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Started in 1988

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MALAYALAM CONGREGATION, KALYAN

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Presbyter in Charge

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The Promise of the Empty Cross & the Empty Tomb.

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

... *"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"* Mark 16:5-7

Lent, Holy week and Easter are very much integral and most celebrated period in the life of a believer. More than realizing the real meaning of the season we are into a mode of celebration. Recently came across this story, A young man was about to graduate from High School. It was the custom in that neighborhood for the parents to give the graduate an automobile. Rony and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation, they found the perfect car. On the eve of his graduation, his father handed him a gift wrapped Bible. Rony was so angry that he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again. It was the news of his father's death that brought Rony home again. As he sat one night going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him. He brushed away the dust and opened it to find a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation - in the exact amount of the car they had chosen together. As I thought about this story, I couldn't help but wonder how many people in this world have done the same thing to God. Literally tossed aside a wonderful promise, because they didn't understand it, or they didn't believe that it was possible. The world around us is filled with empty promises that is not true. But the only living God has filled our lives with promises which are true and can be fulfilled by God alone. But at times we fail to recognize those real promises. That is what we even witness at the empty cross/tomb. Because the cross was empty, we have the promise of forgiven sins. It was on that cross that Jesus Christ offered his perfect, sinless life on behalf of each one of us. No one else, not Moses or Abraham, not David or Isaiah, not Muhammad or Buddha, no one else has ever lived perfectly and then offered his/her perfect life for our salvation. That is why the Bible tells us that *there is no other name given under heaven by which we can be saved*. When Jesus Christ breathed his last, he cried out; "It is finished." The penalty was paid. On that cross – that empty cross – It was there, that his blood was spilt for our salvation. Before that fateful Friday, God could open the books and look up each name, and written in black were the words – "guilt of sin." But when Jesus went to the cross, God literally transferred our accounts to His name. On that day, across every name he wrote 'in

Jesus blood’-“Forgiven-Forgiven -Forgiven.” The first “empty promise” of Easter is the empty cross – filled with the promise of forgiven sins. For, in the fact of the empty tomb is the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise to every one of us that we too will be raised to eternal life. A father and son were traveling one afternoon, when suddenly a bee flew in the window. Being deathly allergic to bee bites, the boy began to panic as the bee buzzed all around inside the car. Seeing the horror on his child’s face, the father reached out and caught the bee in his hand. Soon, he opened his hand and the bee began to buzz around once again. Again, the boy began to panic. The father reached over to his son, and opened his hand showing him the stinger still in his palm. “Relax, son,” the father said, “I took the bite, and the bee can’t hurt you anymore.” The empty tomb is God’s way of saying to us; “Relax, my child, I took the bite, death can’t hurt you anymore.” This season is the time to remember the promise of forgiven sins; the promise of eternal life; and the promise of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This world will take back all the empty promises but what stays along with us is the promises from the empty cross and the empty tomb. Let us not take this season for granted. Look around the creation where we can see the rays of hope, prompting us to listen to the final promise. Romans 10:13 – “for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Accept God’s promises in your life, than it’s late. Reminded of the lines by the famous Clergyman & author Philips Brooks on Easter:

Tomb, You shall not hold Him longer,
Death is strong, but life is stronger
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right;
Faith and hope triumphant say; Christ will rise on Easter Day.

While the patient earth lies waiting
Till the morning shall be breaking
Shuddering beneath the burden dread
Of her Master, cold and dead,
Hark! she hears the angels say; Christ will rise on Easter Day.

And when sunrise smites the mountains
Pouring light from heavenly fountains
Then the earth blooms out to greet
Once again the blessed feet;
And her countless voices say; Christ has risen on Easter Day.

Wishing you all a blessed Holy week and a meaningful Easter in advance.

God Bless You !

Levin Achen



Resignation/ Election of Hon. Secretary: Hon. Secretary Mr. K. David Jacob has submitted resignation from the post of Hon. Secretary & as PC Member. The Pastorate Committee accepted the resignation and unanimously elected Mrs. Pearly Kurien as the new Hon. Secretary of our Church. Please note the change and request to contact Mrs. Pearly Kurien for any official matters.

Lenten Season Worship Service will be held on all Wednesdays at Church at 7.30pm, please do pray and attend the worship service. If anyone would like to conduct the prayer service at home on Wednesdays please inform in advance.

Important Note Regarding the Financial Year Ending

- All the **communicant members** are requested to pay all their dues on or before **March 31, 2016** to the Church Treasurer.
- **Youth fellowship** members are requested to pay Rs.200 as their *yearly subscription* to the Youth Secretary *Ms. Rinju Reji* on or before 31st March, 2016.
- **Women's Fellowship** members are requested to pay their yearly subscription on or before 31st March, 2016 to Women's Fellowship Treasurer *Mrs. Mini David*.
- **Vanchika** should also be submitted on or before March 31st 2016.

Mr. T. M. George
Treasurer

Holy Week Special Worship Services*

| Date | Service | Time <i>*will be informed later</i> | Remark |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|
| 24 – 03 -16 | Maundy Thursday | Evening | HC Service |
| 25-03 - 16 | Good Friday | Morning | |
| 27-03-16 | Easter | Early Morning | HC Service |

| Programmes for the Month of March - 2016 | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Date / Time</i> | <i>Programme</i> | <i>Venue</i> |
| 6 - 03 - 2016 1.00pm | Pastorate Committee | Church |
| 6 - 03 - 2016 12.50pm | WF Meeting | Church |
| 09 - 03 - 2016 07.30pm | Lenten Season Service | Church |
| 11 - 03 - 2016 10.00am | Fasting Prayer | Church |
| 12 - 03 - 2016 6.30pm | Cottage Prayer | Mrs. Beena Viju Nav-Jyoti Complex, Behind Sai Prasad Hotel, Near Pournima, Kalyan W |
| 16 - 03 - 2016 07.30pm | Lenten Season Service | Church |
| 23 - 03 - 2016 07.30pm | Lenten Season Service | Church |
| | | |

| SUNDAY/SPL SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Service</i> | <i>Remark</i> |
| 13- 03 - 2016 | 11 am | Holy Communion Service | Tithe Sunday / Passion Sunday |
| 20- 03 - 2016 | 11 am | Holy Communion Service | Palm Sunday |
| 24 - 03 - 2016 | | Holy Communion Service | Maundy Thursday |
| 25 - 03 - 2016 | | Matins | Good Friday |
| 27- 03 - 2016 | 6.30am | Holy Communion Service | Easter |
| 03 - 04 - 2016 | 11 am | Holy Communion Service | |

Readings for Lenten Special Worship Services on Wednesdays'

09 - 03 - 16 Exodus 3: 1-15; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-12; Psalm 103; Luke 13: 1-9

16 - 03 - 16 Joshua 5: 9 -12; 2 Corinthians: 5: 7-21; Psalm 34; Luke 15: 11-32



23 - 03 - 16 Isaiah 43: 16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; Psalm 126; John 8:1-11

Called to *Serve*
Lectors

| Date | 1 st Lesson | 2 nd Lesson | Psalms |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 13 | Kunjappi Samuel | Ajo John | Mariayama Varghese |
| 20 | Sijo Varghese | Sheeba Shaji | Mary Mathew |
| 27 | Jithu Mathew | Siju Johnson | Lisha Moncy |
| 03 April | Simon John | Mariamamma Cherian | Jijy Bency |



| Date | Greeters | Elements | Offertory |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 13 | Kunjappi Samuel & Family | Moncy G. Mathai | Sheela Varughese & Family |
| 20 | P. Joseph Jacob & Family | Vijendra Babu | Rajan Chandy & Family |
| 27 | T. M. George & Family | K. K. Varghese | Mr. Vincent Paul & Family |
| 03 April | Bony Kurien & Family | Varghese Mathew | Bency Varghese & Family |
| | | | |

| BIRTHDAYS  | | WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES  | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mar 06 | Mr. Ajo John | Mar 06 | Mrs. & Mr. Kunjappi Samuel |
| Mar 06 | Mstr. Christo Varughese | | |
| Mar 10 | Mr. Vijendra Babu | | |
| Mar 12 | Mr. P. Joseph Jacob | | |
| Mar 15 | Mrs. Mary Mathew | | |
| Mar 19 | Mrs. Sheeba Shaji | | |
| Mar 21 | Mr. Blessen Thomas | | |
| Mar 25 | Mrs. Ammini John | | |
| Mar 27 | Mrs. Mariamma Cherian | | |
| Wish you all a blessed and fruitful year ahead... | | | |

Pastorate Committee

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Rev. Levin Koshy (Chairman) | - | 9833015967 |
| Mrs. Pearly Kurien (Hon. Secretary) | - | 8879583407 |
| Mr. T. M. George (Hon. Treasurer) | - | 9820274873 |
| Mr. Vincent Paul | - | 9920056368 |
| Mr. Moncy K. Varghese | - | 8691091093 |
| Mr. Joji T. Jacob | - | 9702715936 |
| Mr. Vijay Cherian | - | 9892879606 |
| Mr. Rajan Chandy | - | 9920921726 |
| Mrs. Raina Prince | - | 8291739719 |

Important

contacts

ROTA FOR THE PASSION WEEK – MARCH 24 -27, 2016

Lectionary

March 24, Thursday : Maundy Thursday

Theme: Eucharist: Communion of Suffering Humanity

Exodus 12: 1 - 7

1 Cor. 11: 23 - 34

Psalms 116

Mark 14: 17 - 25

March 25, Friday : Good Friday

Theme: Cross: Accomplishment of Salvation

Exodus 14: 15- 22

Hebrew 13: 8 - 17

Psalms 22

John 19: 23 - 30

March 27, Sunday : Easter

Theme: Resurrection: Celebrating Boundless Transformation

II Sam. 22: 1- 20

1 Cori. 15: 20-28

Psalms 16

Mark 16: 1-11

| Date | 1 Lesson | 2 Lesson | Psalms |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| March 24 | K. Johnson | Rinju Reji | Jessy Jose |
| March 25 | Aleyamma George | Daisy Mariam Jacob | Mini David |

| Date | Greeters | Elements | Offertory |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| March 24 | Mr. Shaji Varghese & Family | Thomas Sam Paul | Mr. Jojoy T. Jacob & Family |
| March 25 | - | - | Cherian Thomas & Family |

LECTIONARY – March



March 13: 2nd Sunday before Easter / Passion Sunday

Theme: Cross and a New Paradigm to Discipleship

Gen. 26: 12 - 33 2 Cori. 11: 21 – 31

Psalms 92 Mark 10: 46 – 52

March 20: Palm Sunday

Theme: Hosanna: Lord Save Us

Zech. 9: 1 - 12 I Tim. 4: 6 - 16

Psalms 118: 19 -29 Lk. 19: 29 – 40

March 27: Easter

Theme: Resurrection: Celebrating Boundless Transformation

2 Sam. 22: 1 – 20 I Cori. 15: 20 - 28

Psalms 16 Mark 16: 1 – 11

April 03: 1st Sunday after Easter

Theme: Empowered by the Risen Lord

Gen. 28: 10 – 22 Acts 20: 7 - 12

Psalms 29 John 20: 11 – 18

You were given
THIS LIFE
because you're
strong enough
to live it.

The *angel* said to
the women,
"Do not be afraid, for I know
that you are looking for
Jesus,
who was **CRUCIFIED.**
He is not here;
He has *Risen*



This issue of *PARISH JOURNAL* is sponsored by:

Mr. John Varghese & Family

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