



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 26 Issue 4

APRIL 2026



### 2026 Motto

"Thus far the Lord has helped us" - I Samuel 7:12(b)

“ഇത്രത്തോളം യഹോവ നമ്മെ സഹായിച്ചു” I ശമുവേൽ 7: 12 (b)

- April 12: Annual General Body Meeting**
- April 19: 40th Anniversary Celebrations and Confirmation Service**
- April 26: Farewell to Binu Achen and family**

### CONTENTS

Achen's Message.....	3
Church News.....	5
Bible Portions .....	7
Celebrations.....	9
Sunday School Corner..	11
Gallery.....	13

# Pilgrim

**APRIL 2026**

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## Editorial

Good all the time.

It is generally easier to say "God is good" when life is good, and it can be hard to see the good God intends when we face tragedies for which we are unprepared. But even though the unfolding of events in our lives, or the World at large may not be clear to us, as Christians we should always recognize that nothing happens outside the knowledge and plan of God.

The Bible reminds us that God's ways and thoughts are higher than our own (Isaiah 55:8-9), and a perfect example of this is how the crucifixion of Christ despite its gruesomeness is called 'Good Friday'. It is also a reminder that we are not to focus on what man did to Jesus, but on what God did for mankind through Jesus. The disciples and crowds that followed Jesus that day would not have seen anything good in His agonizing death until the resurrection three days later. The Cross is therefore a symbol of God's constant and enduring goodness; the point where the ultimate cruelty unleashed by man was overcome by the sacrificial love of God that redeemed mankind from sin for eternity. So, when we are met with injustice or violence in our daily lives, rather than letting feelings of anger and resentment fester in our minds, we should respond with love, sacrifice and service of others, just as Jesus did, even in His last moments on the Cross.

As a closing note - the current Pilgrim team was formed in November 2022 during Binuachen's tenure, and we extend our sincere thanks to Achen for his guidance in shaping the team over the last few years. Personally, I have appreciated Achen's encouragement, support and prompt responses to clarifications when needed prior to the monthly release of the Pilgrim. Our heartfelt prayers and best wishes to you Achen, Kochamma and the children as you embark on a new chapter in your life and ministry. May God be with you till we meet again!

Happy Easter!

Reshma George  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dear Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we enter the sacred rhythm of April, our hearts are drawn into the profound journey of Passion Week—a week that invites us to walk closely with Christ through suffering, sacrifice, and ultimately, victory. From the shouts of “Hosanna” to the pain of the cross, and from the darkness of the tomb to the radiant joy of Easter morning, we are reminded that God’s love is not abstract, but deeply personal and sacrificial.

Passion Week challenges us to reflect: Where do we stand in this journey? Are we merely observers of Christ’s suffering, or participants in His calling to love, serve, and surrender? The cross is not just a historical event; it is a living invitation to transformation. It calls us to lay down our pride, our fears, and our burdens, and to embrace the new life that Christ offers.

Easter then bursts forth as God’s resounding “Yes” to humanity—a declaration that sin, death, and despair do not have the final word. The resurrection is not only about Christ rising from the grave, but about us rising into a renewed life filled with hope, courage, and purpose. As Easter people, we are called to carry this resurrection hope into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. In the days following Easter, the post-resurrection encounters of Jesus offer us beautiful insights. The risen Lord meets His disciples in their confusion, fear, and doubt. He speaks peace into their anxiety, purpose into their uncertainty, and mission into their lives. Likewise, Christ meets us where we are and gently leads us forward, reminding us that our story is never over in Him.

Dear friends, this April newsletter is particularly special and emotional for me. After four blessed and enriching years of ministry as your Presbyterian in CSI Church Toronto, it is time for me to bid farewell as I move back to Kerala to serve in the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese. I have been appointed to Holy Trinity CSI Church, Mundakayam which is around 60 km away from Kottayam.

These past four years have been a time of spiritual growth, learning, and joy for me and my family. Serving this vibrant and loving congregation has been one of the greatest privileges of my ministry so far. Your faith, fellowship, and unwavering support have deeply enriched my life.



## Achen's Message

I take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you—each member of this church—for your love, prayers, and partnership in ministry. I am especially thankful to Rt. Rev. Bishop Sabu Koshy Cherian for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve this congregation. I also extend my sincere thanks to Rt. Rev. Bishop Andrew Asbil, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, for his constant guidance, encouragement, and support throughout my ministry here.

Though I may be leaving geographically, the bonds we have built in Christ remain unbroken. You will always be in my prayers, and I carry with me countless cherished memories of our shared journey of faith.

As we celebrate the risen Lord this Easter, may you continue to grow as a resurrection community—radiating Christ's love, living in His peace, and boldly witnessing to His grace.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and always.

With love and gratitude, yours  
Binuachen

# Pilgrim



**Church News**

### **Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship**

The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship will take place every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in the church sanctuary. Please join the fellowship through the church Zoom line.

### **Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

The monthly board meeting will be announced later.

### **Passion Week Services will be as follows:**

- Maundy Thursday: Holy Eucharist in Malayalam at 7:00pm on April 2, 2026
- Good Friday Service in Malayalam at 9:30am on April 3, 2026
- Easter Sunday: Holy Eucharist in English at 10:00am on April 5, 2026

### **Annual General Body Meeting**

The Annual General Body meeting will be held on April 12, 2026 immediately after the worship service.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and Confirmation Service**

The church's 40th Anniversary celebration will culminate in the First Holy Communion Service for 28 candidates, and will be officiated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu K. Cherian, Bishop of CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese, on April 19, 2026. The closing ceremony of the 40th Anniversary celebration will be held immediately following the worship service. For any further information, please contact Rev. Binu Philip or Abraham K. Varghese, Secretary.

### **Farewell to Rev Binu Philip and family**

The official farewell function for Rev. Binu Philip and family will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026, immediately after worship service.

### **Cottage Prayer Meetings:**

No cottage prayers have been scheduled.



## Be the Change. Support the Mission.

Join us in our 2026-2027 mission project! We are raising funds to support our commitment as we work to bring hope and tangible help in our communities.



### Our Supported Organizations

Canadian Bible Society

Canadian Cancer Society

Faith Works

Our Daily Bread

SickKids

The Salvation Army

The Scott Mission

Voice of Martyrs



Scan the QR code or visit our booth to contribute.  
Sign up to receive updates and Let's make an impact, together.



<b>April 2, 2026</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Eucharist : The Life-giving Love</b>		
	Old Testament	Exodus 16:4-12	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	139	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 11:23-29	Christy Abraham & Family
	Gospel	John 13:1-17 & 34-35	
<b>April 3, 2026</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Cross : The Celebration of Life</b>		
	Old Testament	Exodus 12:1-17	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	22	Read by
	Epistle	I Corinthians 1:18-25	Board of Directors
	Gospel	Mark 15:22-41	
<b>April 5, 2026</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Resurrection : Victory over Death</b>		
	Old Testament	Ezekiel 37:1-14	<b>English Service</b>
	Psalm	49	Read by
	Epistle	II Corinthians 5:1-10	Abraham P. George & Family
	Gospel	John 20:1-18	
<b>April 12, 2026</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>My Lord &amp; My God</b>		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 45:21-25	<b>Malayalam Service</b>
	Psalm	35:18-28	Read by
	Epistle	Colossians 1:15-23	Justin Tom Mathew & Family
	Gospel	John 20:24-29	

<b>Come &amp; Dine : Invitation by the Risen Lord</b>			
<b>April 19, 2026 Confirmation Service</b>	Old Testament	Ezekiel 36:26-28	<b>English Service</b>  Read by Parents of Confirmation Candidates
	Psalm	23	
	Epistle	Romans 8:12-17	
	Gospel	John 14:15-17	
<b>Risen Lord: The Co-Traveller</b>			
<b>April 26, 2026 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter</b>	Old Testament	Exodus 33:12-16	<b>Malayalam Service</b>  Read by Daniel Thomas & Family
	Psalm	121	
	Epistle	Acts 18:1-11	
	Gospel	Luke 24:13-33	



**BIRTHDAYS**

3	Anitha Gabbeta Onteru	12	Regi Koshy
3	Aji Sam Mathews	12	Jijo Cherian Varughese
3	Sajith Abraham Varghese	12	Sherin Philip Daniel
3	Ethan Manu Varghese	12	Aneetta Mariam George
3	Saumya Sam	14	Lintu George
4	Mathew Modayil Kuruvilla	14	Daniel Shijo John
4	Robin Roy	15	Mary Alexander
4	Editha Maria Roby	15	Diani Mathai
5	Justy Joise	15	Rini Miriam Jacob
6	Angelina Raichel Ajoy	16	Ruth Philips
6	Tania Miriam Jacob	16	Deepika Joseph
7	Gershon Varughese Jijo	17	Jacob Cherian
7	Sandeep Charuvil Ninan	17	Kiran Maish
8	Dona Deena Varghese	17	Joseph K. David
9	Jiya Ajay	17	Rebeccamma Thomas
9	Moncy Manu	17	Rohan Bijo Philip
10	Monisha Kunnelnaduparambil Suresh	18	Aananth Roy
10	Robina Thomas	19	Jeffin Sunny George
11	Vismaya Mary Villees	19	Donny Philip Varughese
11	Miriam Chacko	20	Tim Eapen



**BIRTHDAYS**

21	Mini George	24	Aswin Philip
21	Jacob P. John	25	Sid Abram Eapen
21	Manoj Kurien	26	Levanah Meera Kevin
21	Abel Williams	27	Teena John
22	Abraham Chacko	28	Joshua Mathai
22	David Joseph	28	Cijo Sunny
24	Nathan Jinoj	29	Benjamin Ninan
24	Anisha Mariam Sugu	29	Jacob Russel

**ANNIVERSARIES**

5	Abraham G. Joy & Joby Abraham
8	Aji V. Mathews & Sophy Aji Mathews
11	Tony Koshy Abraham & Jisha Mary Alexander
13	Jeffin Sunny George & Jis Maria George
14	Sajith Abraham Varghese & Sherone Ann Jacob
22	Hans Thomas Varghese & Beena Annet Hans Thomas
22	Joseph K. David & Jeena Joseph
22	Jimfred Williams & Shalin Jacob



### Bible Facts

Book Name	Judges	Ruth	1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
Author of the book	Attributed to Samuel	Attributed to Samuel	Attributed to Samuel, possibly compiled by Nathan or Gad	Attributed to Samuel, possibly compiled by Nathan or Gad	Attributed to Jeremiah	Attributed to Jeremiah
Who this was written for	People of Israel	People of Israel	People of Israel	People of Israel	People of Israel	The Jewish exiles in Babylon
Year of writing	BC 1375 - BC 1050	BC 1375 - BC 1050	BC 930 - BC 900	Approx BC 900	Compiled in approx. BC 550	Compiled in approx. BC 550
Location	Canaan (Promised Land)	Bethlehem and the fields of Moab	Israel, including Shiloh, Gibeah, and Ziklag	Israel, including Jerusalem	Israel and Judah	Israel and Judah
Important verses of the book	Judges 2:16	Ruth 4:15	1 Samuel 15:22 1 Samuel 16:7	2 Samuel 22:2 - 3	1 Kings 3:9 1 Kings 18:21	2 Kings 22:2 2 Kings 23:25
Number of chapters	21	4	31	24	22	25
Number of verses	619	85	809	695	816	719
Middle verse in the book	Judges 10: 7	Ruth 2: 21	1 Samuel 16: 22 & 23	2 Samuel 14:14	1 Kings 11: 18 & 19	2 Kings 13:22
Number of questions asked in book	92	18	157	126	66	118
Number of divine promises	5	2	5	4	7	4

**Bible Facts cont'd**

Book Name	Judges	Ruth	1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
<b>Important characters</b>	Othniel (1st judge), Ehud, Deborah & Barak, Gideon (Jerubbaal), Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah, Jael, Manoah	Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Orpah, Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion	Hannah, Eli, Samuel, Saul, David, Jonathan, Goliath, Abigail, Nabal	David, Bathsheba, Nathan, Joab, Absalom, Tamar, Amnon, Mephibosheth, Shimei, Ahithophel, Hushai	Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Obadiah, the Queen of Sheba, Hiram of Tyre, Adonijah, Shimei	Elisha, Elijah, Naaman, Gehazi, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Josiah, Jehu, Athaliah, Manasseh
<b>Where did the events take place</b>	Land of Canaan including Ophrah, the Valley of Jezreel, Mizpah, Timnah, Gaza, and the hill country of Ephraim	Moab, Bethlehem	Israel, including Shiloh, Gibeah, and Ziklag	Jerusalem, Hebron, and other locations in Israel	Jerusalem, various locations in Israel and Judah	Samaria and Judah, Jerusalem, Nineveh, Babylon, Aram, Moab, and Egypt. The book ends in Babylon
<b>Why was the book written</b>	To record the cycle of sin, judgment, and deliverance that characterized Israel's history during the time of the judges	To show God's providential care for the faithful even in dark times. It also provides the genealogy of David, and ultimately of Jesus Christ	To detail the rise of the monarchy in Israel, specifically the transition from judges to kings, including the reign of Saul and the rise of David	To recount the reign of King David, his successes, failures, and his relationship with God, including his sins and repentance	To record the history of the kings of Israel, including Solomon's reign and the division of the kingdom into Israel and Judah	To narrate the downfall of the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, showing God's judgment and mercy
<b>Interesting facts</b>	The 12 judges parallel the 12 tribes of Israel. Deborah is the only female judge and one of the few female leaders in the Old Testament. Gideon's army was reduced from 32,000 to just 300 men before battle (7:2-8).	Ruth is one of only two books in the Bible named after a woman. Ruth is one of only five women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ	Hannah's prayer (2:1-10) closely parallels Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55.	Chapter 22 is almost identical to Psalm 18, demonstrating David's theological reflection on his own life	Solomon's Temple took 7 years to build (6:38) but his own palace took 13 years, an indicator of misplaced priorities.	Elijah taken to heaven in a chariot of fire (2:11) is one of only two bodily assumptions in Scripture (the other being Enoch in Genesis 5:24)  Elisha performed 14 miracles compared to Elijah's 7

### Women's Fellowship Sunday



**The Executive Committee Members of CSI Church, Toronto**

<b>President</b>	Rev. Binu Philip		
<b>Vice-President / Rector's Warden</b>	Mr. Santhosh Cherian	<b>Secretary / People's Warden</b>	Mr. Abraham K Varghese
<b>Joint Secretary / Trustee</b>	Mr. Joby Paul Mathew	<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel
<b>Joint Treasurer / Trustee</b>	Mr. Shijo Perumannoor John	<b>Sunday School Director</b>	Mrs. Ani Chacko
<b>Choir Director</b>	Mr. Jefin Mathews	<b>Men's Fellowship Director</b>	Mr. Febin Varkey Mathews
<b>Women's Fellowship Director</b>	Mrs. Asha Susan Joy	<b>Youth Fellowship Director</b>	*Vacant*
<b>Mission Director</b>	Mr. Joshua Moothedom	<b>Public Relations Director</b>	Mr. Varughese V. John
<b>Social &amp; Recreational Director</b>	Mr. Ashley Jeji George	<b>Malayala Lokam Director</b>	Mrs. Stephamol S.S

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- If you wish to be included in the parish e-mail list to receive special notices, please e-mail the Secretary at [secretary@csichurchtoronto.org](mailto:secretary@csichurchtoronto.org)

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