

KADOSH MARIAN VOICE

Holiness Firmness Truthfulness Faithfulness



Jan / Feb / Mar - 2020



ABOUT KADOSH MARIAN MINISTRIES

Kadosh "In Jewish thinking, "The Holy One, blessed be He" (hakkadosh, barukh hu) is one of the most commonly used designation for God." **Marian** "is a given name, Hebrew meaning of Marion is the precious one or unique from the word or Mariam"

Kadosh Marian Ministries is a non-profit organization headquartered in UK and spread all over the World. Currently working with and within the Catholic Church, adhering to the norms, traditions, ethos and values. We are established since July 1994 as an approved Charitable Trust under the UK law with the responsibilities: -

- Conducting certificate oriented theological courses duly awarded by various international accredited universities.
- Conducting Charismatic Renewal services to revive the trooping spirit of the flagging faithful.
- Administering Sacraments by the ordained Catholic Priests and Bishops.
- Promoting devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Conducting guidance, counselling and healing through deliverance services to the needy, lonely and the afflicted ones.
- We participate to feed 200 poorest people daily.
- We participate to provide pension to 75 widows monthly.
- We participate to provide scholarship for 302 children yearly.
- We visit refugee camps and provide food, clothes and medicines to them.
- We contribute to build five homes for the poor families in a year minimum.

Join with us, slake the thirst, and enjoy the abundance of Spirit of the Sovereign Lord - Immanuel. And all the above charitable activities are routed in consultation with Catholic Priests and Bishops .

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4 The Editorially *Adv. Earnest Peter Kandathil*

6 Towards a meaningful Christmas and New year *Most. Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakumthala*

9 Conversion of St. Paul *Rev. Dr. Jacob Prasad, S.S.L., S.T.D.*

12 Jesus houseful! *Rev. Dr. Nicholas Tharsiuse*

15 Baptism in the Holy Spirit *Rev. Deacon Brin Dunsire*

18 The different stages of Sin *Rev. Vincent Darcus*

20 Skipping over the Pond *K. J. Mathew*

22 Rejoice in the Lord always and I say Rejoice! *Rev. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS*

25 Why should we pray for dead *Dr. Thomas George*



St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican, Rome Front page image

Editorially

It is with immense pleasure that I write these words. The Editorial and the Trustee Board Members are grateful to the readers, sponsors, and well-wishers for their sentiments of greetings sent to us during the Christmas festivity. This festivity is coming to its culmination with the octave celebration. Whilst the celebration is coming to an end it is appropriate to remember and reflect on the significance of the “**Christmas Refrain**” composed by St John of the Cross (1542 -1591) :



Adv. Earnest Peter Kandathil
Chief Editor



“The virgin, weighed by the word of God, comes down the road: If only you ‘ll shelter her”. This refrain should prise open our heart to make it a manger in the New Year for her divine son and for herself to dwell in us so that a fresh channel of heavenly strength, enlightenment and instructions will inevitably flow into the respondent’s heart ensuring peace and joy of Christmas to linger on throughout the year with discipline and discernment.

On 5th January this year the Church celebrates the feast of the Magi. “Magi” means wise men. They were also known as three kings. **Psalm 72.10** is to be remembered in this context. They brought gifts for the infant Saviour from the East. The names of these wise men/kings are: Melchior, Gasper and Balthazar. Melchior brought **gold** which is the insignia of Royalty; Gaspar brought Frankincense which is emblem of divinity; Balthazar brought **myrrh**, which is the prophetic allusion to the inevitable incidents, leading to passion, persecution and death of Jesus. Melchior means “king of light”; Gasper means “the white One”; and Balthazar means “Lord of treasures”. It is Interesting to note

that there is a medieval legend calling them “Three kings of Cologne” (Germany) and the Cathedral over there claims the credit of having the repository of the magi’s’ relics over there. Their feast is commemorated on second, third or fourth day of January and particularly and invariably on the feast of epiphany (The feast of manifestation). There is another notion among the Persians and Medes that the Magi were members of a priestly class who had some occult powers and are being connected to the Indian Brahmins possessing the wisdom. Ammianus Marcellinus corroborates this point in his findings and Arianus expressly calls the magis “the Brahmins”. Whatever be the case, there is no dispute about the readiness of the magi’s to go the manger; their honourable visits; and their symbolic gifts to Jesus. They were obviously wise enough to proceed from their lands in search of the Saviour simply being led by a STAR. Subsequently, after having done the homage, on angelic instructions, in total disregard to the king Herod’s suggestion to return to him with the news, they were brave enough not only to disregard his request but also were undaunted in going back to their lands by different route, being resolute in the face of danger, and thus outwitting the king Herod, to his humiliation, perturbation and annoyance.

The fact that magis were led by the star opens up a new point for discussion. It could be assumed that they had knowledge in astrology, science of navigation and calculation of timing of stellar configuration

Now let us come to the genesis of the month and of its name:” January”. January is dedicated to the ancient Roman deity “Janus” who kept the gate of heaven. Hence He is the guardian of gates or doors. Janus is said to have two faces- one is looking back ward and the other, forward. January is the only month that looks backward to the previous year and looks forward to the New Year. The coinage of the word “January” is therefore certainly a judicious addition to the English glossary.

In conclusion I would like to quote two conflicting poetic descriptions of the month of January .Sara Coleridge sings: *“January brings the snow /Makes our feet and fingers glow”*. Whereas Alfred Austin sings: *“pale January lay/ in the cradle day by day/Dead or living, hard to say.”* As a matter of fact I feel both observations are right. Finally I wish and pray that the graces and greetings, the boons and blessings and peace and perseverance of the yule tide be with all the readers, well-wishers and sponsors throughout the New Year. Finally I would like to add a caveat here as a new year tip: **Neither let your success get into your head, nor failure into your heart.**





Bishop Dr. **Alex Vadakumthala** was ordained as Priest on 19 December 1984. He served as the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Verapoly. He was appointed as Bishop of Kannur on 1 February 2014. He has served as the Executive Secretary of the CBCI Commission for Health Care. He had also served as the Project Director, Constant Lievens National Academy of Healy Sciences, Ranchi (CBCIs - Ambitious Medical College and Hospital Project for North India)

During this Christmas Season we sing: “Joy to the world the Lord has come ...” or similar hymns that express our festive joy. This joy we should feel deep within. It should be yours and mine always, through out the coming year. What shall I do to possess this joy? How can I make this Christmas little more meaningful? Perhaps we could reflect on three ways:

Be a “Santa Claus”!



In the old town of Mira there was a family. Though very poor, they were good and noble-minded. One year, the winter was too strong and no one could go out to work in the field. The parents in this family found it difficult to get even food for their four young girl-children. Some how, Nicholas came to know about it. One day, he put some gold-coins in a white socks-like bag and threw it through the window of the house and left. The family was surprised to get the coins. They were extremely happy. But they were wondering who left the white stocking with gold coins in their house! After few days, when they had almost finished all what they had, Nicholas came again! He threw another tiny white bag with gold-coins into the house. But, this time the head of the family happened to see Nicholas. He was amazed to be near him! He hugged him and thanked him for the generosity and love. Nicholas requested him not to tell anyone about this. But, how can good tidings remain hidden! The goodness and kindness of Nicholas spread like a wildfire!

Thereafter, when good things come, it was attributed to Nicholas!

Washington Irving, who is the creator of Ripvan Winkle, in 1809, narrated about Nicholas in a book titled “Booker History”, as a fat, short and joyful person, with long beard and attractive red dress, traveling on a reindeer driven sleigh, distributing gifts to everyone.

Clement Clark, who was a professor in the New York Seminary, wrote a poem in 56 lines, in 1822, on Nicholas. The joyful Nicholas made everyone joyful!

Robert W. Weet, the Fine Arts Professor in the American Military Academy drew picture of Nicholas.

St. Nicholas was a bishop from Holland, who loved everyone and helped people to be happy.

My Christmas and New Year would become meaningful and memorable, if I become like “Nicholas”, making others happy by loving them, as “Jesus loved” (Jn 15:12).

Be a “STAR”!



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Mt. 2:10). Star is an important symbol of the coming of the Babe of Bethlehem. Stars shed light. Light brings joy. It dispels darkness.

When Jesus is born, night becomes bright. (Lk 2:8). When Jesus dies, day becomes dark. (Lk 23:44).

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world” (Jn 8:12). The blind begins to see in his presence (Lk 18:35)

Those in despair find new hope. Mary Magdalene and Zacchaeus are examples for those who experienced this newness in life.

Jesus also said: “You are the light of the world” (Mt 5:14). When we study Bible, it is amazing to note that Jesus uses the same word “phos” also in this sentence, as He spoke about himself, “I am the light of the world”. In fact the many words that we use daily like photocopy, photography, photophobia, photosynthesis etc. derive, from

this root “phos”!

The most relevant question is this: How can I be a light to others? How can I be a ‘star’ that brings happiness and hope in the lives of others?

Be a “MANGER” for the Lord

Mary said: “Behold the hand maid of the Lord! Be it done according to thy word!” The Vatican Council in its document Lumen Gentium, explains, “Committing herself



**Be a manger
for the Lord**

wholeheartedly ... she devoted herself totally, as the handmaid of the Lord” (LG, 56).

Jesus told Zacchaeus said: “I must stay in your house!” It is also worth reflecting on the deeper meaning of this verse from Revelation 4:19-20: “I stand at the door and knock!” Our God is one who likes to dwell among us or in us.

Nobel Laurate, Rabindranath Tagore has this beautiful poem, in Gitanjali:

“You came down from your throne and stayed at my cottage door,

I was singing all alone in a corner, and the melody caught your ear,

You came down and stood at my cottage door.

Masters are many in your hall, and songs are sung there at all hours, But the simple carol of this novice struck at your love.

One plaintive little strain mingled with the great music of

the world,

And with a flower for a prize, you came down and stopped at my cottage door”

The relevant question during this holy season is this : How can I be a “manger” for the Babe of Bethlehem to be born?

To transform my life into His dwelling place, I need a pure heart. **“Create in me a clean heart, O God”** (Ps 51,10), should be my daily prayer. I need repentance and reconciliation. (Mk 1:15; Joel 2:12-13; Eph 4:23-5:2; Acts 2:38) I need to be like a fig tree bearing fruits (Lk 13:6-9). I need to submit to the Lord, so that the One who says, “Behold, I make all things new!” (Rev 21: 5), would touch and transform my life.

Let this be my prayer:

**“Lord, renew my life to
celebrate this Christmas
and New Year
more meaningfully.**

**Help me to be a “Santa Claus” who
fills every heart with joy.**

**Help me to be a little “star” showing
everyone the way to the
Prince of Peace.**

**Take my life to be the “manger”
for you to be born.**

**Thus, let me make this Christmas a
memorable, meaningful one,
and a New Year filled with
serenity and peace,
shared
with everyone.
Amen”**



The background of the slide is a classical painting depicting the Conversion of Saint Paul. It shows Saint Paul falling from his horse, surrounded by soldiers and onlookers in a dramatic, dark setting with a bright light source from the upper left.

Conversion OF SAINT PAUL



Rev. Dr. Jacob Prasad, S.S.L., S.T.D.

The conversion of St. Paul was of paramount importance in the life of the early Church. It received such emphasis that in Acts it is narrated 3 times: 9,1-19; 22,6-16; 26,12-18. The first account it is set in the author's own narration; the second is in the context of a speech of Paul to the Jewish people in Jerusalem, as he is arrested; the third is in Paul's defence of himself before King Agrippa and the Governor Festus. In his letters, Paul tells of it once, in Gal 1,11-24, but refers to it in 1Cor 9,11; 15,8 and Phil 3,5-6.

Before his conversion Paul had persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it (Acts 8,1-3; 9,1-2; 22,4-5; 26,9-11; Gal 1,13; 1 Cor 15,9; Phil 3,6). The reason why Paul persecuted the new Jewish sect (the church) was probably that he could not conceive of a *crucified* Messiah. The Messiah expected by Jews at that time was a glorious figure who would be the politico-spiritual ruler of Israel. But the Messiah Jesus of whom his disciples proclaimed was someone who suffered and died a shameful death on the cross. Such a *crucified* Messiah was "a stumbling-block to the Jews" (1 Cor 1,23).

The encounter with Jesus in a vision on the road to Damascus changed Paul the Pharisee and the persecutor of Christians into Paul the ardent disciple and the most persecuted apostle of Christ. From then on Paul understood the Christ-event as divine action for the salvation of all humanity. It did not change his commitment to God. It taught him the salvific value of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah in the plan of God. That is why he wrote later to the Romans that he was not ashamed of the Gospel (Rom 1,16). The latter part of Acts tells

us of Paul's toil and trouble in the work of evangelisation. Thus Paul became the greatest of the missionaries of all periods and the pattern for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Gal 1,23 Paul reports of what the churches of Judea were telling about him, "**The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.**"

In Phil 3,5-9 Paul tells of his complete break with the past and describes the depth of the change that happened in him. Paul begins by describing a system of values which he considered precious before his conversion, and then goes on to describe the new system of values he has assumed upon turning to Christ. The



context is one of speaking against opponents. He says, "If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more" (Phil 3,4b). Then he lists the reason for his confidence, "circumcised on the eighth day, a member of



the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ...; as to righteousness under the law, blameless" (3-6). In the letter to Romans Paul speaks of the privileges of the Jews: "They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs" (Rom 9,4-5). If so, the reasons for confidence, which Paul lists on behalf of himself before his conversion, were very high values. After his conversion he gave up those for the sake of Christ, whom he found as the highest value of his life. He writes: "**Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith**" (Phil

3,7-9). That which was considered earlier as something precious and advantageous is now considered as loss and rubbish. As regards righteousness, he had judged himself formerly as "blameless," but now he gives up that idea and seeks for a righteousness coming from faith. The supreme value is that of knowing, gaining and being found in Christ.

For reflection: Read the texts given in between. See how much Christ has become my supreme value.

The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle is a feast celebrated during the liturgical year on January 25, recounting the conversion. This feast is celebrated in the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches. This feast is at the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an international Christian ecumenical observance that began in 1908, which is an octave (an eight-day observance) spanning from January 18 (observed in Anglican and Lutheran tradition as the Confession of Peter, and in the pre-1961 Roman Catholic Church as the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter at Rome) to January 25. In rural England, the day functioned much like groundhog day does in the modern-day United States. Supposed prophecies ranged from fine days predicting good harvests, to clouds and mists signifying pestilence and war in the coming months.

O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world.

Amen.





JESUS, HOUSEFUL !



Rev. Dr. Nicholas Tharsiuse

Thiruvanthapuram Archdiocese, India.

Father serves as a visiting professor in seminaries St: John's Seminary (Hyderabad), St: Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Malankara Seminary (Kerala) and St: Joseph's Major Seminary Telegana. He also conducts seminars & orientation programmes for different age groups. He has authored several articles and two books, one in English (The Way of Life) and the other in Malayalam (Yesuvae Purathu Varika—Jesus Come Out).

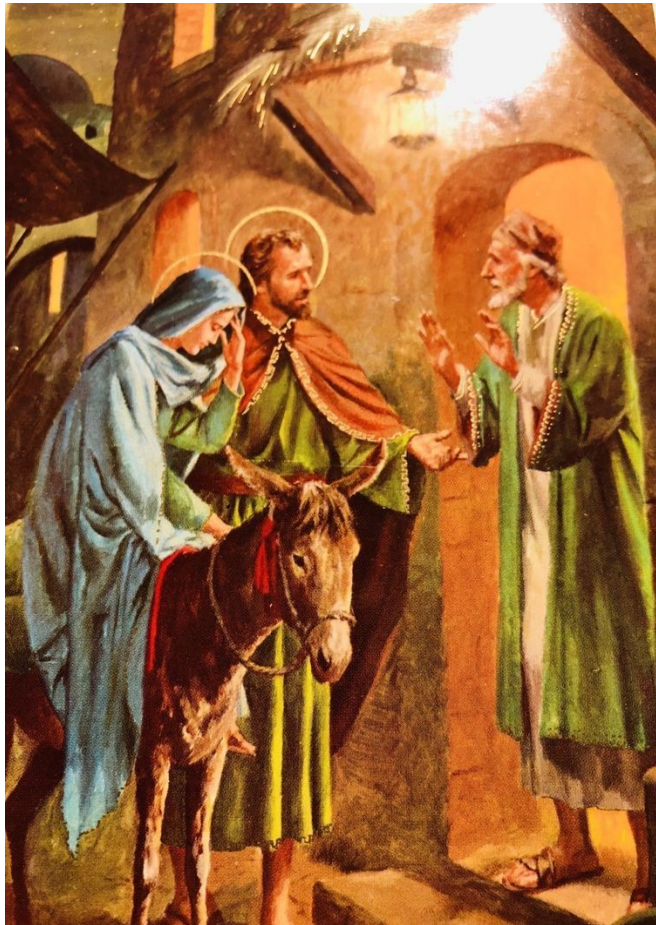
No Space!" Such an unexpected answer! What kind of people refuse to give space to a fully pregnant woman. Is it fair to tell her so? Even though she belongs to the same family and community (Luke 2:4). Can people speak so heartlessly?!

She has travelled 70 miles. Not by flight or coach or luxury bus. She came on a donkey. Difficult journey. Not on royal road. But alleys and uneven lands. Can't they at least offer a seat to such tired travellers? At least ask them to wait till some arrangements can be made?! This is inhuman cruelty. It is humane to offer a

place for a pregnant woman when she goes into labour. To turn her away is unbearable for the kind-hearted.

There is honour and respect in being at the right place. "Adam, where are you?" (Gen 3:9). "Cain, Where is your brother Abel?" (Gen 4:9). Deserved place and positions may be robbed. When selfishness rises such loss of position, place and relationship is natural. There is a place in heaven accorded based on how the assigned place and position was lived on Earth (Mt 25:31-46; Jn 14:2).

There is no place! For who? For the righteous, the just and the son of man (Lk 1:28). For the son of God too (Mt 1:9). Has the fountain of goodness dried (Lk 4:24)? Has the source of pro-



tection dried? Is there no place for the good and the just in this world? Is this a world that does not desire goodness (Jn 19:27)? Sin will rule where there is no righteousness (5:38-42). No, there is no place. Goodness should triumph over evil. Consumerism advocates not giving space to the good. Today's world is dark with fear of light. Hence the answer: No place!

To create space, justice and peace should flow like perennial streams (Amos 5:24). For those who ignore the divine justice and absorb it, all other justice will simply be colourful language. For justice to happen, the heart must burn for it. That inner fire must consume the ego, the pride, the arrogance, the desire for wealth and so on. Only then the stream will flow. Justice is only for those who have burnt so. Everything

else is wild fire, justice of the hunter.

Son of Man, the Prophet and the Son of God take wings for the Kingdom of God. In that uprising, only by becoming sons and daughters of sacrifice and suffering can we find space and provide space. Lacking in this will lead us to lack of space.

Jesus, there is no place. The inn is full of people like trees (Mk 8:24). When the tree branches, birds can nest in them. People can rest in its shade. Afterwards the wood can be cut for furniture.

People say there is no place for God in this world. Through their desires, theories and faithless actions, people are telling Jesus: Jesus, forgive us, the inn is full. Jesus is not even invited home (Jn 1:11). The world doesn't need him.

There is trouble if we give you place, Jesus. You will bring those who are lying by the road on your shoulders and on donkeys to my house. We have to bear that cost then. If we give place, you will insist that we also act like you (Lk 10:37).

Jesus, if we give you place, we will not be able to eat till we are full. We will not be able to have rich guests for parties. You will ask us to bring the blind and the crippled and give them food. You will ask us not to invite the rich and the relatives (Lk 14:12-13).

Jesus, if we give you space, you will ask us to fill our home with the deaf and the dumb, blind and the crippled (Mt 11:5-6).

Jesus, if we give you place, you will compare yourself with our food, clothing, water, the sick, the foreigner and the prisoner. It will not be comfortable (Mt 25:40).

Jesus, if we give you space: You will enjoy the feast and then speak against the host (Lk 7:40-50). We can't have that.

Jesus, if we give you place, you will introduce the pangs of the present into the interpretations of the gospel (Mt 16:3). In the end we will have to push you down from the hill (Lk 4:29).

Jesus, if we give you space, you will give importance to 'today' and the 'here' and 'now' (Lk 24:21;11:2-4). We live to pass by without touching the present and all those who are present here and now. Therefore, Jesus, there is no space. Please go outside. If man becomes cruel, if he becomes mere ethical, if he becomes the devil, God will leave.

Jesus, if we give you a place, you will search for the weak 'Abels.' You will hear the screams of those who demand justice. After all you are the one who hears the wailing of those on the way-side even in the commotion of the street (Mk 10:49). You are the one who sees the troubles and tribulations of the under privileged.

Jesus, if we give you space, what will be do with all that we have amassed and conquered? Shouldn't we divide it up like the robbed bounty (Is 9:3) ? When we tell our souls to enjoy after we have amassed enough for a lifetime, won't you ask: You fools, if your life is taken tonight, who will all this belong to (Lk 12:20)?

You give as ration our daily bread (Lk 11:3) and manna (Ex 16). You expect us to dependent on you daily for it. Moreover, you don't want us to be owner and employee, but live like brothers (Mt 23:9). But we have refrigerator and freezer now. We have ran out of space stock food for weeks. If we give you place, how can we then pray to you to give us our daily bread (Lk 11:3)? You will remind us that the undivided bread is

not your body. You will ask us to divide the food among the famished (Mt 10:35;14:14). Jesus, it is difficult for us receive you and Your Father's Kingdom.

There is no place in the inn. Because we are



ethical, not spiritual beings. According to us, the woman who becomes pregnant without her husband's knowledge must be abandoned (Mt 1:19). Everyone must stone her to death (Jn 8:1-11). Jesus, even if you come to us and claim you are a relative, we will not receive you (Mt 1:19). Because we are ethicals, not spiritual. The spirit doesn't guide us. We do not live for the Living God. The wind blows wherever it pleases.

**My God, have mercy upon us and fill us with
Your divine gift to follow Your will, in Jesus
name, I pray.**

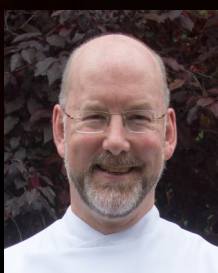
Amen



Baptism

IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

SOME REASSURANCE



Rev. Deacon Brin Dunsire is from the Diocese of Northampton in southern England, serving in St. Augustine parish, High Wycombe (near London). Educated at a Yorkshire grammar school and at Trinity College, Cambridge (1976-78) , he practised as a lawyer for a number of years before returning to the Catholic faith through the experiences of the Student Cross Easter pilgrimage, and of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the early 90s. Called to serve the Lord as a deacon, he attended St. John's seminary at Womersley in Surrey 2010-12, and was ordained in July 2013. It has been his delight to be in the paid employment of the diocese of Northampton since 1993, in various administrative-support roles, firstly in the Youth Service and latterly under the Finance Office, including Archives, website content-management and Planned Giving.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a life-changing encounter with God's love and power in the lives of many thousands of Christians of all denominations, races and backgrounds.

Sometimes resembling the experience of the apostles at the feast of Pentecost, described in Acts Ch.2, it became commonplace in Christianity in the twentieth century, associated originally with "Pentecostal" churches, and arriving (seemingly rather late, but God know His timing !) In the Catholic Church in 1967, following an outpouring among students at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. It will have been no coincidence – indeed, a "God-incidence " -that this followed almost immediately after the end of the Second Vatican Council

An authoritative study of the widespread phenomenon, its scriptural origins and its theology, was published in 2012 by the Doctrinal Commission of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services. Although the booklet is formally a publication of the Commission, it is made clear in its introduction that it was substantially authored by Mgr. Peter Hocken (1932-2017) and Dr. Mary Healy. We are very proud of Fr Peter in our parish, as he was ordained here in 1964 ; he was one of the priests whom the Lord calls more to academic work than parish ministry, and after serving the bishops of Northampton for several years as chaplain and Chancellor, he moved to Austria in 2002 to pursue his interests in Pentecostalism and Messianic Judaism under the patronage of Cardinal Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna. He passed to the Lord just after returning from the great gathering of Catholic Charismatic Renewal with Pope Francis in the Circus Maximus at Pentecost 2017. There would be no one better qualified to write with authority on the Baptism in the Spirit, to reassure the pastors of the Catholic Church that this supernatural experience is truly an authentic grace of God, bestowed upon the faithful for the good of the Church and the building of the Kingdom.

Its authenticity has been recognized by the recent Popes. At Pentecost 2008, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said ""let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit... Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain a renewed Pentecost for the church again today, a Pentecost that will spread



in everyone the joy of living and witnessing to the gospel"

And at Pentecost 2017, Pope Francis said to a large gathering of Catholic charismatics in Rome

"To share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church, to praise the Lord unceasingly, to walk together with Christians of different Churches ... in prayer and activity on behalf of those in greatest need, to serve the poor and the sick. This is what the Church and the Pope expect from you, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, but also from everyone here" (emphasis mine) .

So, seeking out, asking for, and facilitating for others, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, is not to be seen as a novelty-seeking indulgence; it is a command of the Holy Father and a grace for the

church. [St Paul says in 1 Cor .12 “earnestly desire the greater [spiritual] gifts”. However, because the experience of receiving this grace is, for some people, a very powerful one, with supernatural manifestations such as bodily sensations, speaking in tongues, falling over, tears, laughter, and extremes of emotion, those who do NOT experience such things are sometimes concerned that they have NOT been baptized in the Spirit, despite their fervent prayer to receive all that God wishes to bestow on them. It is those I wish to reassure.

In the ICCRS booklet mentioned, there is a chapter headed “The Characteristics and Fruits of Baptism in the Spirit”. The point to note is that none of these are overtly supernatural or necessarily accompanied by “weird phenomena”. If, after being prayed-for to be filled with the Spirit at a retreat or conference, or as part of an Alpha course or similar, you notice after a while that you have changed in any of the following ways, it is very likely indeed that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit

- a new awareness of the reality and presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in your life
- a movement towards deeper conversion and holiness of life, “often manifested in a new-found authority to resist sinful tendencies, freedom from addictions or deep-rooted patterns of sin, and the healing of relationships, especially in marriage and the family”
- a new or revitalized enthusiasm for praise and worship; a sense of exuberance, with the freedom to express it in bodily movements - a new ability to speak praise of God in your own language, rather than relying on formulas of church prayer
- a new thirst/appetite/zeal for the word of God, (Scripture), for prayer and for the Holy Mass
- a new love for the church, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints
- an awareness of your baptismal vocation to serve the church as a lay person; an

acknowledgement of your missionary calling

- a new zeal to evangelize, to share your faith with those around you
- a refreshed commitment to social justice and ecumenism
- the impetus to form new communities, to come together in prayer groups and Church societies, not necessarily corresponding to traditional “religious congregations”

I will ruefully admit that even making a list of this sort is a concession to our lack of faith in the Lord ; as fallen humans, we still need to “live by sight”, looking for discernible changes in ourselves, as proof that God has done something, rather than standing on His Word: **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13)**

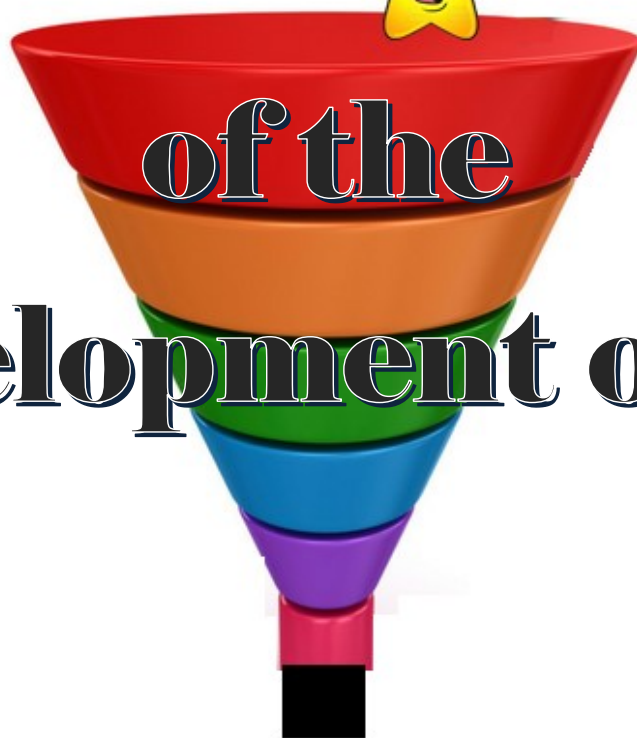
A Baptismal Prayer

Heavenly Father, In your love you have
called us to know You, lead us to trust You,
and bound our life with Your's.
Surround us with Your love,
protect us from evil.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit and
accept us as a member in
Your Holy Family Church,
So that we may walk with
You and in Your pathways,
and help us to grow in the
knowledge of your love.

Amen



The different stages of the Development of Sin



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A house does not fall at once; at first a few drops of rain that are scarcely noticed soak into the walls, soften the mortar and loosen the stones, presently the whole building collapses.

In the following verses, we are first informed that the battle with temptation originates in our human nature, not from God. Since it is not God who brings it, we have a responsibility to deal with it as an enemy not a gift! “When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone ” (James 1/13)

The devil sets to work in a similar way to destroy the soul. We learn from Eve’s example, how Sin begins. The sins arises generally in the following manner.....

In the first stage an evil thought comes into the mind, which in itself is not sinful. It is merely a temptation. We can’t prevent bad thoughts from coming into the mind, only we can withstand the thoughts of temptation. We must instantly direct our thoughts fruitfully by means of prayer, or the remembrance of wages of sins or the judgement “In all things remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin (Eccl. 7/40). Or we may recall to mind the terrible consequences of Sin.... Slay your enemy while he is young and feeble..... banish them the moment they present themselves.

In the second stage, if the evil thoughts are not instantly expelled, they awaken in the mind and find satisfaction in what is evil and that becomes already a venial Sin. Satisfaction which is evil may also be turned out to be a

mortal Sin. What is of the importance is to turn our thoughts from malicious intentions. A fire just ignited can be easily extinguished; a disease can be prevented if properly treated in its first stage. The evil thoughts which the devil puts into our mind may be compared to eggs, as after the period of incubation the young bird is produced from the eggs, so Sin is produced from the evil thoughts if they are cherished in the breast.... James. 1/15 Evil thoughts are abomination to the Lord (Prov. 25/26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked).

Everyone must remember that God is omniscient. He sees and knows all our thoughts before we know them ourselves.

The next stage, after thoughts, the evil desire arises. An evil desire is an act of the Will or deliberate consent, that which proceeds from the heart i.e. (the Will), that is Sin..... (Mathew 15/19—For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander). Before God, the very Will to Sin counts as the deed of Sin.. (Mathew 5/28—But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.). Remember, how unhappy you are, if you cherish sinful desires in your heart, which is nothing but alienation of yourselves from God.....

The next comes the volition to commit Sin. The evil satisfaction was merely a wish or longing for the sinful object. The resolution is a final decision to adopt the means necessary to the attainment of that object, up to this point the Sin is still an interior Sin. If the occasion is still persists, it leads to sin and thus the exterior act is committed. An uncontrolled exterior Sin would have worse consequences than an interior Sin.

Once the soul has persisted in sin it is not easily wrested out of it. In fact, for such a spiritual

condition, there is a fearful prospect of judgement which awaits.

“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10/26-31)

The Scripture also warns us: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Gal 6/7-8). Thus, sin, if it is allowed to continue, becomes fatal.

Finally, the grace of God departs from every man who has fallen into mortal Sin because Sin is an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law. Therefore, church is providing the sacrament of reconciliation - the atonement of sins.

My God and Lord, the prayers we offer from contrite hearts. Have pity on us as we acknowledge our sins. Lead us back to the way of holiness. Protect us now and always from the wounds of sin. May we ever keep safe in all its fullness the gift your love once gave us and your mercy now restores.

Amen.



“SKIPPING OVER THE POND”

(A New Year Message)



K. J. Mathew : An educationist with vast experience in teaching and administration at various levels including prestigious schools in India and abroad. Started his professional life as a Lecturer in the prestigious St. Thomas College, Trichur, Kerala. Later he moved to Africa (Nigeria & Botswana). In Nigeria, he taught at Mary Knoll College and in Botswana he taught at Moeding College and also in the University of Botswana. After about 18 years, he returned to India and worked as Headmaster/Principal at several premier ICSE/ISC schools in South India. Notable among them are: Good Shepherd International School – Ooty, Mar Thoma Residential School – Tiruvalla, Kerala and Kalabhavan Talent Residential School – Cochin. He is the Founder Principal of Mysore Public School. Authored three books. He is a member of various Indian and foreign professional organizations and has attended several educational conclaves world-wide.

People in all walks of life encounter problems, trials, ordeals and upheavals from time to time. Indeed in most instances we are lonely in facing our problems. We feel like a lone sailor in an ocean. For example lake Michigan is a very large lake which is about a hundred miles across and over three hundred miles from north to south. Any sailor

across lake Michigan would run into thunderstorm, lightning and huge winds. Think of the lone sailor who need to have relentless resolve to go through the lake and reach the destination. Most often a sailor encounters such bad trials of weather that he begins to wonder if he is going to make to the other side. In such a situation one has remind himself of a unique and special perspective – it is called the “Pilot’s



Perspective”.

A flight across Lake Michigan in a pilot’s seat offers an entirely different perspective of the difficult lake. Distances are compressed and threats are minimized. A hundred miles of visibility is common in an airplane. Thus with enough altitude you can easily see all the way across the lake. Waves that may be violently pounding the hull of a boat look small and tame from the air. A fast plane can transport you from one side of lake Michigan to the other in just a matter of minutes. In fact pilots of corporate jets often refer to crossing lake Michigan as “Skipping over the Pond”.

Thus when you are sailing a boat across the lake Michigan and find yourself in ugly conditions, try to bring the pilot’s perspective into the sailing situation. In your mind, look down at your plight from the cockpit of a private jet cruising at an altitude of 25,000 feet. Imagine the higher view and say to yourself: *“From up here the other coastline is already visible. From up here the harbor is in clear view. From up here the waves appear very manageable.”*

With such a viewpoint in mind you can hang in there. You can keep going. You can begin to

believe that you are actually going to make it, provided you persevere. This is the “Pilot’s Perspective” which you may now identify as the “Eternal Perspective”.

Heroic leaders throughout redemptive history have always looked at the difficulty of their short-term struggle against the backdrop of eternity. When the difficulties of life appear overwhelming, you need to think more like pilots rather than like sailors. You need to look at the violent and unmanageable waves from above them rather than in them. That is what it means to look at life from an eternal perspective. Successful leaders in history endured because they had learned how to look at their hardships from a broader viewpoint that reminded them that the harbor was not that far away. In the words penned by Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58 ***“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labour is not in vain if it is in the Lord”.*** No matter how difficult the hardship, no matter how long a particular storm lasts, no matter how dark and scary it gets, no matter how the winds howl and waves crash chose the path of courage. Be steadfast. Be immovable. Endure. That is courageous leadership.





Rejoice in the Lord always and I say Rejoice! Philippians 4:4



Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS

Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales,
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Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS is actively involved in African missions of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales since last 20 years. At present he serves as the director of Mission Development Office in Rome.

These words of St. Paul encourage the people of Thessalonica and Philippians as he is about to say goodbye to them. Through these words he is empowering them with the Holy Spirit. As we are in the season of Advent and preparing ourselves for Christmas, let these words resound in our ears and make us joyful.

The modern translations of these verses are the following: Always be joyful (New Living Translation), Rejoice at all times (Berean Study Bible), Always be joyful (Contemporary English Version), Be joyful always (Good News Translation) etc. In other words, St. Paul is exhorting the Christians in Thessalonica and Philippi to remain joyful in every situations of life by being faithful to constant prayer and by an exemplary Christian life. This Joy/Gladness that he wishes for them is his parting gift.

Being joyful or happy is basically an attitude to be cherished. John Powell says “happiness is an inside job”. Pope Francis often exhorts us to be joyful people because it is fundamental for every Christian to be joyful and sadness is not a Christian virtue. According to him, “our joy comes from our personal encounter with Jesus through daily prayer”.

More than ever before, the world is torn apart by fear, anxiety and poverty, and therefore, every person longs for peace and joy. Our joyful presence can contribute significantly to the joyful and harmonious living of other persons, especially those who live in vulnerable situations. With the help of the Word of God let us see what really makes us joyful people.

Be positive, hopeful and optimistic

2 Cor. 12:9-10 “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” ...Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Deuteronomy 31:6. Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

We are created in the image and likeness of God; and we share His perfections. So it is important that we look at life positively, optimistically and with hope. When we are able to appreciate the goodness in us and in others, we will be able to see the world in the light of hope. If we think negative, we will talk negative and then we will do negative things which can create a lot of negative energy in us and in others which can affect our harmonious living destructively.

Do not gossip

James 1:26. If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

Proverbs 11:13. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 16:28. A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

The harm of a gossip is far reaching. Pope Francis calls a gossip, bomb. It can stir up conflicts within the person and in the group causing devastating damages in the families, communities and other circles. As a result happiness is lost. To be joyful in life one must refrain from gossiping.

Forgive everyone

Daniel 9:9. The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.

Eph 4,31-32. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

It is essential for a Christian to forgive others as we have been forgiven by the Lord. With the Mercy and Grace of God, we are always able to start anew. God constantly extends His forgiveness and mercy to us through the sacrament of penance. God gave us his forgiveness and peace; and asks us to do the same to others who offend us. It is not easy to free ourselves from the pain and hurt caused by someone, “But, the pain of living with bitterness and un-

forgiveness can poison your soul and destroy you. When we forgive others, we are not saying what they did was OK, but we are releasing them to God and letting go of it's hold on us." Only a forgiven heart can experience the joy of Jesus in its fullness.

Be generous to the needy

Acts 20,35. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

1 John 3,17. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

I am always impressed and surprised by the generosity of our sisters and brothers in the missions in Africa. In most cases, they are poor, hungry and sick but they are generous to help those who are needier than them and are always full of joy! If we are less consumeristic, if we can limit our needs, we can save many lives. Someone would say "I am poor because I do not have a Mercedes, I have only a Ford", this person should think of the many around him/her who do not possess even a bicycle and have no complaints.

Christmas is the generosity of God the Father who gave us His only son, because He loves us. This generous and gorgeous event is the happiest and well celebrated event of joy in the whole of human history.

Humility and Gentleness

Colossians 3,12. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

James 4,10. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Humility and gentleness can be seen as source of real joy because these virtues recognizes the dignity of other human persons and treat them with respect. St. Francis de Sales has said,

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength". The real strength of a strong person is her/his humility and gentleness. A person who completely relies on the will of God is a humble and gentle person, and such people experience the real joy of life.

Peace-Loving

Proverbs 12,20. Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.

Hebrews 12,14. Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

We need peace in our homes and communities.

Our lives are wounded and pained by many divisions. Divisions bring anxiety and worries. Therefore, to be joyful, we need to be peace-loving people.

Pray in every situation

Philippians 4,6-7. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5, 16-18. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Prayer is being in relation with God through loving communion. It is through prayer we are united with God. We read in the NT that Jesus was often found praying, to know the will of the heavenly Father. Knowing the will of the heavenly Father enabled him to offer Himself completely into his hands. Jesus could fulfil His mission only when he could conform to the will of the heavenly Father. Our life is fulfilled when we discern the will of God in prayer and live accordingly. When we are able to conform our will to God's will, forgoing all egoism, jealousy, pride and all other sinful attachments, we will be the most joyful persons. It is in such a situation of humble submission to the will of God, we will be able give birth to Jesus- Emmanuel- God with us in our every lives.





Why should we Pray for the departed?

The important points to discuss in this article are as follows:-

- Who prayed for the dead in the Bible?
- What happened to the souls who were dead just after Jesus death?
- Was there a practice by the living to confess the sins of the dead?
- What is about the baptism for the dead?
- What Gospel says about the dead?
- Death is not a barrier to separate us from the love of God!
- Can the dead communicate?
- A Prayer for the dead



Dr. Thomas George

The traditional Christian practice of praying for the souls of our dear and near ones in Christ has come under attack in the last few hundred years. Though the practice is traceable to the earliest days of Christianity and is shared by Catholics, Orthodox, Eastern churches, and even some Anglicans the belief is shared by more than three quarters of Christians on earth. Now, it comes under heavy attack from many within the Protestant movement that started in the sixteenth century—during the Renaissance period.

History proves that Christians from the earliest centuries of the Church have expressed their communion with those who have died by praying for the dead. I believe it is obvious to educate our people about the importance to pray for the dead based on the Word of God

Ruth 2:20 says “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead?”

Here, people can raise a question, How can God be



kind to the dead? St. Paul gives a clear answer in **1 Timothy 5:4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents (who are dead), for this is pleasing to God. Caring for family means and includes the praying for the dead too.

Let us understand how we can biblically support that it is right to pray for the dead.

A few Important People who prayed for the dead in the Bible

Paul: St. Paul prayed for Onesiphorus, one who helped Paul’s evangelization work, later he passed away and St. Paul prayed for his soul . In **2 Timothy 1:16** “May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains”.

2 Timothy 1:18 “May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus”.

Moses: “Deuteronomy 33:6 Let Reuben live and not die, nor his people be few”.

This is a supplication by Moses to the Lord after Reuben’s death.

The Widow at Zarephath spoke to Elijah and he Prayed to God for her dead baby: **1 King 17:17-20** “Then he cried out to the LORD, LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, “LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived”.

The Shunammite’s son was restored to life when Elisha prayed: **2 King 4:32-35** “When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes”.

Martha prayed for dead Lazarus to Jesus Christ. He answered her prayer and rose him from dead :

John 11:38-53 ...21 "Lord, Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again"... 43 Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face".

This is clear evidence that God can hear and answer our prayers for the dead.

Here, we have seen Paul, Moses, Elijah and Jesus Christ praying for the dead. It is clear we too need to pray and intercede for the dead.

What happened to departed soul when Jesus died?

Matthew 27:51-53 "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split". **"and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life".** "They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people".

The above passage proves that the departed are NOT dead but they are alive with God. As nothing is impossible for the Lord Jesus Christ, when you pray for the dead, Jesus Christ looks upon our dead soul and is kind to them.

Confess the sins of the dead

When Nehemiah came to know that the Israelites were in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem was broken down, and its gates had been burned with fire. Nehemiah mourned, fasted, prayed and confessed the sins of his forefathers.



Nehemiah 1:6 "let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you".

If Nehemiah confessed the sin of his forefather's, why can't we confess and pray for our forefather's sin?

If the Baptism can be done for the dead why don't we pray for the dead ?

1 Corinthians 15:29 "Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?" Paul used this as an example for the people who objected to the prayer of baptism for the dead. In this verse he said, " .. if the dead are not raised, then why are they baptized for the dead?"

This is a proxy baptism, today commonly referred to as the religious practice of baptizing a person on behalf of one who is dead—i.e. a living person receiving the rite on behalf of a dead person.

In the earlier days, baptism for the dead was common but it is very rare now since the sacrament of Baptism is the first sacrament a child receives. .

John 11:26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

John 5:24 Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life

Now, we know that Paul, Moses, Elijah, Elisha and Jesus Christ prayed for the dead. We have also seen how Nehemiah confessed the sins of his forefathers. We need to indeed do the same. Many times the Bible says that nothing is impossible for God. As in Ruth 2:20, it says God is kind to the dead and living, so we must extend this blessing and not restrict it to only the living.

Lets look at some scriptures that show us how **the Dead in Christ are not Dead but ALIVE!**

If the Spirit is in us, Christ is in us. He dwells in the heart by faith. Romans 8:10-11 says **'But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to**

death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.'

The soul is always alive with God. The righteousness of Christ protects and secures the soul from death. The body is dead because of sin. The greatest gift from God to us is Jesus Christ. He redeemed us by his blood, and united us to God. The reason is not merely because God decreed it, but it is because God wanted to break the barriers of sin, by taking away the punishment as Christ bore it for us. Romans 8:11 says 'One who join with Christ will live forever and none can stop his eternity' so also in Romans 8:12-13 it says 'Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live'. It is the truth that one who lives with Jesus will never die. Galatians 2:20 says 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me'. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. The dead in Christ are alive as ever before on earth. Because they are not constrained by their bodies, they are one with Christ, and they share in His glory. They are the part of mystical body of Christ—Church triumphant, Church in suffering and the militant church on earth.

In John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.** So living believers in Christ shall never die a spiritual death; they are passed from death to life, and shall never return to death anymore; their spiritual life cannot be lost; the grace of God is in them. It is an immortal seed, a well of living water. **John 6:47 says Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.** This means God is ready to grant His gift of resurrection to all who passed away from this world,.

John 6:50-51 says **'But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life**

of the world'. Here, it is very clear that one who receives the body of Christ shall not perish because it is a heavenly bread. It's soul quickening bread, soul strengthening bread, soul satisfying bread, soul protecting bread, soul empowering bread, and soul anointing bread. Here, it is clear that one who eats this bread and believes in Christ and His resurrection shall have life and they shall never die. The second death shall have no power, nor shall they ever be hurt by it.

Death is Not a Barrier that separates us From Our Loved Ones in Christ

Death separates men from the world their worldly habitations and substance. It separates the soul from the body, and in process of time may take off all thoughts and affections for their departed friends. But it is not able to separate us from the love of God. I am persuaded that no powers or circumstances whatever, external to ourselves, will ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, or consequently bar our attainment of our final inheritance. Divine omnipotence combined with omniscience on the one hand, and human free-will on the other, joining together for a great purpose - 'eternity'. Proverbs 1:32, says the prosperity of the saints shall never be their ruin:

The "Dead" in Christ Share in Christ's Divinity and Glory

1 Corinthians 6:17: But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. There is a liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, in which we must stand fast. Our body is for the Lord; and is to be an instrument of righteousness and holiness, therefore, is never to be made an instrument of sin. The hope of a resurrection to glory should keep Christians from dishonoring their bodies by fleshly lusts. And if the soul is united to Christ by faith, the whole child of God is to become a member of his spiritual body. Our bodies have been redeemed from deserved condemnation and hopeless slavery by the atoning sacrifice of Christ. We are to be clean, as vessels fitted for our Master's use. Being united to Christ as one spirit, and bought with a price of unspeakable value, the believer should consider himself as wholly the Lord's, by the strongest ties.

1 Peter 5:1: **So I exhort the elders among you, as a**

fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed. Here, Peter describes our privileges to partake in the glory that shall be reserved and revealed when we go back to our abode to receive our last reward of the crown of glory. In Luke 9:30 it says Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. This has some obvious reference to the transfiguration of Christ upon the mount, where his beloved apostles were present, and witnessed the glory of Christ together with Moses and Elijah. However at the second coming of Christ, he shall appear in his glory, to the saints a glory which shall be both upon body and soul.

The communion of saints is what we profess in the Apostles Creed. For example, Jesus answered to one of the criminals on the cross when he asked for a help - 'remember me when you enter into your Kingdom'. In spite of Jesus Christ paining and bleeding on the cross, he was moved by the prayer of his fellow on right hand side of his cross. In Luke 23:43 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.' Here, it is clear that one will never face death.

Similarly, Jesus said in Mark 12:36-27 **I am the God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are physically dead and yet their souls are alive in Christ.** Prophet Elisha performed miracles, an after death marvelous deeds. 2 Kings 13:21 says, Elisha died and was buried, At the time, bands of Moabites used to raid the land each year. Once some people were burying a man, when suddenly they spied such a raiding band. So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet. Elisha even after death performed miracles. Yes, those who live and believe in Jesus WILL NEVER DIE. (John 11:23)

Luke 16:19-31 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my

tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead'" This story illustrates once we cross the eternal skyline, wait for Lord's mercy and there is no other way to escape from the appointed places. **Whenever believers die, mansions will be ready in heaven to receive them.** Notice the rich man knew he was in hell, and he knew the reason. Most importantly, the rich man in hell was able to speak to the father of believers - Abraham. This is a prayer to a saint, Abraham. Here, **Abraham one who is in heaven can hear the voice from hell.** Rich man's prayer from hell was not for saving himself but his request and prayer was about his brothers' salvation. **If Abraham can hear the voice from hell then certainly God also can hear the voice from hell and can certainly react to their prayers.**

The rich man's prayer to Abraham justifies praying to the departed. There will be a day when those in earth who hate and despise God's people, would gladly receive mercy from them.

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, John 3:18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath. These passages confirm that after death the believers' souls are taken to heaven, because their sins are forgiven by having received Christ as Savior.

According to a believer, death is to be “away from the body and at home with the Lord” and it proves in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord and Philippians 1:20 It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

Moreover, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 says What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. These verses describe believers being resurrected and given glorified bodies. It means while the souls of believers are with Christ immediately after death, the physical body remains in the grave “sleeping.” At the resurrection of believers, the physical body is resurrected, glorified, and then reunited with the soul. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the possession

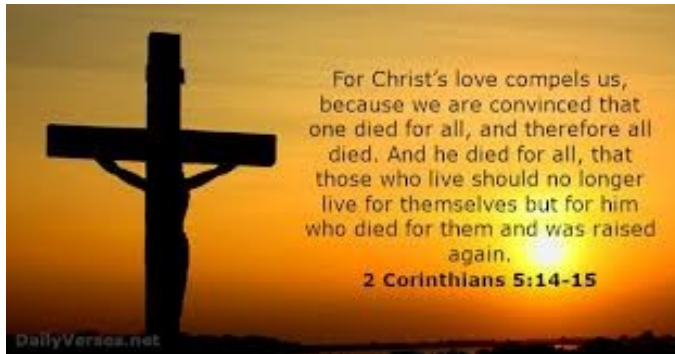
of believers for eternity in the new heavens and new earth as mentioned in Revelation in 21 and 22

On Easter Sunday, all believers celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. It is the greatest victory, life over death. John 3:14 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him”. The Son of Man must be lifted up, according to the Word of God, it is a celestial necessity. It would be better to understand the person who is called the “Son of man”. The phrase “Son of man” is found many times in the Old Testament scriptures. It means Man on the earth with all his weakness and frailty that is inherent in human nature. In (John 3:14) the title “Son of Man” refers



to the Lord Jesus Christ”. He takes this title and thus identifies Himself with humanity. In the New Testament, “the Son of man” is the designation that Jesus Christ and all writers most frequently applied to Jesus while here on earth. It relates Him to the earth and establishes His absolute identification with mankind. He was truly man naturally and physically like all men. But, He is also truly God being the Son of God. While here on Earth, He was both God and man in one person. 1 Timothy 3:16 says “Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindi-

cated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.” His humanity was perfect morally, possessing the quality of sinlessness, unlike that of any other man. Since “The Son of Man must be lifted up” there are many lessons can learn from the “lifting up” of the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ and the most important work is the ‘The divine exchange of Jesus Christ on the Cross’



One of the most important work completed by Jesus is that He removed the power and works of death. It was a ‘divine need’ to overcome the consequences of sin which is mentioned in Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death” and Ezekiel 18:20 “The one who sins is the one who will die.” It was the God's redemption plan that the Son of Man should taste death for every believer Hebrews 2:9 says “By the grace of God He tasted death for every man”. It says also, 1 Peter 3:18 “Christ ... suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God”. Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. It is a graphical representation of Jesus Christ being lifted up on the cross. He was dying in our place, paying the price we should have paid. Moreover, he does not want us to die or He does not want us to lose the glory or the grace of God. When He hung upon that cross, He was carrying our heavy load of sins. He substituted our sins with His Grace and Glory. Hallelujah. Does this touch your heart? Have you ever considered what Jesus did for you? Have you ever stopped to consider that He died for you personally? Do you believe that He tasted death on your behalf?

Numbers 21:8-9 says “The Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live”. “It came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived”. This leads us to the other point we want to consider regarding the divine exchange of the Lord Jesus Christ:

The bitten Israelites did two things to survive their death sentence. First, they repented of their sins. They said in (Numbers 21:7) “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord”. Second, they “looked and lived”. It says in (Numbers 21:9) “It came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. This leads us to the third point we want to consider about the “lifting up”, the “cross work”, of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here, it is proved that everyone who looked at Jesus will be radiant and will have eternal life. Whoever has seen the face of God, they will never be ashamed or blamed, instead they all will be radiant.

The Divine exchange of Jesus Christ is the only way to overcome death. If you believe, Jesus defeated death then you will be saved and death never will come upon you. Hallelujah.

Praying for the Dead

“They turned to prayer, beseeching that the sin which had been committed might be wholly blotted out.

And the noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin”

According St. Philip Neri ‘any number of suffrages (prayer for dead) sent to the Lord can be either rejected or accepted by God but the offer of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass is unconditionally accepted as an offering by the God for the remission of the sins of everyone, including the departed. And therefore, my humble request is to attend or participate in the Requiem Mass’.



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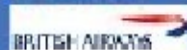
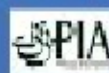
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Recent Achievement

The congregation of Grace Community is joining the Catholic Church in the Latin rite, due to the earnest endeavors of evangelization of Kadosh Marian Ministries under the guidance and blessings of Rt. Rev. Dr. Selvister Ponnumuthan, the Bishop of Punalur Diocese .



Kadosh Marian Ministries Chairman Dr. Thomas George is addressing the honorable bishops to introduce Grace Community



Grace Communities officials and Kadosh Marian Ministries representatives along with all Latin Bishops



Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Kalathiparambil, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Verapoly, is congratulating Dr. Thomas George for his best endeavors to bring about this welcome change.

KADOSH MARIAN MINISTRIES WITH MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF FRANCIS DE SALES, ROME

We have the joy of intensifying our work of evangelization and social development in Africa in collaboration with the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (MSFS). As a positive step towards this collaboration, we work together with the Mission Development of MSFS based in Rome through its director Rev. Thomas Varghese Chozhithara. He will be also assisting us as the spiritual advisor for our Ministry. We are initiating missionary activities in the continent of Africa under the guidance and supervision of our advisor Rev. Thomas Varghese Chozithara. Needless to mention that we must provide funds for the activities in Africa. We have been authorized by the Charity Commission of England and Wales to extend our area of operation in Africa also.



Picture taken on his visit to London on 7th Dec 2019 to meet officials of our ministry



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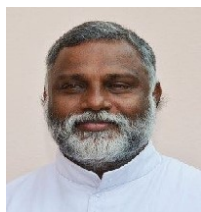
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