sisters and could avoid committing many sins like hatred, unforgiving attitude, jealousy, envy, pride, quarrelling etc. **Jesus said if we hate other person then we are murderers.** Thus unconditional God's love is one of the major key for us to complete our pilgrimage here on earth and rest in the dwelling place that Jesus has promised. (John 14:3, the kingdom of God).

We need to come out of cultural and religious influences which are taught by the finite world totally outside biblical concept. The love this world offers is not love at all. Many youth's are happy with the kind of love that they receive from their partners (I was one among them), those emotional feelings, affections, media and entertainment influences are leading astray from the true love of God. Lust and sexual immorality is creeping and enslaving us to the desires of flesh and carnality in the name of love. Let's understand one thing dear friends in Christ this body of ours is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Yes, our body is where God lives and we need to maintain the sanctity at all times even during the times of temptations. St. Paul says, **"It is no longer I who live in this body, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"**.

**[Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the baptized and the divine likeness lost through sin]**

In Galatians 5:22: It is mentioned as **"fruit"** and not **"fruits"** of the Holy Spirit and the first fruit of the Holy Spirit is **"Love"** (love of God). The first fruit (Love of God) is the door for other fruits (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) to open and lead our lives as a true Christian and disciples of Jesus.

**[He, then, gives us the "pledge" or "first fruits" of our inheritance: the very life of the Holy Trinity, which is to love as "God [has] loved us." This love (1 Corinthians chapter 13 onwards) is the source of the new life in Christ, made possible because**

**we have received "power" from the Holy Spirit].** We live by the Spirit; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we "walk by the Spirit."

Children should love parents and parents should love children why? Same with husband and wife why? This is because bible says to love.

Saints in Christ if you love somebody talk and share about Jesus and even if somebody hurts and hates you we have to love that person why?

This is too because bible says to love.

Jesus was condemned, beaten, broken, spat, nailed to the cross but still he prayed, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing".

### **Conclusion:**

We all are truly saints in Christ as St. Paul calls the people in one of his Pauline letters. Love is the universal call of God though Jesus Christ his only son and Jesus gave us his Holy Spirit as a container to carry this message of love to all the people out there. Many are searching love in wrong places, many in orphanages and old age homes are craving for the love and compassion. Who are suppose to reach all the lost and all alone? It is "We" who are serving a God who is all compassionate, merciful and filled with grace.

Let's offer ourselves and receive Jesus Christ as we partake in his holy Eucharist sharing his body and blood by faith for by his wounds we are healed and by his blood we are forgiven of all our sins. Therefore, let's enjoy freedom in the fullness of his love until eternity.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth loves you!!!



### **Pentecost - Staying Alive in the Spirit- by: André Gomes**

For us Catholics, the celebration of Easter must usher in a renewed beginning in our lives. Easter is no doubt an outburst of joy, a celebration in festivities and a resolve to never enter into an old state of sin. So if the period of Lent was a call to repentance and forgiveness, the period of Easter is a return to the divine source of life, to Jesus Christ. It is a return now not to the crucified Lord, but to the Risen Lord, to a Jesus who never fails. For those of us who really died with Christ each of those forty days of Lent,

through our sacrifices, through our forgiveness of others, and through our works of charity, we would indeed find ourselves risen with Christ to a new life this Easter.

The task that now remains is whether we can still pour the new wine filled into our hearts this Lent, into the old wine skins of our daily routine. It may seem possible, but then the old wine skins of our lives would crack up at the slightest pressure. So what then do we really need to set us on a new journey? It is the empowering of the Holy Spirit. It is the Pentecostal experience that would reinforce our resolve to holiness and insulate us against the snares of the evil one.

### **Born of the Spirit:**

All of us are born with the Holy Spirit. This implies that we have “power” – the power to sustain us through difficult times, the power to be able to overcome, the power to dialogue with God. The sad part with most Christians is that they are neither aware of the working of the Holy Spirit, nor do we seem to have a relationship with Him. Christian doctrine speaks of the Holy Spirit as the third person in the Holy Trinity. It is the Holy Spirit that connects us with God the Father, as one of His prized creation. It is the Holy Spirit that also unites the Christian believer to the saviour Jesus Christ. This Holy Spirit is not only within us, but also between each of us.

At Easter when we rise above our differences, put aside the old and put on the new robe of righteousness, we begin to allow the Holy Spirit to take centre-stage in our lives. It is the same spirit that Christ gave to the disciples after His resurrection and at Pentecost that empowered them and made them people of power. Through this power they overcame their timidity, their inability to connect, and were able to tide over their lack of faith in their own God given abilities.

### **Pentecost:**

The English word “Pentecost” is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means “fifty.” It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means “fiftieth day.” But Christians did not invent the phrase “fiftieth day”, but borrowed it from the Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or “fifty days” from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (*pentekonta hemeras* in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

### **The Birth of the Church:**

How many Christians realize that Pentecost is actually the ‘birthday of the church’? Pentecost may not be as celebrated as Christmas and Easter, but it is of immense significance as it was on that day that the first Christians, the first followers of Christ received the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not only a historical event that marked the

calendar of the church, but it is spiritually relevant, as it was on Pentecost that the spirit breathed life into the church and continues till this day to enliven it.

The feast of Pentecost is a reminder to us of the promise Jesus made; "I will pray the father, and He will give you *another* Paraclete, to be with you forever..." {John 14:16}. While Jesus is the first Paraclete, the Holy Spirit is the 'another' the second Paraclete. Jesus knew He would not be physically around with the disciples much longer and He knew their hearts would be troubled, so He lovingly gave them hope and reassurance of an everlasting form of the triune God, the Holy Spirit. This is exactly what Jesus does with us today too. He knows that after the forty days of prayer and penance during Lent, we too may succumb to the temptations of the world and so He gives us the Holy Spirit in full measure at Pentecost. It is thus the renewal of our lives during Lent and Easter that is reinforced or strengthened with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The word Paraclete comes from the Greek word "Parakletos", which is found in [John 14:16](#), [26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7](#); and 1 John 2:1 and is translated as "Comforter or Counselor" and as "Advocate". So we have both a counsellor who would guide mankind through its earthly journey in order to reach our heavenly kingdom; as well as an advocate who pleads our case before Christ. To have the Holy Spirit as our "Paraclete" is to have God Himself *dwelling* in us as believers. He *teaches* us the Word and *guides* us into the truth of that Word. He also *reminds* us of what He has taught us so that we can depend on God's Word in the difficult times of life. The Spirit uses the Word to *give us His peace* ([John 14:27](#)), *His love* ([John 15:9](#), [10](#)), and *His joy* ([John 15:11](#)). These are profound truths that comfort our hearts and minds in a troubled world.

### **Journeying in the Spirit:**

The power of this indwelling "Paraclete" gives us the ability to "live by the Spirit so that we will not gratify the desires of the sinful flesh". Since we live by the Spirit, let us then keep in step with the Spirit ([Galatians 5:16](#), [25](#)). We, then, can have the "fruit of the Spirit" produced in our own lives, which is; *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control* ([Galatians 5:22, 23](#) NRSV), to give glory of God the Father. What a blessing to have the Holy Spirit in our lives as our "paraclete," our Comforter, our Encourager, our Counselor, and our Advocate.

### **Names & Symbols of the Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Bible gives us various references that point to the names and symbols indicating the Holy Spirit.

**Dove:** In Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descends on Him in the form of a dove. (Mathew 3:16). The dove is symbolically representative of 'peace', and that is just what Jesus came to do. In His life on earth, he brought God's peace to all men and sought to restore harmony between God's people.

**Fire:** On Pentecost, “tongues of fire” descended on the Apostles and gave them power to speak in many understandable languages. (Acts 2:3-4) Fire has the power to burn out, purify and transform, and that is exactly what the Holy Spirit does within each of us. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome the temptation to sin, purifies our thoughts and actions and transforms us into the image and likeness of God.

**Water:** In Ezekial 36:25-27, God assures the people that they would be renewed in the Spirit with the sprinkling of water, cleansed and given a new heart. *“I will sprinkle clean water upon you...”* (NRSV) Water is the nourishing factor in a human beings life and man’s survival depends to a large extent on water, so with the Holy Spirit who nourishes man always.

**Wind:** In the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:2-4), we see the reference to the wind blowing through the house where the apostles were gathered at Pentecost. In John 3:8 (NRSV), Jesus says: *“the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”* Jesus is telling us that while the Spirit is present within us in an invisible way, it is active and at work in us. But that is only if we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us, if we allow God to work through the Spirit in our lives.

**Advocate/ Counsellor:** The Holy Spirit is also referred to as an Advocate, someone who pleads our case before the Father at all times. (John 14:26, John 15:26) But that is if we like the returned Prodigal children have made the conscious effort to return to the Father in humility. John 16:13-15 also refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth, the one who will lead the Church into the fullness of Truth that Jesus leads us into.

The Holy Spirit is always with man, as Jesus tells us, *“You know him, because he (the Holy Spirit) abides with you, and he will be in you”* (John 14:17 NRSV). However the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was in far greater measure than anything the apostles ever experienced before. In his powerful sermon after Pentecost, Peter said; *“Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38 NRSV). The good news for us this Pentecost is, that we are no longer waiting for the Holy Spirit, He is waiting for us. This implies that we are no longer living in a time of promise, but in a time of fulfilment. His power is available for us today. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NRSV) Are we prepared to receive this power? So between our Lenten confessions, the renewal at Easter and the Feast of Pentecost, if we have yet not repented sincerely for any of our transgressions, now is the time to do so, so that we may be open and worthy vessels for the Holy Spirit to fill us. Let us then begin our journey in the way of the Lord as one renewed Church, the Church of St Peter at Rustambagh. **Amen!**

**Advertisement**

HIS More Love launches a Biblical Institute for the Laity. This is a unique assignment given to a Lay Ministry in the Indian Catholic Church. At the service of the Church, to equip the Laity. His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, A



rchbishop of Bangalore with Dr. Dominic Dixon, Provost & Director at the inaugural and launch of the Institute. **Log on to [www.ethosinstitute.org](http://www.ethosinstitute.org) for more information**



**Over a dozen Courses offered at ETHOS Institute**

**School of Pastoral Counselling & Psychology**

3 months. Weekends – 2 hours

**School of Theology of the Body**

2 months. Weekends – 2 hours

**School on the Dignity & Vocation of**

## Women

2 months. Weekends – 2 hours

## School of Pro-Life

2 months. Weekends – 2 hours

Call: 7204012777 | 7204013777 |  
7204014777.

Email: registrar@ethosinstitute.org

#4, 3rd Floor, 'A' Block, St. Patricks Church  
complex, Brigade Road, Bangalore.  
Under the Patronage of Pope John Paul II

## Feature

### FAITH

By Mohit Fernandes

**(This feature gets a gift coupon for Rs.1000 as an incentive)**

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, in Paragraph 75, states: *The “knowing” of faith understands and directs the life of men and women according to the light of the historical-Salvific mystery, God's revelation and gift of Himself to us in Christ. This understanding of faith includes reason, by means of which — insofar as possible — it unravels and comprehends revealed truth and integrates it with the truth of human nature, found in the divine plan expressed in creation. This is the integral truth of the human person as a spiritual and corporeal being, in relationship with God, with other human beings and with other creatures.*

Faith is belief with strong conviction. This conviction originates in the ‘revealed truth’ of God to man of His divine plan and results in a relationship of Man with God ruled by complete trust in or devotion to God, even in something for which there may be no tangible proof, except the ‘Word’ from God. Faith is the opposite of doubt. ‘Doubt’ not as expressed by a limitation of our ‘mental faculty’ but out of a realization that the limitations of our Human nature do not limit the ‘Supra natural’ Almighty God. Concerning Abraham (the father of faith), it is said in Romans 4: 20-21, **“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”**

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."(Hebrews11:1) The entire 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews shows the meaning of faith and the great deeds and sacrifices made by the ‘Heroes of Faith’ in their earthly lives even though they did not immediately see the result of their acts and lives of faith. They were simply obeying God and trusting in His Word (promise).

The Apostle James describes very simply the expression of one’s faith in the second chapter of his letter. James 2:14-24 says, “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a

brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."**Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

Scripture explains that the source of faith is God: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

It must be noted that, while 'Salvation' is a free gift from God through 'Faith' and is not dependent on our works, it is this Faith that compels us in our 'works' and 'deeds' as 'Christians' to be practical examples of God's nature in our relationship with other humans and with other creatures. To be 'selfless' as our Lord Jesus Christ was in serving mankind, by our practical works for the benefit of the community in which we live, even when we are rejected by the same community, simply by faith, to implement the nature and promises of God found in the Divine plan expressed in creation.

## **CHALLENGES OF FAITH**

### **The faith formation of Biblical personalities seen in Heb Ch.11**

#### **(A Feature for a deep reflection in the Year of Faith)**

#### **Introduction:**

Of the many challenges to faith in Christ today, the biggest challenge is to call Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Throughout recorded Biblical history God has revealed to man that he is special and the centre of His creation. He has in his plan of salvation revealed Himself as absolutely sovereign. The Bible is a record of men and women who simply recognized this sovereignty of God in their lives and in the world and obeyed Him even to the extent of giving up their own lives and very often even when every circumstance seemed to be fully opposed to what God has revealed to them or promised to them.



Faith essentially reveals our complete humanness before God and in the limitations of our humanity to understand that the Saviour is using us as his vessels, friends and ambassadors to save, transform and regenerate the world and to bring in His Kingdom.

The Bible reveals the plan of salvation of Mankind and the earth through God Himself, revealed in His own Son Jesus Christ. However Man's faith was again greatly challenged when they failed to recognize this. *"There needs to be an active grasp of the fundamental intelligibility of faith—the truth about God is luminous, and endlessly so, and the difficulties lie more in the weakness of our capacities than in the alleged obscurity of divine revelation."*

**The chapter 11 of Hebrew** is often to as the "**faith chapter**" of the Bible. Concise thumbnail sketches of past paragons of faith—men and women who stood out in their exercise of faith toward God are given here.

Some of them are as follows:

**NOAH:** The book of Hebrews presents Noah as a faithful follower of God. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7)

The word faith in this verse means constant trust and confidence in God and reliance on Him for salvation. This kind of faith persuades one to follow through with his deepest convictions. After God warned Noah of the coming universal Flood, Noah moved with godly fear to build the ark and to save his family.

The people of the world brought judgment on themselves by dishonoring and disbelieving the warning message Noah delivered to them from the God who made them. They could have repented and started putting God's laws into practice in their lives, but they didn't. In contrast, Noah did. And his faithfulness and obedience stood as further indictment against the faithlessness and disobedience of the rest of the world.

**ABRAHAM:** The incident with Isaac reveals more clearly than any other the maturity of Abraham's faith. As stated in Hebrews, "Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death" (Heb. 11:19). Abraham had such confidence in God that he believed that out of the ashes of the sacrificed Isaac — consumed as a burnt offering — he would be restored in resurrection to his father to fulfill the promises of God.

Abraham was a man of faith who believed he could live in God's place, who believed in God's provision for him in time and eternity, who believed the promise of the son whom God would give him miraculously, and who believed in God's divine power of resurrection. Our Christian faith today stands upon the same foundation. Like Abraham, we are called to live by faith in the living God who will accomplish for us in time and eternity all that He has promised in His love and grace.

**JACOB:** "By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, "bowing in worship over the top of his staff.'" (Heb. 11:21). To die by faith, we need to live by faith. Jacob walked by faith, but had to fight hard for each victory. In spite of all his faults and failings (and each of us is just as full of the same), Jacob dearly prized his interest in the everlasting covenant, trusted in God, and highly esteemed His promises. His old nature (of deceit) was strong within him; yes, and so too was the new.

Jacob is seen as God's prophet announcing the future of all his twelve sons in the Book of Genesis, but in the verse in Hebrew 11 he is concerned only with Joseph and his two sons. Joseph had a different purpose in fulfilling Israel's destiny than those of his 11 brothers.

**JOSEPH:** Joseph was a man of remarkable faith in God. Joseph seemed to have some inclination towards 'showing off', eg. Wearing the multi-coloured robe when he went to meet his brothers and also narrating to them his dreams (revealing to them his higher status), complaining to his father about his brothers. However this caused hatred from his brothers who sold him into slavery.

Every circumstance in Joseph's life after this only seemed to indicate that the dreams God gave him may not come to pass at all. But through all his trials Joseph held on to his God. When all his hopes seemed dead and all indications pointed to the fact that he might spend the rest of his life in an Egyptian jail, God raised him up to be the most powerful man in Egypt after Pharaoh. This gave him an opportunity to protect and shelter his family members (including the brothers who wanted to kill him) and brought forth the nation of Israel.

*"By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial."* (Hebrews 11:22). Joseph saw in advance that his family was going to be a very great nation.

**MOSES:** (Hebrews 11: 23-28) "By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel."

Moses is known as the author of the first five books of the Bible. He led Israel people out of slavery into the new land. He received the Ten Commandments which influenced all the people of the world even today. His life story began with the faith of his parents. Then he made decision of faith when he was 40 years old. His decision showed his value system. He initiated the Passover feast by faith. He was a man of faith who pleased God

because he saw God who is invisible. Moses showed the exercise of his faith in making his decision, choice, **value, Exodus, and the Passover.**

**AARON:** Aaron was the first one who stood beside Moses in confronting the Pharaoh to release the Jews. Moses and Aaron together would bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Aaron received the priesthood in the wilderness.

**JOSHUA:** (Hebrews 11:30) *By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.* Joshua & Caleb were the only ones from the people who left Egypt to enter the promised land. By faith Joshua did not see the giant 'Amalekites' as giants but as persons God had delivered to them for defeat. This same faith made Joshua see the massive Jericho walls as 'fragile' in his obedience to God.

**SAMUEL:** A prophet and a Priest. Samuel was given to God's service at a very young age. His faith in God made him the one to anoint 'Kings' over Israel. God's opinion and command mattered more to him than his own or any others opinion. Anointed a King over Israel

**DAVID** only when God told him to do so, even though he was not happy with that system.

: David is not mentioned in Hebrews, but he was an exceptional example of a man whose life was dictated by the faith he had in God. Even today he is revered as the greatest King that Israel ever had. Jesus is called the 'Son of David', being of David's lineage. He was a king and also an exceptional Prophet. An individual with personal shortcomings, but with a close relationship with God that David has been referred to as a 'Man after God's own heart'. A major portion of the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles are about him.

By faith David stored up treasures for the temple because he believed the promise that God made to him concerning his son. David desired to give God a dwelling place with more glory than even his own home. God forbade David from doing this, but made David several promises instead (2 Sam. 7). One of these promises was that one of David's children would build God's temple. Again, David demonstrates his great faith. He believed God to such an extent that he began preparation for the fulfillment of the promise. David made blueprints for the temple and even began stockpiling supplies (1 Chron. 28:11-19; 29:1-5). David would never see the temple, but by faith he prepared much of the material which would go into it.

**SOLOMON:** Solomon is referred to as the 'Wisest King'. His rule brought great riches and fame to Israel. He built the Temple of God at Jerusalem. God blessed him in this way because at the beginning of his rule, he revealed a true heart for God in asking God for Wisdom to rule God's people, rather than asking for wealth and power. God gave him all three. Sadly, the Bible shows us that he turned away from God in his later years because of the foreign wives he married (the result of his wealth and power).

**SAMSON:** Hebrews 11:32 reads: *"And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets."* One may ask, "Why is Samson included in this list of faithful men?" This is the same Samson who decided he wanted an evil Philistine woman, rather than a godly Israelite woman, for a wife (Judg. 14:1-3). This is the same man who, because he lost a bet with thirty men, killed and robbed thirty other men to pay-off his debt (14:12-19). He is the same judge of God's people who went in unto a harlot in Gaza (16:1, 2). This is the same Israelite that fell in love with a Philistine woman that tricked him into breaking his Nazarite vow (14:12-19). On the surface, it appears that he deserves to be on the list of "God's most unfaithful servants," rather than Hebrew's "great men of faith."

Though he messed up during most of his life, his final act of faith was to give up his life to destroy the enemies of Israel.

**ESTHER:** Esther believed God had made her a queen for a purpose and that purpose was to save the Jews from the king's decree of death. She decided to approach the king for which she would have faced certain death if the king did not extend his sceptre towards her. Her faith expressed a possible sacrifice of her life to save God's people.

**JUDITH:** It was the twelfth year of Nebuchadnezzar who reigned over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh. Arphaxad was then reigning over the Medes in Ecbatana.

**ANNA in the Temple:** Anna's faith in God resulted in her spending all her time praying and worshipping Him, from a very young age, after she became a widow within seven years of her marriage. Her intimacy with God over the years resulted in God giving her a revelation about His son Jesus. At age eighty-four she prophesied about Jesus before all people when Jesus as a baby was brought to the temple for dedication.

**PROPHET DANIEL:** There are two major acts of faith of Daniel in the Bible.

1. When Daniel was brought to the king's palace he was given to eat only vegetables and not anything else. But God made him healthier than everyone in the whole kingdom.
2. When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for worshipping the almighty instead of worshipping the king nothing happened to Daniel in the den because Daniel knew that God was with him. And when nothing had happened to Daniel the king was amazed at what he saw and gave Daniel a very important place in the palace.

3.

**PROPHET JONAH:** We often talk about faith as believing in God, and surely Jonah knew that God exists. Jonah talked to God, and God talked back. Jonah was not a man who wondered if God existed. He was a man who knew God. Jonah knew that if God had told a work to Jonah it would be difficult for him but Jonah with faith believed in him and did as he was said. By this we know that Jonah lived only for the almighty.

**PROPHET JEREMIAH:** Jeremiah faithfully endured loneliness, opposition, and danger in the midst of God's direction. Jeremiah loved the Lord and sought righteousness through God's purposes; every aspect of his life was an expression of the esteem he held towards his Leader. Jeremiah's faith was paramount. In considering the lessons to be gained from Jeremiah, one must first realize that his faith was centered on God, his "strength", "fortress", and "refuge" (Jer. 16:19). This God has remained unchanged and offers such direction and protection to his people today.

**People of Israel on the Whole:** Though God brought Israelites out of Egypt with many signs, wonders, and miracles and also great wealth in spite of all the years of slavery and further more rescued from the Egyptians by parting the red sea, they grumbled against God when they got into problems like lack of water, lack of meat. In spite of the might God showed on behalf of Israelites in bringing them out of the clutches of the most powerful nation on earth at that time, they did not trust God to defeat the Amalekites (who were like giants). They forgot God often in the desert and made idols and kept rebelling against God and God's appointed leadership. God rejected the first generation and the next generation led by men of faith like Joshua and Caleb made it to the Promised Land. The entire history of Israel to the present day shows God's blessing on them when they kept their faith in Him and His punishment of them when they turned away from Him. God who is faithful to His word, according to His promises made through prophets including Isaiah and Jeremiah, has once again brought into existence the nation of Israel against almost impossible odds.

**ZECHARIAH:** Zechariah, a priest in the temple in Jerusalem, played a key role in God's plan of salvation because of his righteousness and obedience.

A member of the clan of Abijah (a descendant of Aaron), Zechariah went to the temple to carry out his priestly duties. At the time of Jesus Christ, there were about 7,000 priests in Israel, divided into 24 clans. Each clan served at the temple twice a year, for a week each time.

Luke tells us Zechariah was chosen by lot that morning to offer incense in the Holy Place, the temple's inner chamber where only priests were allowed. As Zechariah was praying, the angel Gabriel appeared at the right side of the altar. Gabriel told the old man that his prayer for a son would be answered. Zechariah's wife Elizabeth would give birth and they were to name the baby John. Further, Gabriel said John would be a great man who would lead many to the Lord and would be a prophet announcing the Messiah.

**ELIZABETH:** The inability to bear a child is a common theme in the Bible. In ancient times, barrenness was considered a disgrace. But time and again, we see these women having great faith in God, and God rewards them with a child.

Elizabeth was such a woman. Both she and her husband Zechariah were old, she past child-bearing years, yet she conceived through the grace of God. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah the news in the temple, then made him mute because he did not believe.

Just as the angel foretold, Elizabeth conceived. While she was pregnant, Mary, the expectant mother of Jesus, visited her. The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy on hearing Mary's voice. Elizabeth gave birth to a son. They named him John, as the angel had commanded, and at that moment Zechariah's power of speech returned. He praised God for his mercy and goodness.

**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Virgin Mary in Christian faith is actually one of the most difficult, most delicate and most discussed. On the other hand we feel sure, deep down in our hearts, that the place of the Madonna in the history of salvation and our love for her constitute a touchstone of our Catholic faith. Anything that would give offence in this matter would strike something essential in us. With the "Our Father", the Lord's Prayer, the "Hail Mary" is our daily Prayer. Possessing these we are heirs of all the Church's tradition. The Council of Ephesus proclaimed Mary the "Mother of God", thus attesting the reality of the Incarnation of the Word. We know how much the great Christian centuries exalted her; the cathedrals here in France that are dedicated to her, prove how much Our Lady was venerated in those ages. And without going back too far into the past, how many modern sanctuaries bear witness to the important place Mary occupies in the Church and in Christian life.

**St. John the Baptist:** John the Baptist's famous sending of his disciples to ask Jesus whether He "is the one" or whether they should wait for someone else. From time immemorial, scholars and other theologians have debated over the question of whether this is an indication that John the Baptist was himself beset by doubt about Jesus' identity.

John had no doubts about who Jesus was. He was simply performing his last teaching duty to his disciples by sending them to Jesus and having them ask Jesus effectively to confirm that He is indeed the Messiah. Thus, John ensured that these disciples severed their exclusive attachment to himself and re-attached themselves to Jesus instead. In other words, their mission from John was an acted out version of his words in John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

**St. Paul:** St Paul was truly a giant of faith, a man of outstanding qualities in every respect: courage, conviction, clarity, intellect, pastoral care, wisdom, stamina and perhaps most of all love for Christ. St Paul was clear however that his insight and grasp of the gospel was the fruit of revelation, a special, personal and unique insight into the mystery of Christ. God worked so powerfully and wonderfully in his life that he was able to take hold of Christ and the meaning of his death and resurrection in a way which meant that this mystery could be grasped and understood by all.

**MAJOR SEMINARY RECTOR BRUTALLY KILLED**

The dastard murder of a major seminary rector in the Silicon Valley city of South India took the Christian world with shock and fear.



Fr. K. J. Thomas, a two term rector and professor of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in Malleshwaram, Bangalore was found dead in the pool of blood early morning Monday April fool day. The news spread like wild fire and the archbishop Bernard Moras and his associate priests rushed to the spot with police and identified the victim priest as his face was disfigured by the killers. It is said Fr.K.J.Thomas a soft spoken priest came out around 2 am on the door knock probably hearing a familiar voice and was violently attacked by the assumed three men gang and was killed instantly and his body was dragged to a nearby tea room. The crime was so cruel that the cowards have used a white cassock, said to be smaller than the size of the victim to wipe the blood stain on the floor and was thrown into a corridor bush. The forensic investigation of the body by the police reveals that the victim priest received stabbings on his chest, stomach and head. There is a talk in the city that how come the priest (Seminary financier) who was sleeping in the next room failed to make any alarm or shout or any emergency call to police or to any one hearing the victim's cry and scream.



Nearly 400 priests and nuns and many lay people attended the Holy Mass the following day to pay rich tribute to his martyrdom in the Seminary and soon after the Mass his mortal remains were shifted to Ooty diocese where the victim belonged and later was buried in Kottayam in his birth place. The mystery of Fr.K.J.Thomas' murder is still unfurled and the police investigation is going on. It is also said apart from some lay persons, couple of priests are into the investigation in the background of the crime. The Bangalore police are in the fray to investigate from every available angle to nab the culprits. The Church has to be very free and frank to find out the root cause for the murder and the killers should never be allowed in any way to escape the severe judgement. The language dispute that goes on in the archdiocese for

many decades is nevertheless not ruled out as a causal reef for the event. Anyway the truth will one day come out and then the world will know the hidden cause of Fr.K.J.Thomas' murder (KNS)

This is the first murder of this intensity of a priest, a senior and serious priest of good character in the history. Till now no clue for the murder has been seen by the police and the Church too is so calm that it has hardly taken notice in a larger scale.

### **Why God is not listening to our prayers**

Many people complain that God doesn't listen to their prayers, but why? How is that He listens to very few people's prayers?

The most important thing is **to have a full control over one's concentration of mind**. Whenever we pray our mind should not wander away here and there, as it generally happens. It is always better to close your eyes and pray to God with full concentration on prayers only.

Secondly, **we must pray to god in strong faith and in love and in total submission to the will of God**. Prayers with humility, simplicity, honesty and in strong faith will be heard and the rewards will be given to those who are sincere, in their deeds, thoughts and work in their daily life at all times. To test one's faith, sometimes there may be crosses we have to carry for Jesus due to which we should not lose our strong faith in love for Jesus.

I wish to give a very small testimony of mine for the glorification of our loving Jesus. I was searching for a suitable servant for my old age mother temporarily bedridden in Mysore. Though I found a few people, no one was ready to go to Mysore. I was mentally disturbed and I sincerely submitted my problem to the loving Jesus and requested Him to help me. Since I gave my phone numbers to few other housemaids with a request to call me if they found any one suitable for my requirement. To my joy and surprise, one day a lady whom I didn't know called up and agreed to go to Mysore to look after my mother without laying down any special conditions at all. I got her and took her to Mysore to take care of my mother. I'm glad to say that she is taking care of her well and my mother is on her way to recovery. I believe that it's only because of our loving Jesus who heard my simple prayers and helped me in my distress for which I am highly thankful and ever grateful to Him.

Once our prayers are answered it is very important **to thank God for his kind blessings** showered upon us and also to glorify His name till the end of our life. Whatever I am today is only because of His mercy, love and the kind blessings showered on me and my family for which I shall remain ever grateful and highly thankful to Him forever.



When I came to know that there is a married Hindu lady who believes in Jesus Christ and also prays to Him alone, I contacted her and introduced myself. She said that sometime back she had a vision of Jesus. She placed all her trust in Him and surrendered to Him in very strong faith and conviction.

**Col J M Lobo**

## **7 nutrients all men need**

For optimum health and fitness, it is essential to add variety to your meals and include a wide variety of nutrients in your diet. However, there are some nutrients that are particularly important for men to include in their daily diets. Here are 7 essential nutrients all men need.



7 nutrients all men need

### **Selenium**

Selenium is a powerful antioxidant which can help to reduce or prevent hair loss in men. Furthermore, studies have suggested that selenium can boost sperm health and motility, improving fertility. Selenium is also great for lowering “bad” cholesterol, preventing blood clots and lifting your mood. To get your recommended intake of selenium, try snacking on Brazil nuts, which are one of the most concentrated sources of the mineral, or eating more fish and seafood.

### **B vitamins**

B vitamins are essential for general wellbeing and can help to alleviate depression, promote a healthy nervous system and boost energy levels. Studies have also shown that folate (vitamin B9) can help to keep sperm healthy, while biotin (vitamin B7) can help to treat hair loss. Good sources of B vitamins include whole grains, legumes, nutritional yeast and green leafy vegetables.

### **Zinc**

Zinc is essential for men’s fertility and sexual health. The mineral not only helps to maintain healthy testosterone levels and boost libido, it is also essential for healthy sperm production. One of the best sources of zinc is oysters, although pumpkin seeds, meat, oats and other shellfish are all good sources.

### **Omega-3 fatty acids**

Omega-3 fatty acids are one of the most multi-purpose nutrients around and can help to address many of men’s most common health complaints. Omega-3 fatty acids have been linked to lowered levels of “bad” cholesterol and can also reduce risk of many illnesses,

including heart disease, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer and depression. One of the best sources of omega-3 fatty acids is oily fish such as salmon, mackerel and sardines.

### **Vitamin D**

As well as helping to promote good bone health and prevent risk of mental illness and heart disease, according to a study led by a researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health, high levels of vitamin D can lower a man's risk of dying from prostate cancer. Studies have also suggested that vitamin D can help to improve men's sex drive by boosting testosterone levels, with research suggesting that an hour of sunshine can boost a man's testosterone levels by 69 per cent. Good food sources of vitamin D include oily fish and egg yolk.

### **Lycopene**

Studies have found that lycopene – the carotenoid that gives tomatoes their color – can help to reduce risk of colorectal cancer, lower cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease; the leading cause of death in men. Research has also shown that men who frequently eat foods rich in lycopene may drastically reduce their risk of developing prostate cancer and that lycopene can slow the growth of, or even kill, prostate cancer cells.

### **Magnesium**

Magnesium is important for healthy bones, energy levels and muscle function, as well as many other parts of the body and other essential functions. Furthermore, research has suggested that getting enough magnesium can help to reduce men's risk of colon cancer. Good sources of magnesium include leafy green vegetables, nuts and seeds.

## **35 prophecies fulfilled in 24 hours**

But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled? (Mathew 26:56) FROM THE SCRIPTURES given by Jehovah (Yahweh) through His Hebrew prophets, we note there 35 specific prophecies that pertain to the sufferings and death of the Messiah, all of which were fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth during the 24 hours of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrews first month (the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib, or Nisan - from 6 pm to the following 6 pm. Exodus 12:2, 3, 6; Esther 3:7). We will cite the prophecies and then indicate their fulfillments.

We invite our readers to look up the sites, about prophecies and their fulfillments, "so that your faith will not stand on the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinth 2:5). "Those things, which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he had so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18). "These are Written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31).

### **IT WAS PROPHESED THAT**

Sl.No.	Prophecies	Old testament	New testament
1	He was to be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9; 16:12	Mat 26:47-50; John 13:18; Mark 14:10,21

2	He was sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech 11:12	Matt 26:14, 15
3	The money obtained was to be cast to the potter a) silver b) 30 pieces, c) thrown down d) in the cause of the LORD	Zech 11:13	Matt 27:10
4	He was to cry out unto God and be heard by him	Psalm 22:24	Luke 22:41-44; Heb 5:7
5	His disciples were to forsake Him	Zech 13:7	Matt 26:31, 56; Mark 14:27
6	He was to be accused by false witnesses	Psalm 12; 35:11; 109:2	Matt 26:59, 60
7	He was to be smitten with a rod upon His cheek	Micah 5:1	Matt 26:67 (or rods), Mark 15:19; Luke 22:63, 64
8	He was to be scourged	Isaiah 50:6; 53:5	Matt 27:26; John 19:1
9	He was to be spit upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matt:26:67; 27:30; Mark 15:19
10	His visage was to be marred	Isaiah 52:14	Matt:26:67; 27:29,30; Mark 15:17-19; Luke 22:
11	He was to be silent before His accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matt. 27:12-14; Mark 15:3-5? 1 Pet 2:
12	He was to be despised and rejected of the people	Psalm 22:6; Isa 53:3	Mark 9:12; 15:20
13	He was to be wounded and bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matt 27:26, 29, 30; Mark 15:15, 17, 19
14	His hands and feet were to be pierced	Psalm 16	See Luke 23:33; John 20:25-27
15	He was to be numbered with transgressors	Isaiah 53:12	Matt 27:38; Mark 15:28; Luke 22:17; John 19:18
16	He was to pray for His persecutors	Isaiah 53: Psalm 109:4	See Luke 23:34
17	The people were to shake their heads at Him	Psalm 22:7; 109:25	Matt 27:39
18	The people were to ridicule Him	Psalm 22:8	Matt 27:41-44; Luke 23:35-37
19	The people were to be astonished at Him	Psalm 22:8	Matt 27:41-44; Luke 23:35-37
20	His garments were to be parted and lots cast for vesture	Psalm 22:18	Matt 27:35; Mark 15:__; Luke 23:34; John 19:23, 24
21	Darkness was to cover the land from noon onward	Amos 8:9	Matt 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:4
22	He was to cry out My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me??	Psalm 22:1	Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34

23	He was to thirst	Psalm 22:15; 69:3, 21	John 19:28
24	They were to give Him gall and vinegar to drink	Psalm 69:21	Matt 27:34, 48; Mark 15:23, 36; Luke 23:36; John 19:29
25	He was to pour out His human soul unto death	Isaiah 53:12	John 10:17, 18
26	His human soul was to be an offering for sin	Isaiah.53:10-12	Matt 26:27, 28;
27	He was to commit into God's hand His spirit-His right to human life	Psalm 31:5	Luke 23:46
28	He was to be cut off, but not for Himself, in the midst of the prophetic 70 <sup>th</sup> symbolic week, namely, at the Passover season, as the antitypical Passover Lamb being without blemish	Daniel 9:26, 27 Exodus 12:5; Isa 53:7,9	John 1:29; 1Cor 5:7; 2 Cor:5:21, Heb 4:15; 7:26; 9:14; 1 Pet 1:18, 19; 2:22
29	His friends were to stand afar off from Him	Psalm 38:11; 88:8, 18	Matt 27:55,56; Mark 15:40,41; Luke 23:49
30	His bones (through out of joint and able to be counted, because of severe crucifixion sufferings were not to be broken	Psalm 22:14, 17, Psalm 34:20, Exodus 12:46	John 19:31-36
31	He was to be pierced	Zech 12:10	John 19:34-37; Rev 1:7
32	He was suffer paralysis of the heart, which under feverish heat would melt like wax before the fire	Psalm 22:14, 15	John 19:34
33	He was to be buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matt 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-53; John 19:38-42
34	He was to provide that which none of Adam's fallen race could give, namely, a ransom, an exact equivalent, a perfect human life, to redeem, pay for, the perfect human life that Adam by his sin had lost for himself and all of his race in his loins	Psalm 49:7; Deut 19:21; Job 33:24; Proverb11:1; Isaiah 53:4-6; 10-12	Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 6:51; 1 Cor15:3; 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Pet 2:24
35	His sacrificial death was to be voluntary, and He was to delight in doing God's will	Psalm 40:6-8	Heb 10:1-14; 12:2; John 4:25,26,34; 5:51; 10:17,18; 14:31; 15:11; 17:4, 13

In the light of Scripture, reason and facts, the above 35 remarkable fulfillments of prophecy in one day leave no room for doubt as to Jesus of Nazareth being the true Messiah. Other Messianic prophecies, such as those pertaining to His resurrection on the third day, have been fulfilled in Him, and in no other. Because the above 35 prophecies of Messiah's sufferings and death have been so realistically fulfilled in Jesus at His First Advent, and in no other, we may be sure that, the many other Divinely inspired prophecies of Messiah's glorious reign soon to come for the blessing of all the families of the earth, are just as sure to be fulfilled. What a glorious prospect we have in God's Word, especially for believing Jews and believing Gentiles! We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe: (1 Timothy 4:10).

## **Gabriel Amalanathan**

### **A Glimpse into a Woman's Diary**

In search of Purpose, In search of Solitude, In search of Appreciation, In search of Self-Worth., Unexpressed Emotions, Unexplained Words, Unaffordable Wish Lists Unfathomed Dreams., Self- Sacrificial Lamb, Silent Peace Lover, Shoulder to vent Grief, Sturdy pillar of displaced aggression....Can she be known by her name., Can you identify with her pain., Is there more that a woman can gain., It is interesting to look into the Holy Bible to see the place that a woman should have in society, today.

Jesus always showed the greatest esteem and respect for woman and in particular Jesus was sensitive to female suffering. Going beyond the social and religious barriers of the time, Jesus re-established woman in her full dignity as a human person before God and before men ... Christ's way of acting, the Gospel of his words and deeds, is a consistent protest against whatever offends the dignity of women.

*Pope, John Paul II, "Thoughts on Women; Address to Italian Maids," April 1979*

notably

his Mother Mary (for whom the Catholic Church hold a special place of veneration) and Mary Magdalene who discovered the empty tomb of Christ. Jesus charged her to tell others of what she had seen, even though the testimony of a woman at that time was not considered valid.

Another revealing story contained in the Gospels as to Jesus' own attitude to women is found in the story of Jesus at the house of Martha and Mary. In this story Martha's sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet being taught, a privilege reserved for men in Judaism, while her sister toils in the kitchen preparing a meal. When Martha complains to Mary that she should instead be helping in the kitchen, Jesus says that in fact, Mary has chosen what is better.

The examples of the manner of Jesus reveal his attitudes toward women and shows repeatedly how he liberated and affirmed women. The gospels of the New Testament,

especially Luke, often mention Jesus speaking to or helping women publicly and openly, contrary to the social norms of the time.

Drawing inspiration from our Lord Jesus, the Woman's Committee has been constituted at St. Peters Church for the spiritual upliftment of women in our parish, to empower women and to ensure that women play a prominent role in the church and all its activities and be shining Christian examples in the society.

Today's woman must be a liberated woman in Christ! Serving the needs of her family, friends and society in environ of love and respect.

Programs will be organised throughout this year to support spiritual, emotional, financial, physiological well-being of women of our parish.

You may write to us at [womanscommission@stpeterschurch.com](mailto:womanscommission@stpeterschurch.com) to provide your suggestions or express your concerns.

*Priya Francis, For Women's Commission at St. Peter's Church*

## **PHOTO COLUMN**

### **The historic embrace between two popes**



*Pope Francis' path to the papacy*



After lunch they walked together and exchanged ideas on the Church's priorities. They were both moved by the encounter and were aware they were the protagonists of an unprecedented historical event. The Vatican Television Centre showed images of Francis and Benedict conversing in a small drawing...



**Francis invited Ratzinger to sit with him in the same pew and pray with him, rejecting his seat of honour. Meanwhile, a sealed envelope lay on the table**



Archbishop Bernard Moras celebrating Chrism Mass at SFX Cathedral blessing holy oils...

Washing of 12 men feet also could have been added for the grandeur of the event...!



Altar girls serve equally with boys at the altar at Rustambagh (seen Mr. Joseph Klein, the Master of the altar children)



**Charity begins at parish...** Parish priest Fr. J. A. Nathan offers Rs. 39,439 to V. J. Antony family from our parish receiving a charity collected from parishioners



A Thamizh Passion play was staged in our stage by Kalaivannan team





A very moving scene from the play



The artists included our parish altar children



**Mr.Versaline Victoria the civil contractor busy with a board room in St.Peter's Church**

