



The Official Monthly Newsletter of CSI Church, Toronto

# Pilgrim

Volume 18 Issue 3

MARCH 2018



## Season of Lent

### 2018 Motto

...for it is written, 'you shall be holy, for I am holy.'

*1 Peter 1:16*

'ഞാൻ വിശുദ്ധൻ ആകയാൽ നിങ്ങളും വിശുദ്ധരായിരിപ്പിൻ' എന്നു എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നുവല്ലോ.

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**Women's Sunday - March 4**

**Maundy Thursday - March 29, 7:30 PM**

**Good Friday - March 30, 10:00 AM**

# Pilgrim

**MARCH 2018**

## EDITORIAL BOARD

### Chief Editor

Rev. George Jacob

### Editor

Samuel Anselm Samuel

### Publication Team

Shini Samuel  
Suja Sarah Koshy  
Akshay Koshy  
Chris George

### Address

CSI Parsonage  
1311 Kipling Avenue  
Etobicoke M9B 3N7 ON  
(416) 231- 1717

Articles/ Feedback  
May be sent to  
pilgrimcsi.to@gmail.com

## Editorial .....

### Be empowered...

Are you on a Lenten fast? How's it going? Have you ever felt, "I shouldn't have taken this fast."? or have you felt that it was your baby step in getting closer to God? Most of the religions have fasting, but the *modus operandi* differs widely. Some people do it under dire pressure, and yet some do it out of free will. People are forced to fast for some medical tests too. What's your take on fasting? However you do fasting, the core purpose determines the impact and outcome of the great decision of giving up something so dear to you.

If we need to have an effective fasting, we must look at the role-model, Jesus Christ. He was very hungry and tired from a forty-day fast and was tempted by the devil. He faced the temptations boldly with the double-edged sword – the Word of God. Temptations are unavoidable. They lurk to pounce on us like the lion that lies in wait. The question is not how to be magical in avoiding them, but how to face them. Though Jesus was physically weak, His inner self gained more strength. His wits were cleared. The word of God became His refuge and fortress. When we are tempted, we might fall a prey to it as our outer and inner persons are weak. Jesus was also tempted, yet without sin. How much more should we learn and memorize the Word of God to be able to confront temptations! We must be able to say, "*for it is written...*". Our actions must also show the love of God. Isaiah 3:4 says, "*Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please....*", "*You cannot fast as you do today, and expect your voice to be heard on high.*" Verses 6 to 8 call for action – to display God's love through helping those in need. Jesus showed us the love of God through His actions. "*Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*" (Isaiah 3: 9)

During this lent, let the life of prayer empower us, the Word of God strengthen and fortify us, and the Spirit of God equip us for a powerful faith life.

Samuel Anselm Samuel  
Editor

## Achen's Message



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Once again we are journeying through the season of lent which invites us to ponder upon the meaningfulness and purpose of the cross in our life. It is really remarkable how the Cross, which was once an instrument of shame and suffering, turns into a symbol of hope and love through the sacrifice of Christ. The shame that was surely to fall on us due to the intensity of human sin was taken willingly by Jesus on the cross. He suffered the shame and took the curse on Himself voluntarily. The “agape” love could be really seen on the cross. Christ has carried our transgressions and we are healed by the stripes that Jesus carried on Him. Lent welcomes us to examine and renew our faith in Jesus Christ. May this lent be a time of renewal and re-orientation in our life – more toward Godliness. Let our countenance be regained and our self be found in Christ for His glory. Let the purity that we aim and gain this lent take us forward step by step in the knowledge and love of our Lord.

I encourage all members to take part in all the services during the time of lent. We are having abridged Matins every Wednesday at 7:30 PM in our Sanctuary. Also may I humbly request your earnest cooperation and full participation in all the various services and gatherings held in our Church. They include the Fasting prayer on every first Saturday, the monthly area prayer group meetings for respective groups, the meetings for the fellowships, the Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship on every Wednesday, the Bible Study on every Friday and special meetings of any fellowship or group.

The Sunday School Anniversary was held wonderfully in our basement. Our children truly are blessed with talents and they have once again proven that they are efficient. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our teachers and constant support of our parents. Sincere gratitude to Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel, the Sunday School Director for the leadership given to Sunday School. Since the Sunday School is now at 9:00 AM, we have the platform to make our generations acquainted with the liturgy and worship of the Church of South India. Please be encouraged to take part in the life of the Church and offer the best to God through the Congregation. Parents are encouraged to bring their children regularly to Sunday School and to attend the worship with them, guiding them through the liturgy and worship.

My sincere thanks to all members who by their prayerful presence supported the Annual General Body by their suggestions and thoughts. I congratulate the newly nominated members of the Executive Committee for 2018. The Annual General Body also nominated a sub – committee to review and propose amendments to the existing Constitution of the C.S.I. (Church of South India) Church, Toronto Inc. which was revised last on June 18, 2006. Timely and contextual amendments have to be made as we continue to be a Designated Ministry under the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. May the Almighty grant wisdom and knowledge to the newly nominated leaders to take the Congregation forward in its journey during this period of transition.

Let us be watchful and prayerful this lent season. May the season bring in us growth in our faith, firm foundation of the Word and assurance of our salvation.

With prayerful regards and wishes,

Siby Achen.



**BIRTHDAYS**

|    |                         |    |                     |
|----|-------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 02 | Thankamma Mathew        | 18 | Vaiga Thampy        |
| 02 | Hans Thomas Varghese    | 18 | Neil Joseph Mathews |
| 02 | Jayden Hans Thomas      | 20 | Vilayil I. Kurian   |
| 03 | Raimole Joseph          | 20 | Mathew George       |
| 04 | Jeena Joseph            | 22 | Elzy George         |
| 05 | Joseph Thomas           | 23 | K. P. Alexander     |
| 08 | Abigail Cherian         | 25 | Marylin M. Verghis  |
| 11 | Sidhant Mathews         | 25 | Emily A. Verghis    |
| 11 | Neil Jinoj Titus        | 27 | Bryan Philip Joseph |
| 12 | Joshy Ani Mathew        | 28 | Mona Anna Abraham   |
| 12 | Jewel Mariam Toms       | 30 | Susan Alex          |
| 13 | Vivek Philip            | 31 | Rakesh Thampi       |
| 16 | Lenora Grace Sam Daniel | 31 | Shruti Balakrishna  |
| 17 | George Mathew           |    |                     |

**ANNIVERSARIES**

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 11 | Oommen Cherian & Mariamma Cherian |
| 30 | Sam Daniel P & Selva Daniel       |



|  |   |                       |                               |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <p><b>March 04</b><br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before<br/>Easter</p> | <b>Women: Partners in God's Liberative Acts</b> |                       |                               |
|  | Old Testament                                   | Exodus 1:15-22        | <b>English Service</b>        |
|  | Psalm   | 148                   | Read by                       |
|  | Epistle   | Romans 16:1-16        | Women's Fellowship            |
|  | Gospel  | Mark 15:37-41         |                               |
| <p><b>March 11</b><br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before<br/>Easter</p> | <b>True Worship that Liberates</b>              |                       |                               |
|  | Old Testament                                   | Exodus 3:11-18        | <b>Malayalam Service</b>      |
|  | Psalm   | 137                   | Read by                       |
|  | Epistle   | Acts 16:25-34         | Samuel Anselm Samuel & Family |
|  | Gospel  | Luke 13:10-17         |                               |
| <p><b>March 18</b><br/>Passion Sunday</p>                          | <b>Cross: A New Vision of the Messianic Age</b> |                       |                               |
|  | Old Testament                                   | Deuteronomy 18:15-22  | <b>English Service</b>        |
|  | Psalm   | 73                    | Read by                       |
|  | Epistle   | II Corinthians 1:3-11 | Santhosh Cherian & Family     |
|  | Gospel  | Luke 18:35-43         |                               |
| <p><b>March 25</b><br/>Palm Sunday</p>                             | <b>Hosanna: The New King in the Temple</b>      |                       |                               |
|  | Old Testament                                   | Isaiah 56:1-8         | <b>Malayalam Service</b>      |
|  | Psalm   | 24                    | Read by                       |
|  | Epistle   | I Corinthians 3:16-23 | Idiculla V Kurian & Family    |
|  | Gospel  | Matthew 21:1-17       |                               |

|   |                                     |                        |                                |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p><b>March 29</b><br/><b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> | <b>Eucharist: Remembering Jesus</b> |                        |                                |
|   | Old Testament                       | Exodus 12:1-17         | <b>English Service</b>         |
|   | Psalm                               | 116                    | Read by                        |
|   | Epistle                             | I Corinthians 11:23-34 | Jubin Varghese Thomas & Family |
|   | Gospel                              | Matthew 26:17-30       |                                |
| <p><b>March 30</b><br/><b>Good Friday</b></p>     | <b>Good Friday</b>                  |                        |                                |
|   | Old Testament                       | Numbers 21:1-9         | <b>Malayalam Service</b>       |
|   | Psalm                               | 22                     | Read by                        |
|   | Epistle                             | I Corinthians 15:50-58 | Christy Abraham & Family       |
|   | Gospel                              | Matthew 27:1-56        |                                |



### Monthly Fasting Prayer

Our Monthly fasting prayer for the month of March will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 10.00 am. All are invited

### Women's Sunday

We will be observing Sunday, March 4, 2018 as Women's Sunday. Our Women's Fellowship Members will be taking an active part in the worship service. All are invited.

### Lenten Prayer meetings

You are all invited for Lenten Prayer meetings in the Church on March 7, March 14 and March 21, Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

### Holy Week Services

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| March 25, 2018 | Palm Sunday Service at 10.00 am (Malayalam Service)                 |
| March 29, 2018 | Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at 7.30 pm (English Service) |
| March 30, 2018 | Good Friday Service at 10.00 am (Malayalam Service)                 |
| April 1, 2018  | Easter Sunday Service at 10.00 am (English Service)                 |

### Cottage Prayers

- Cottage Prayer for Shalom Group will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Mathew George's residence on Saturday March 3, 2018 at 6.30 pm. All area members are invited.
- Cottage Prayer for Jordan Group will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Varghese V. John's residence on March 9, 2018 Friday at 7.30 pm. All area members are invited.
- Cottage Prayer for Gilead Group will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Sam Daniel's residence on Friday March 16, 2018 at 7.30 pm. All area members are invited.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

THE COUNCIL OF CSI CONGREGATIONS IN  
NORTH AMERICA WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*invites you to attend the*



## CSI Women's Conference of North America

on

**JULY 6 - 8, 2018**

Venue

## FAIRBRIDGE INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

130 ROUTE 10 WEST, EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936

**Theme:** *"Pilgrim Journey towards Forgiveness and Reconciliation"*

**Inauguration:** **The Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen**

(Moderator, Church of South India)

**Key Note Speakers:** **Dr. Mrs. Susan Thomas** (President, CSI WF)

**Sr. Dr. Joan Chunkapura** (TRADA)

*"Save the Dates and Stay Tuned! Register early, to be part of the wonderful opportunity to learn together, and to have fellowship with CSI Women of North America"*

**Early Bird Registration details (Ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018):**

**\$150.00 per person (double occupancy), \$250.00 (Single Occupancy),**

*(will be \$175 & \$275 respectively from April 1, 2018)*

*more information, please contact*

Rev. Sajeev Sugu Jacob (516) 746-4173; Mrs. Sally Mathew (W. F. Vice President) (770) 985-0100;

Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis (W. F. Secretary) (416) 271-9386; Mrs. Jolly David (W. F. Treasurer) (516) 437-0451;

Mrs. Elizabeth Oommen (914) 523-3593; Mrs. Molamma Mathew (845) 664-0615





*(Continued from page 7)*

### **Annual General Body meeting**

Our Church Annual General body meeting was held on February 25, 2018.

**The following members were elected to the Church Executive Committee for the year 2018.**

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rev. George Jacob        | President                       |
| Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy   | Vice President/Rectors Warden   |
| Mr. Daniel Thomas        | Secretary/Peoples Warden        |
| Mr. Abraham K. Varghese  | Joint Secretary/Trustee         |
| Mr. Ajoy Lional          | Treasurer                       |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Verghis   | Joint Treasurer/Trustee         |
| Mr. Chris George         | Choir Director                  |
| Mrs. Selvakumari Daniel  | Women's Fellowship Director     |
| Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel | Sunday School Director          |
| Mr. Hans Thomas Varghese | Youth Fellowship Director       |
| Mr. Santhosh Cherian     | Men's Fellowship Director       |
| Mr. Abhilash Raj         | Social & Entertainment Director |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Mathai    | Mission Director                |
| Mr. Joseph P. Mathews    | Auditor                         |

### **Sub-Committee Members For Soical Activities**

Mrs. Shini Samuel  
Mr. Jacob P. John  
Mrs., Rejini Gajraj  
Mrs. Liji Varghese John  
Mrs. Jenny Cherian

### **Constitution Review Committee**

Vicar And Secretary Will Be Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Christy Abraham  
Mrs. Susan Joseph  
Mrs. Mariamma Thomas  
Mr. Sanju Cherian  
Mr. Vilayil I. Kurian.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY





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

|                                  |                           |                                 |                          |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President                        | Rev. George Jacob         |                                 |                          |
| Vice-President / Rector's Warden | Mr. Abraham P. George     | Women's Fellowship Director     | Mrs. Susan Joseph        |
| Secretary / People's Warden      | Mr. Christy Abraham       | Men's Fellowship Director       | Mr. Santhosh Cherian     |
| Joint Secretary / Trustee        | Mr. Rennie Philips Joseph | Sunday School Director          | Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel |
| Treasurer                        | Mrs. Sheeba L. Ghosh      | Youth Fellowship Director       | Mr. Hans Thomas Varghese |
| Joint Treasurer / Trustee        | Mr. Abhilash Raj          | Mission Director                | Mr. Sanju Cherian        |
| Choir Director                   | Mr. Daniel Thomas         | Social & Entertainment Director | Mrs. Susan Kurian        |



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