



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

Pilgrim

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MAY 2026



Happy Mother's Day!

2026 Motto

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

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

May 14: Welcome Sooraj Achen and Family!

May 31: Malayala Lokam Anniversary

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Pilgrim

MAY 2026

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Editorial

Making Time!

Mother's Day as it is known today was instituted in May 1907 following initiatives led by Anna Jarvis in memory of her mother who was a social activist. The day has since achieved recognition and observance globally. However, records show that Anna was deeply distraught later in her life about how commercialized this day became with flowers, cards and gifts dominating, far from her vision of the family coming together, or sending hand-written notes if they couldn't meet, to 'celebrate the home and all that your mother did for you.'

We probably live in the most commercialized times than ever before where every designated holiday or celebration is milked and marketed so intensely such that we have an abundance of everything today, except quality time to spend with each other. We may not all be mothers, but we all have or have had mothers, grandmothers, or other special women who played a nurturing role in shaping our lives. The need of today's times is for us to be challenged not just to remember the important women in our lives, but to also carry forward their example and message to the next generation.

The instruction in Proverbs (1:8) to "...not forsake your mother's teaching" is often quoted to remind children to obey, but it is also a reminder to each of us of our responsibility to spend time to train and guide those in our care to see Christ. Now is our chance to be faithful witnesses and pass on the legacy of faith and family that we were given. In a world of fading clarity, we need to teach our dear ones to have confidence and hope in God's plan for their lives, and also that we all belong to Him first.

The month of May is special for two things that are rather alike: spring and mothers. Just as nature awakens from its wintry slumber and life buds all around us, so too mothers bring fruitfulness and beauty to homes and lives. May we cherish both before time runs out!

Happy Mother's Day!

Reshma George
Editor

Achen's Message



Dearly Beloved,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

I thank and praise God for His abundant grace and faithfulness that continues to guide and sustain our parish. It is with a grateful heart that I write to you from the homeland, trusting that each one of you is kept safe in His loving care. By God's will, we shall be joining you by the middle of this month. I eagerly look forward to sharing in fellowship, worship, and ministry with all of you, as we journey together in faith and service. I urge you to pray for our journey.

I acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful ministry of our dear Binu Achen, Roshen Kochamma, and children. Achen's dedication, spiritual leadership, and pastoral care have been a great blessing to this parish. The seeds he has sown through his service will surely continue to bear fruit in the life of the church. Let us uphold him in our prayers with gratitude for his tireless commitment to God's work among us.

In May, the church commemorates Pentecost Sunday. This event is regarded as the inception of the church. The arrival of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost (Acts 2) altered the viewpoint and framework of the early church, transforming the local Jewish congregation into a universal and inclusive church. Two significant aspects observed in the Pentecost event include the practices of fellowship (koinonia) and service (diakonia) among the members, bringing to prominence the need to support one another in times of need.

The term koinonia typically signifies "fellowship, communion, participation, and sharing," which, in the context of the early church, involved not only associating with one another but also sharing food and essential life resources. Sharing encompasses all facets of life, including socio-economic challenges and both family and individual dimensions where Christians encounter difficulties and trials. The term diakonia refers to ministry in various contexts, such as the ministry of the Word, apostolic ministry, gospel ministry, and the ministry of the Spirit, primarily focusing on the ministry of Life. Peter C. Hodgson, in his book "Revisioning the Church," characterizes koinonia as a fellowship or communion experienced by each individual member of the church, where every person discovers their identity and fulfillment through others.

Through communion or service to others, a 'Communion of Faith' develops, which can be realized through mutual service or communal praxis. Thus, the definition of koinonia as communal praxis emerged as a foundational element of the church. The Pentecost experience thereby revitalized both the church and its individuals. The presence of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost rejuvenated a group of people, inspiring them to become exemplary witnesses with commitment. May our fellowship and service empower us to continue witnessing the Risen Lord in a pluralistic society. May God bless you all.

As I prepare to come and serve among you, I humbly seek your prayers, cooperation, and support. May we, together as one body in Christ, strive to grow in unity, deepen our faith, and extend God's love to all. Looking forward to meeting each one of you soon.

Yours in His service,

Sooraj Achen

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Church News

Bible Study

No weekly Bible study has been scheduled.

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 held on May 10, 2026 immediately after the social hour.

Arrival of Rev Sooraj Paulose Thomas and Family

Rev. Sooraj and family will be landing at Pearson International Airport, Terminal 1, on May 14, 2026 at 7.25am. Please uphold them in your family prayers for a safe and comfortable journey to Toronto.

Malayala Lokam Anniversary

Malayala Lokam Anniversary will be observed on May 31, 2026. There will be a short program immediately after the worship service. For further information please connect with Malayala Lokam Director, Steephamol S.S.

Cottage Prayer Meetings:

No cottage prayers have been scheduled.



WELCOME TO REV. SOORAJ AND FAMILY



Rev. Sooraj Paulose Thomas is an ordained priest of the Church of South India under the Madhya Kerala Diocese, with over 10 years of committed ministry experience since his initial probation in 2012.

He pursued his Bachelor of Theology from 2013 to 2017 at Bishop's College, Kolkata, and was subsequently ordained as a deacon and later as a presbyter, serving in pastoral roles from 2017 onward. Between May 2017 and April 2021, he ministered in Chennai, providing worship leadership, sacramental ministry, and pastoral care especially to students. From May 2021 to April 2022, he served in Kerala, followed by a broader leadership role from May 2022 to April 2025, where he held multiple responsibilities including as the General Secretary of Scripture Union and Children's Special Service Mission, as member of the Christian Education Board, as Executive Committee Member of the Kerala Council of Churches, and Vice-President of the Kerala United Vacation Bible School.

He served as a presbyter at the Delhi Malayalam Congregation, New Delhi, from May 2025, continuing his ministry of worship, sacraments, and community leadership, alongside mentoring and managing teams of volunteers in various church initiatives.

Achen is supported in his ministry by his wife, Ann Jacob, a Malayalam school teacher, and they are blessed with two children, Amar Mary Sooraj and Thomas Jacob Sooraj.

May 3, 2026 4th Sunday after Easter	Walk with Christ in Passionate Love		
	Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	63	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 3:14-19	Christy Abraham & Family
	Gospel	John 21:15-19	
May 10, 2026 5th Sunday After Easter	Risen Christ: Assurance of Everlasting Presence		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 41:8-13	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	110	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 13:1-8	Manoj Kurien & Family
	Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20	
May 17, 2026 6th Sunday After Easter	Holy Spirit: Promise of the Indwelling Presence		
	Old Testament	Isaiah 59:14-21	English Service
	Psalm	143	Read by
	Epistle	Hebrews 10:8-18	Geogy Thomas & Family
	Gospel	John 14:15-21	
May 24, 2024 Pentecost	Hearing God's Voice in a Noisy World		
	Old Testament	1 Kings 19:11-18	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	29	Read by
	Epistle	Acts 2:1-13	Anil Raj Daniel & Family
	Gospel	John 20:19-23	

The Divine Communion of Love			
May 31, 2026 Trinity Sunday	Old Testament	Isaiah 48:12-27	Malayalam Service
	Psalm	33	Read by
	Epistle	Ephesians 1:3-14	Malayala Lokam
	Gospel	John 3:8-16	



BIRTHDAYS

1	Molamma Ninan	15	Noah Varghese Jithun
1	Minu Samraj	16	Joann Sosha Jacob
2	Nomiya Pulickathadathil Jacob	17	Diya Serin Binu
3	Joby Abraham	18	Rapti Ghosh
3	Divya Wilson	18	Manu Varghese George
3	Hannah Rose Tom	19	Evann Manu Varghese
4	Joanna Ann Shinu	20	Mini Fredrick
6	Beena Annet Hans Thomas	20	Leah Elza Joseph
6	Hannah Jessy Cherian	21	Johanne Mathew
6	Christina Rose David	22	Abhilash Raj
6	Jeffin Mohan Cheriyan	23	Santhosh Zac Koshy
6	Gilbert Thomas Kizhakkepalakkal Shabu	23	Erwin Sandeep Ninan
7	Smitha Victor Sam	23	Elvy Ann Mathew
8	Andrew Paul	23	Merlyn Mathew
8	Asher Sam	24	Evan Sandeep Ninan
8	Tony Koshy Abraham	24	Preethy Saramma Abraham
9	Asha Susan Joy	24	Adam David
11	Swarup Itty	25	Daisy Pothen
11	Williams Silvanose	25	Sushmita Keerthi
11	Ashwini Ann Regi	25	Christo Kingston

Celebrations



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BIRTHDAYS

27	Jenny Cherian	30	Aneesh V S
27	Preetha Anie Philips	30	Devakumar T. S
28	Sam George	31	Hazel Soman
28	Abner Vinu	31	David Raja Singh
28	Sanal N. David	31	Rishon Abraham
28	Aiden Noah Eappen	31	Samuel Chacko
29	Simi K. Sunny	31	Anitha T. S
30	Ann Abraham		

ANNIVERSARIES

5	Jibin Johnson Joji & Ani Ann Sabu
6	Roshan Peter & Githa Hutton
7	Nainan P. Thomas & Littymol Xavier
9	Joy Abraham & Ann Abraham
9	Devakumar T. S & Anitha T. S
12	Sheron Peter Thomas & Nimisha Mariam Simon
17	Sandeep Charuvil Ninan & Aparna Sabu
18	Tim Eapen & Ninu Ann Varghese
18	Issac Job Stanly & Sherin Mariyan Jacob



ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Mathew Abraham & Surekha Jacob
- 21 Santhosh Philip George & Asha Kurien
- 23 Shaji Levison Moothedom & Daisy Pothen
- 24 P. J. Skariah & Annamma Skariah
- 25 Rolls John & Reenu Susan Varghese
- 26 John Mathew & Sheeba. R Thomas
- 26 Anil Raj Daniel & Steephamol S.S
- 27 Mathew Modayil Kuruvilla & Elizabeth Kuruvilla
- 28 Regi Koshy & Smitha Baby Thomas
- 28 Littin Jacob John & Nomiya Pulickathadathil Jacob



Our Church: Four Decades in Review A Presentation by Daniel Thomas

As we celebrate 40 blessed years of our church ministry here in Toronto, I come before you with a heart full of thanks, joy, and gratitude to our Almighty God. I invite you to join me on a journey through the past four decades. My memories go back to the very beginning of our church, May 11, 1986, I was in my twenties then. This moment is both exciting and deeply meaningful, as we take the opportunity to look back on the journey that has brought us here. What began as a vision, perhaps small in its beginnings, has grown into a vibrant and enduring ministry, sustained by faith, dedication, the unwavering commitment of our members, and the continued grace of God.

Today, we are not just marking the passage of time, but honoring the countless lives touched, the prayers lifted, the challenges overcome, and the community that has been built through love and service. As we reflect on our history, we are reminded that every step of this journey has been guided with purpose. Let us take this moment to remember where we came from, to celebrate how far we have come, and to look ahead with renewed faith and hope for what is still to come.

The CSI Church, Toronto was first convened on May 11, 1986, at Wycliffe College, Toronto, where Reverend Thomas Ninan, then a student at the college, presided over the Holy Communion service. This marked the humble yet significant beginning of our church community. Shortly thereafter, on May 18, 1986, the first General Body Meeting was held, during which nine officers were elected to lead and organize the new congregation. These early leaders laid a strong foundation, guided by faith, vision, and a shared commitment to building a Christ-centered community.

Although the church did not meet weekly in its earliest days, members made every effort to gather regularly for worship, often inviting clergy to lead and participate in the services of the young congregation. Worship services were held at the Centre for Christian Studies, Toronto, which became an important place of fellowship and spiritual growth during those formative years.

Several significant milestones marked this early period. From August 23 to 27, 1986, the church was blessed with its first Episcopal visit by the Right Reverend Dr. M. C. Mani, Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese. On September 28, 1986, the first Sunday School and choir practice were held, and on October 12, 1986, the church's first constitution was formally approved. The church continued to meet regularly at the Centre for Christian Studies, gathering at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, nurturing a growing and committed congregation.

On June 26, 1987, a significant milestone was reached when one of our members, George M. John, was ordained by the Right Reverend Dr. M. C. Mani. Following his full ordination in July 1988, Reverend George M. John was formally appointed as the Vicar of the CSI Church, Toronto, providing dedicated pastoral leadership to guide the church into its next chapter of growth.

Further milestones followed. On September 14, 1987, the first Confirmation Service was held. The Church participated in the first Ecumenical Christian Program held on December 5, 1987. The Church was officially registered as a charitable organization on February 21, 1988, marking an important step in its institutional development.

In 1994, the church hosted the 8th CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America at McMaster University in Hamilton. This event marked a significant milestone, fostering spiritual growth, fellowship, and unity among families and youth across the wider CSI community in North America.



Our Church: Four Decades in Review (Cont'd)

August 7, 1994, marked another important milestone in the life of our church, as the first worship service was held at St. David's Anglican Church, Toronto. This transition reflected the continued growth of the congregation and provided a new space for worship, fellowship, and community life.

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the church, a seventy-one-member team was formally established on January 3, 2010, to serve on various subcommittees. Through their collective dedication and efforts, these committees successfully organized and conducted a series of events from May 2010 to May 2011, thereby marking the Jubilee year. In celebration of 25 years as a congregation, the church also undertook 25 charitable projects, organized under five broad themes: Development, Charity, Education, Health, and Missions.

The Silver Jubilee Inaugural Celebration was held at St. Wilfrid's Anglican Church on May 15, 2010. The thanksgiving service was led by the Right Reverend Thomas Samuel, Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese, the Right Reverend Philip M. Poole, Suffragan Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, and Reverend Raju Jacob, in the presence of other distinguished dignitaries. The celebrations continued into the evening with a musical play titled *YATRA* (Journey), depicting the journey of Christianity and the CSI tradition from its origins in Jerusalem to Kerala and then to Toronto. With a cast and crew of 106 participants, the production was a remarkable group effort.

Many events followed throughout the year, including the screening of the film *'End of the Spear'* on May 23, 2010, an entertainment program titled *'Destined Worship'* presented by the youth on July 31, 2010, and the Jubilee Convention held from September 10 to 12, 2010. The Christmas Cantata, *City of Lights*, was well attended by over 400 people at Don Bosco Secondary School on December 11, 2010.

In a spirit of unity and shared mission, Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson, Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, and Right Reverend Philip M. Poole, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, met in Kottayam in December 2010 with Right Reverend Thomas Samuel, Bishop of the Diocese of Madhya Kerala. Together, they signed an "Association Agreement" alongside CSI Church, Toronto, affirming a shared commitment to deeper partnership and mutual support between the dioceses and the CSI Church in Toronto. This meaningful collaboration reflected a strengthening of relationships and a common vision for ministry, fellowship, and service.

Shortly thereafter, on January 16, 2011, the church marked another important milestone with its first service at this church, located at 1315 Kipling Avenue in Etobicoke, then known as St. Wilfrid's Anglican Church. This transition provided a new home for worship and supported the continued growth and development of the congregation.

In 2017, the church once again took on an important role in the CSI community by hosting the 31st CSI Family and Youth Conference of North America at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Conference Centre. The conference concluded with the Sunday Holy Communion Service at this church, where Right Reverend Thomas K. Oommen, Bishop of the Madhya Kerala Diocese was the main celebrant.

By God's grace, our church has grown both physically and spiritually. When it was founded in 1986, the congregation consisted of just over 40 members, or about 20 families. Today, by His grace, it has grown to become the largest CSI congregation in North America, with over 600 members, including 210 families and 50 single members. The confirmation of 27 children on April 19, 2026, stands as a testament to this continued growth.



Our Church: Four Decades in Review (Cont'd)

In 1986, the total contribution of the church was just \$5,467.38, with a remaining balance of \$1,827.68. Since then, contributions and overall revenue have multiplied many times over.

Our church is truly blessed with many active ministries, including the Choir, Missions, Sunday School, Malayala Lokam, Youth, Men's, Women's, Public Relations, and Social, Entertainment & Recreation ministries. The church also conducts monthly area prayer meetings in three regions: Gilead, Jordan, and Shalom. In addition, we hold weekly Bible studies and Intercessory Prayer Fellowship gatherings.

Another significant milestone in the church's journey has been its role in planting new congregations across Canada, in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, London, and Ottawa.

We humbly thank God for enabling us to contribute to numerous charitable initiatives locally and outside Canada, particularly to mission work in India.

With gratitude, we remember the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our members and the Board of Directors. We praise God for our spiritual leaders, especially Reverend Thomas Ninan, Reverend George M. John, Reverend Shajan A. Idiculla, Right Reverend K. Michael John, Reverend A. C. Cheriyan, Reverend T. J. John, Reverend Raju Jacob, Reverend Shaji M. Johnson, Reverend George Jacob, Reverend Anish M. George Padickamannil, and Reverend Binu Philip, whose ministry laid a strong foundation for the growth of the church.

We also gratefully acknowledge the unwavering support and spiritual guidance of our bishops: Right Reverend Dr. M. C. Mani, Right Reverend Dr. Sam Mathew, Right Reverend Thomas Samuel, Right Reverend Thomas K. Oommen, Right Reverend Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian of the Madhya Kerala Diocese and Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson, Right Reverend Philip M. Poole, Right Reverend Jenny Andison, and Right Reverend Andrew Asbil of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all church committee and board members who have served over the past 40 years, whose dedicated and selfless service has greatly strengthened and sustained the growth of the church.

We acknowledge our area prayer leaders, whose dedication has helped build strong and vibrant prayer groups.

We also take this moment to remember with gratitude those who served the church tirelessly and have since gone to be with the Lord.

Above all, we offer our praise and thanksgiving to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the abundant blessings bestowed upon our church life.

Thank you. God bless.

Confirmation Service





The Executive Committee Members of CSI Church, Toronto

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

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