

Volume-15 Issue: 11,12 November-December 2019 For Private Circulation only



Jubilee Voice

Jubilee Malayalam Church



Thought for the year 2019: Year of Spirituality

"Religion/ Faith that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James. 1:27)

Jubilee Malayalam Church

Registration Number: E 8750

Plot-3, Sector-7, Sanpada East, Navi Mumbai – 400 705

Website: www.jubileemalayalam.org

Service Schedule

Date	Sanpada 07.00 am	Panvel 11.00 am
03.Nov.19	H.C	Combined Service
10.Nov.19	Harvest Festival- H.C (03.00 pm)	Combined Service
17.Nov.19	Union Service- Pune (10.30 am)	Union Service- Pune
24.Nov.19	Holy Qurbana- Marthoma Service	H.C
01.Dec.19	H.C	H.C
08.Dec.19	H.C	Matins
15.Dec.19	Matins	H.C
22.Dec.19	H.C (English)	H.C (English)
25.Dec.19	Christmas Service- H.C (06. 30 am)	Christmas Service- H.C
29.Dec.19	H.C	H.C
31.Dec.19	Watchnight and New Year Service- H.C (10.30 pm)	Combined Service

Organizations

Sunday School	On every Sunday	08.30- 09.30 am
Youth Movement	On every Second and Fourth Sunday	09.00- 10.00 am
Choristor's Association	Choir Practice on every Saturday	06.00-08.00 pm
Women's Fellowship	On every second Saturday	04.30- 6.00 pm
Atmaya Fellowship	On every Tuesday	07.30- 09.00 am

Cottage Prayer

Date	Residence	Time
23.Nov.19	Mr. Ashok Abraham, Panvel	05.00 pm
24.Nov.19	Mr. Mathews Philip, Kharghar	07.00 pm
01.Dec.19	Mr. Sudeep Rupin Philips, Nerul	05.00 pm
08.Dec.19	Mr. Bobby Mathew Ninan, Sanpada	05.00 pm
28.Dec.19	Mr. T. C. Issac, Panvel	05.00 pm
29.Dec.19	Mr. Shaji Thomas, Vashi	07.30 pm

Friday Prayer

Date	Place	Time
08.Nov.19	Panvel Worship Centre	07.30 pm
29.Nov.19	Sanpada Jubilee Church	10.00 am
06.Dec.19	Panvel Worship Centre	07.30 pm
27.Dec.19	Sanpada Jubilee Church	10.00 am

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Dear People of God

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy".

God decided to speak to some Gentile men. The Bible does not tell us who they were. Doubtless they were students of the stars and probably some of the wisest men of their time. The Bible says they saw a star in the East, which they knew to be the star of Christ. Upon seeing that star, they became excited and made the journey to Jerusalem so they might inquire about the birth of the Messiah. This star led them to Christ. It told the wise men that the Christ had been born. Then they went to Jerusalem. They traveled through the arid desert country. No doubt it was a difficult trip, but they would not be stopped. They inquired as to the place of the Messiah's birth. Ultimately they were taken to the scribes and told that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem. As they proceeded toward Bethlehem, the star appeared, leading the way to the Christ. We ought to be like that star leading people to Christ, always showing the way to Him. The star attracted their attention. The word of God taught them the exact details. The light led them to the Christ and stopped there. The light of every Christian needs to lead others to Christ. Do not lead people to church buildings or programs and leave them there, but lead them to Christ. The wise men knew that God was leading, and they rejoiced when they saw the star. They finally arrived at the house where Jesus was. They entered the house. They did not hesitate; they immediately came to Him and fell down before Him and worshiped Him. They had found the revelation of God. The wise men worshiped the baby Jesus. Theirs was not curiosity gratified but devotion exercised. We also must worship the Savior, or we will never be saved by Him. He has not come to put away our sins and then to leave us ungodly and self-willed. Oh, you have never worshiped the Christ of God, may you be led to do so at once. He is God over all, blessed forever Adore Him. Dear Lord, we are often blind to your leadership and deaf to our responsibilities as your children. Help us to follow the light of your leadership, and give us wisdom and that revelation in our lives. May we apply in our daily lives the wisdom that comes from your Word and from the Holy Spirit. For the glory of Jesus, Amen.

May God Bless You and Our Church
Ora et Labora- Pray and Labour

Rev. Aby K Thomas
Presbyter-in-charge
95940 72145, 97443 49381

Thanks

The November-December issue of Jubilee Voice is sponsored by **Mr. Sajan J George & family**. We pray for this family and express our gratitude to them and we pray that let the family see the wonders and marvelous ways of God

Previous Month's Highlights

Choir Sunday: Our church had observed the Choir Sunday on 01 September 2019. Choir members lead the service and they presented a special song at the service. Let God use them more the days to come.

Union Sunday School Retreat: The Sunday School Bombay-Pune Union Retreat and Kalamela was held at Christos Marthoma Church, Thane on 02nd September, 2019. St. Mary the Virgin CNI Malayalam Church, Parel hosted the event, we appreciate the tiresome work of their Committee and Sunday School. Mast. Jeremy Jowin got second prize for Memory Verse and third prize for Coloring. Miss. Niya Josey won first prize for story telling and Mast. Josh George won third prize for Solo singing. Congrats to them and thanks to all participants and for teachers for their attempt. Vasai, Parel, and Pune Churches won the overall championship first, second and third places respectively.

Union Women's Fellowship Retreat: The Women's Fellowship Retreat and Kalamela of our Union of Malayalam Churches in Mumbai and Pune was held on 2nd October at St. Paul's CNI Malayalam Church, Vakkola. Eighteen women's fellowship members attended the meeting from our Church. Mrs. Ashish E George bagged the third prize for Bible reading. Our women's fellowship members got third prize for group singing, the participants were M/s Shiny Sabu, Lini Paul, Sara Oommen, Stivy Philip, Shiny Sam, Betsy Mathews, Ashish E George, Bindu Mary and Blessy Merlin Philip. The church congratulates all the participants of various events and winners. Along with the participants M/s Liji Babu, Saramma Issac, Susha John, Molly B George, Nirmala Joseph, Siby Bobby, Mariam Simon, Sheena Johnson, and Sinu Ashok also joined for the Retreat.

Pulpit Change Sunday: Rev. Sam N Joshua, Vicar of our Kalyan Church lead the Pulpit Change Sunday Service at Sanpada and Panvel. Vegetables from our Titwala Shalom Mission land were auctioned after the service.

Youth Sunday: This year Youth Sunday Service was held on 06th October 2019. Youth members have taken the leadership in the service. Ms. Sharon John delivered the message. Thanks to all of our youth members for their leadership in the church affairs.

Stewardship Seminar: The Bombay Diocese conducted the Stewardship Seminar for Malayalam Churches at St. Pauls CNI Malayalam Church, Vakkola, on 8th October 2019. The theme was 'Towards a Self Reliant Church'. Mr. Biju George of our church have lead the theme presentation. Seventeen members from our church participated in this program. Ours was the highest attendance and thanks to all the participants.

Youth Social Engagement: Our Youth Fellowship members visited Bless Home, Panvel, on 19th October 2019. They have contributed some financial support for this home and spend a valuable time with the inmates who are HIV affected boys. Let us continue to pray for these children. Thanks to all youth members for their effort and engagement.

National Youth Conference: The Second NYC was held at CHAI Training Centre, Hyderabad from 25-27. Our youth members attended this conference. Thanks to all of them.

Upcoming Programs

World Sunday School Sunday: November 03, 2019, Sunday, is observed as World Sunday School Sunday. The Church gives thanks for the service of our Sunday School Teachers. All the best wishes for all our Sunday school students for a better learning about the Bible. Our Sunday School children and teachers will lead the service.

Fish Pickle Preparation: As done every year, we will be having our fish pickle preparation on 03rd November, 2019, Sunday at Vashi Farm House. The Church requests all of your participation. Our Management Committee Members, Women's Fellowship and Youth Fellowship members will be giving leadership for the same.

Harvest Festival: Our Harvest Festival Service will be held on 10th November, 2019, 3.00 pm. Rev. Rejeev Sugu, the vicar of our Vakkola Church will be the preacher and the celebrant. Requesting your presence and active participation in the service and auction.

Akhloli Mission Visit: Our Atmaya Fellowship is organizing a Mission Visit on 12th November, 2019, at our Akhloli church. Those who are interested to join, kindly give your name.

Union Worship: Mumbai- Pune Malayalam Churches Union Worship will be held on 17th November 2019, at Pune Church at 10.30 am. Rev. Dr. Prinstone Ben, Dean of Misiology, Union Biblical Seminary, Pune will be the chief guest.

Unity Sunday: November 24, 2019, Sunday is observed as C. S. I - C. N. I- Marthoma Conciliar Unity Sunday. We are having a Unity Service with the Nerul Marthoma Church in Marthoma Holy Qurbana Order at Sanpada at 07.00 am. Immanuel Marthoma Church, Nerul members will be worshipping with us. Rev. Dr. Salomon K, Vicar MTC Nerul will be the celebrant and speaker.

Jubilee Union V.B.S: Joint V.B.S of our four Congregation of the Jubilee Church will be commencing from 28th October to 03rd November 2019. Send your children for the V.B.S and pray for the V. B. S. Ministries all over India.

Christmas Carol Service: This year Christmas Carol Service will be held on 15th December, 2019, Sunday at 6.00 pm in Jubilee Church Sanpada. Rev. Dr. John George, the vicar of Marthoma Church Chembur will be the chief guest. Our Carol Choir will be presenting the carols. The theme of this year Carol is, '*Your Light has Come*'. All are welcome.

Christmas Carol Rounds: We will be having our Carol Rounds from December 16-22, 2019. The time and other details will be informed later. The Church desires all of your participation in this event. Let us sing that the Christ is born.

Christmas Service: As usual, we will be having the Christmas Service at 06.30 am at Sanpada and at 11.00 am at Panvel. Expecting all of your presence.

Watchnight and New Year Service: The Year Ending and New Year Service will be held on 31st December, 2019, Monday at 10.30 pm at Sanpada. Kindly make the day possible with your family.

Diocesan News

Mumbai Diocesan Council: The Bombay Diocesan Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on 22-23, November 2019 at St. Peter's School Mazgaon. Requesting B.D.C Members to take part in this meeting.

C.N.I Formation Jubilee Year: Church of North India celebrates her Jubilee Year in 2020. The Synod is organizing an inaugural session for one year long celebration of CNI formation at Nagpur on 29th November, 2019, at All Saints Church, Nagpur.

C. N. I Day: This year C.N.I. Day celebration will be held on 01st December 2019 at St. Mary's the Virgin Church, Parel at 5.30 pm. Those who wish to join kindly do participate.

Missionary Meeting: The diocese is organizing a Missionary Meeting On 06th December at The Church of Bretheren CNI, Dhanu at 09.30 am. Those who interested can join for this meeting.

Church Calendar

- 01. November. 2019- The All Saints Day
- 02. November. 2019- The All Souls Day
- 03. November. 2019- World Sunday School Sunday
- 24. November. 2019- C.N.I.-C.S.I-Marthoma-Unity Sunday
- 29. November. 2019- C.N.I Formation Day
- 30. November. 2019- St. Andrew, the Apostle and Martyr
- 01. December. 2019- Advent Sunday
- 08. December. 2019- Bible Sunday
- 25. December. 2019- Christmas
- 27. December. 2019- St. John's Day

Prayer Requests

1. Rev. N. C. David, C.B.D Belapur (For Good Health)
2. Mr. George Cherian, F/o Mr. Rijo George Oommen, Panvel (For Good Health)
3. Mr. Shaji Thomas, Vashi (For Good Health)
4. Mr. Bino Oommen, Kharghar (For Good Health)
5. Mr. John Samuel, Kopar Khairane (For Good Health)
6. Mr. Issac T.C, Panvel (For Good Health)
7. Mr. Solomon Samuel, Kharghar (For Good Health)
8. Mrs. Susan Samuel, Kharghar (For Good Health)
9. Mrs. Joyce Mathai, Nerul (For Good Health)
10. Mrs. Saramma David, C.B.D Belapur (For Good Health)
11. Mrs. Annamma George, M/o Mr. Thomas George, Airoli (For Good Health)
12. Mrs. Sosamma Thomas, M/L Mr. Uday Nianan, Kopar Khairane (For Good Health)
13. Mrs. Lillian Stephens, M/o Mr. Malcom , Kopar Khairane (For Good Health)
14. Mrs. Annamma Joseph, Thane (For Good Health)
15. Mrs. Geetha Philips, M/o Mr. Sudeep Philips, Nerul (Undergoing Dialysis)
16. Dr. Mrs. Usha Joshua, w/o Bishop Joshua, (Recovering from Cancer)
17. Mr. Shyam Gorath & family, our missionary in Akhloli Village

In Memoriam

24.12.2013	Mr. Varghese Mathew K	62 years	Kharghar
15.12.2017	Mr. Baby Oommen	90 years	Kharghar

Sunday Scripture Lessons for November & December 2019

2019 November, 03, Sunday
Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday School Sunday
Be Holy

Leviticus. 19: 1-4
 1 Peter. 1: 13 - 21

Psalm. 139
 Matthew. 18: 1- 10

2019 November, 10, Sunday
Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost
Harvest Festival
Thanksgiving for the Harvest

Deuteronomy. 26: 1- 11
 2 Corinthians. 9: 6- 15

Psalm. 65
 John. 6: 26- 35

**2019 November, 17, Sunday
Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost
Union Service of Malayalam Churches
Vine and Branches**

Ezekiel. 37: 15- 23
1 Corinthians. 12: 12- 27

Psalm. 133
John 15: 1- 8

**2019 November, 24, Sunday
Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
C.S.I-C.N.I-Marthoma Unity Sunday
Called to Unite**

Ezekiel. 37: 15- 23
Ephesians. 4: 1- 13

Psalm. 133
John. 17: 21- 26

**2019 December, 01, Sunday
Advent Sunday**

Be Prepared at all Times for the Lord's Appearing

Isaiah. 2: 1- 4
Romans. 13: 11- 14

Psalm. 96
Matthew. 25: 1- 13

**2019 December, 08, Sunday
Second Sunday in Advent
Bible Sunday**

Holy Scriptures: Source of Encouragement and Hope

Isaiah. 40: 1- 11
Romans. 15: 4- 13

Psalm. 107
Luke. 4: 16- 21

**2019 December, 15, Sunday
Third Sunday in Advent**

John the Baptist: Model for Christian Ministers

Isaiah 11: 1- 9
1 Corinthians. 4: 1- 5

Psalm. 72
Matthew. 3: 1- 12

**2019 December, 22, Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Immanuel: God with Us**

Isaiah. 7: 10- 17
Galatians. 4: 1- 7

Psalm. 89
Matthew. 1: 18 - 25

**2019 December, 25, Wednesday
Christmas Day**

The Birth of the Saviour: Word Made Flesh

Micah. 5: 2- 4
Titus. 3: 4- 7

Psalm 98
Luke. 2: 1- 16

**2019 December, 29, Sunday
First Sunday After Christmas
Family Sunday
Family Life**

Zechariah. 8: 1- 6
Colossians. 3: 12- 21

Psalm. 128
Matthew. 2: 13- 23

2019 December, 31, Tuesday
Year Ending Service
God's Continuing Covenant with All

Genesis. 9: 8- 17
 Galatians. 4: 21- 31

Psalm. 145
 Luke. 2: 15- 21

**Scripture Reading, Peace,
 Elements & Offertory–Sanpada**

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson
03.11.2019	Miss. Aksha Susan Ashok	Ms. Sarah B George	Mast. Abel Paul
10.11.2019	Mr. Sam Thomas	Mrs. Stivy E. J	Ms. Ruby Maria Pise
01.12.2019	Mr. Roy Koshy Philip	Ms. Anila W. S	Mr. Sajjan J George
08.12.2019	Mr. Thomas George	Mrs. Nirmala John	Ms. Aleesha Ann Philip
15.12.2019	Mr. Biju C Alex	Dr. Roselet Winford	Mr. Akash Joseph John
22.12.2019	Mr. M. George Joseph	Mrs. Shobha Shaji	Mr. Bino Oommen
25.12.2019	Mr. K. O. John	Mrs. Lini Paul	Ms. Sharon John
29.12.2019	Mr. C. G. Thomas	Mrs. Helen Jacob	Mrs. Lavina V. John
31.12.2019	Mr. V. M. Y. John	Mrs. Betsy Mathews	Ms. Neha Varghese

Date	Peace	Elements
03.11.2019	Mrs.Siby Bobby & Mr.Roy Koshy Philip	Mrs. Sinu Ashok & Mr. Sam Thomas
10.11.2019	Mr. & Mrs. K. K. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Kurien
01.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. John Issac	Adv. & Mrs. Chandy Kurien
08.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Itty Varghese	Dr. & Mrs. Jowin Jacob William
22.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Sanjay Joseph David	Mr. & Mrs. Mathews Philip
25.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Mathew Ninan	Mr. Mrs. Thariyan George
29.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Monzy Tharian Varghese	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Paulose
31.12.2018	Mr & Mrs. Roshin James	Mr. & Mrs. W. K. David

Date	Offertory	Offertory
03.11.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Aman Shaji
10.11.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Snehid Mammen Sabu
01.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Reyaan Roshin
08.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Vian Chandy Alex
15.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Eethan Jacob George

Date	Offertory	Offertory
22.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Ms. Niya Geetha Josey
25.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Zephan Jacob David
29.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Ryan Philip Mathew
31.12.2019	Mr. Reuben Kurien	Mast. Tanish Monzy Tharian

Scripture Reading, Peace, Elements & Offertory–Panvel

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson
24.11.2019	Mr. Reyan Paul Simon	Mrs. Rajee David	Ms. Leah Johnson
01.12.2019	Mr. David James	Mrs. Liji Babu	Ms. Mariam Simon
08.12.2019	Mr. K. K. Johnson	Mrs. Sinu Ashok	Mr. Elvin Issac Jacob
15.12.2019	Mr. Ashok Abraham	Mrs. Shiny Sabu	Mrs. Bindhu Mary Kuriakose
22.12.2019	Ms. Hephziba David	Ms. Ruby Maria Pise	Ms. Aksa Susan Ashok
25.12.2019	Mr. Sabu Varghese	Mrs. Saramma Issac	Mrs. Rachel John
29.12.2019	Mr. Simon Philip	Mrs. Shiney Sam	Mrs. Dency Binil

Date	Peace	Elements
29.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Sabu Varghese	Mr. K. Babu
01.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Thomas	Mr. Simon Philip
15.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. David James	Mr. Sabu Varghese
22.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. Johnson Gabriel	Mr. Binil Mathai
25.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. K. K. Johnson	Mr. Ashok Abraham
29.12.2019	Mr. & Mrs. T.C. Issac	Mr. K. K. Johnson

Date	Offertory	Offertory
24.11.2019	Ms. Ruby Maria Pise	Mast. Kevin Johnson
01.12.2019	Ms. Nova Merlin Aby	Mast. Ansel Abraham Ashok
08.12.2019	Ms. Anaina Babu	Ms. Ruby Maria Pise
15.12.2019	Ms. Aksa Susan Ashok	Ms. Pearl Pise
22.12.2019	Ms. Leah Johnson	Mr. Elvin Issac Jacob
25.12.2019	Mast. Jeffy John	Ms. Hephziba David
29.12.2019	Mast. Kevin Johnson	Ms. Aksa Susan Ashok

BIRTHDAYS- NOVEMBER 2019**Birthday Wishes**

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph.2:10)**

Date	Name	Contact Number
01.Nov	Ms. Sharon John, Koparkhariane	97699 61641
01.Nov	Mr. John Issac, Panvel	98928 10922
02.Nov	Mrs. Bindu Alex, Nerul	72088 67638
08.Nov	Mrs. Bindu John, Panvel	99303 65732
08.Nov	Mrs. Divya Jibin, Kamothe	99697 16707
09.Nov	Mrs. Ponnamma Cherian, New Panvel	99670 27734
09.Nov	Rev. Aby K Thomas, Ulwe	97443 49381
10.Nov	Ms. Nimitha Liz Alex, Nerul	90048 26220
12.Nov	Mrs. Molly John, Vashi	98928 10922
14.Nov	Mrs. Laly Mary John, Nerul	98210 77426
15.Nov	Mr. Sony Abraham Kurien, Sanpada	98952 89096
19.Nov	Mr. Vipin Varghese, Adai	99300 30552
20.Nov	Mr. Bobby Varghese Itty, Nerul	97024 26543
22.Nov	Mrs. Marina Chandy, Vashi	70451 86369
23.Nov	Mr. Gnaniyan Abraham Paulose, Kamothe	99697 16707
24.Nov	Mrs. Stivy. E. J, Nerul	84335 01358
24.Nov	Mrs. Dency Binil, Ulwe	90748 54769
25.Nov	Mr. Dan Koshy George, Nerul	96196 29167
27.Nov	Mr. Sanjeeth Edwin, Chembur	99300 55409
27.Nov	Mast. Fabio Gibin Abraham, Kamothe	99697 16707
29.Nov	Mrs. Saramma Issac, Panvel	98195 97630
29.Nov	Mr. Sam Thomas, Kamothe	95947 90355
30.Nov	Mrs. Lilly Varghese, Kharghar	98193 25884

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES- NOVEMBER 2019
Anniversary Greetings
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through
the bond of peace (Eph.4:3)

Date	Name	Contact Number
10. Nov	Mr. & Mrs. P.M. Thomas, Kamothe	97699 55698
17. Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Lopez Issac, Panvel	88984 43043
24. Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Justin John. K, Sanpada	71 65523479
27. Nov	Mr. & Mrs. Vipin Varghese, Adai	99300 30552

BIRTHDAYS- DECEMBER 2019

Birthday Wishes
May He give you the desire of your heart and
make all your plans succeed (Ps.20:4)

Date	Name	Contact Number
01. Dec	Mrs. Susan Samuel, Kharghar	97693 93061
04. Dec	Mrs. Lorraine Sharon Oommen, Nerul	98200 57779
04. Dec	Ms. Sanaya Shaji, Vashi	88796 39143
05. Dec	Mr. Jacob William, Vashi	98920 59371
05. Dec	Mast. Kenneth Feryl Philips, Nerul	77383 80140
06. Dec	Mast. Josh Mathew George, Nerul	96196 29167
07. Dec	Mr. Bino Oommen, Kharghar	99303 67066
08. Dec	Dr. Varghese Cherian, Vashi	93222 84976
08. Dec	Mrs. Rajee David, Panvel	96733 31452
12. Dec	Mr. Mathews Philip, Kharghar	96196 00499
12. Dec	Mrs. Mary Joseph, Vashi	77386 80334
15. Dec	Mast. Ansel Abraham Ashok, Panvel	98923 86920
16. Dec	Mr. Akash Joseph John, Koparkhairane	9619131201
20. Dec	Mr. Justin John, Sanpada	971 65523479
20. Dec	Mast. Felix Justin John, Sanpada	971 65523479
21. Dec	Mrs. Anita Samuel, Sanpada	974 55071930
22. Dec	Mr. M. George Joseph, Nerul	98698 45182
25. Dec	Mrs. Liji Babu, Old Panvel	98693 75542
29. Dec	Mrs. Lavina V. John, Kharghar	96640 51602

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES- DECEMBER 2019
Anniversary Greetings
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:13)

Date	Name	Contact Number
18. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Dr. Sagar D Parab, Powai	77386 46325
26. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. John Issac, Vashi	98928 10922
26. Dec	Rev. & Mrs. Aby K Thomas, Ulwe	97443 49381
27. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. David James, Kharghar	99693 14125
27. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Babu K, New Panvel	98193 27616
28. Dec	Capt. & Mrs. Anish Joseph, C.B.D Belapur	98472 29295
29. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Mathai, Nerul	98190 82881
29. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Rohan Jacob Abraham, Nerul	98690 38440
30. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Malcom J Stephen, Koparkhairane	99204 99099
31. Dec	Mr. & Mrs. T.C. Issac, Panvel	98190 65565

Church of North India- Golden Jubilee Year (2020)

The Church of North India (CNI), the dominant United denomination in northern India, is a united church established on 29 November 1970 by bringing together the Anglican and Protestant churches working in northern India; it is a province of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It is the successor of the Church of England in India along with the Church of Pakistan and the Church of South India. The merger, which had been in discussions since 1929, came eventually between the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and the Ceylon (Anglican), the United Church of Northern India, (Congregationalist and Presbyterian), the Baptist Churches of Northern India (British Baptists), the Church of the Brethren in India, which withdrew in 2006, the Methodist Church (British and Australian Conferences) and the Disciples of Christ denominations. The CNI's jurisdiction covers all states of the Indian Union with the exception of the four states in the south (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and has approximately 1,250,000 members (0.1% of India's population) in 3,000 pastorates.

History

Ecumenical discussions with a view to a unified church was initiated by the Australian Churches of Christ Mission, the Methodist Church of Australia, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Church of Northern India during a round table meeting in Lucknow in 1929. A negotiation committee was set up in 1951 using the plan of Church Union that resulted from the earlier consultations as its basis. The committee was composed of representatives from the Baptist Churches in Northern India, the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, the Methodist Church (British and Australian conferences), the Methodist Church in Southern Asia and the United Church of Northern India (UCNI). The Methodist Episcopal Church, however, did not join the discussions and, in 1981, it became the Methodist Church in India

In 1957, the Church of the Brethren in India and the Disciples of Christ denominations joined in the negotiations as well. A new negotiation committee was set up in 1961 with representatives from all the above-mentioned denominations. In 1965, a finalised plan of Church Union, known as the 4th Plan of Union 1965, was made. The union was formalised on 29 November 1970 when all the negotiating churches were united as the Church of North India with the exception of the Methodist Church in Southern Asia, which decided not to join the union.

Motto Of CNI

The Motto of the Church of North India is, Unity- Witness- Service. It states that CNI is a United and Uniting Church, it shows its public witness to the nation, and the Church is always at the front for the service of humankind in its core, which was Jesus Christ instructed us to do.

General Information

Diocese	Headquarters
Agra	Agra
Amritsar	Amritsar
Andaman & Nicobar	Port Blair
Barrackpore	Barrackpore
Bhopal	Bhopal
Bombay	Bombay
Calcutta	Calcutta
Chandigarh	Ludhiana
Chattisgarh	Raipur
Chotanagpur	Ranchi
Cuttack	Cuttack
Delhi	New Delhi
Durgapur	Durgapur
Eastern Himalaya	Darjeeling
Gujarat	Ahmedabad
Jabalpur	Jabalpur
Kolhapur	Kolhapur
Lucknow	Allahabad
Marathwada	Aurangabad
Nagpur	Nagpur
Nasik	Nasik
North East India	Shillong
Patna	Patna

Phulbani	Kandhmal
Pune	Pune
Rajasthan	Ajmer
Sambalpur	Sambalpur

Diocese	27
Bishops	27
Presbyters	2,500
Pastorates	3000
Membership	15 Lakh
Hospitals	65
Nrsing Schools	9
Educational Institutions	550
Technical Schools	3

Reputed Educational Institutions

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 La Martiniere, Calcutta
 Wilson College, Mumbai
 St. James School, Calcutta
 Hislop College, Nagpur
 St. John's College, Agra
 St. Stephen's College, New Delhi
 Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
 Sherwood College, Nainital
 St. John's Diocesan Girl's School, Calcutta
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Jhabua Mission Rev. Biju Kunjummen

St. James CSI Church, Bhopal, started a new Mission field in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh since April 2019. Deep Singh, one of the youngsters from this district accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior Lord. While working in Bengaluru in some job, he deeply felt the need to work among his people. Thus, he left his job and decided to work as a Missionary in Jhabua. At present, he is working among the children at places like Bedavalli, Dudaka, Attarwalia, Khosalia, Navapada and Dhanya. There are about 5 Tuition Centers in which about 200 children get tuition in evening classes. All these works are going on with the help and support of the faithful in the Church as well as few well-wishers. Prayers of all the faithful are requested.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL – AN OCCASION TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Mrs. Marina Chandy, Vashi

Introduction

We celebrate the Harvest Festival in our Churches every year. Harvest Festival is a Jewish tradition based on (Lev. 23:10) and (Deut. 26:2,3) in obedience to God's commandment. The first fruits of the harvest of the land are brought to the priest as a thanksgiving offering to the Lord God. The Harvest is the climax of sowing and reaping in an agrarian economy. But in the modern, urban economy, we must offer the best we can from the fruits of the work of our hands as a token of our gratitude for His abundant blessings.

Biblical Basis of Harvest Festival

The Triune God created the entire universe and gave man dominion over the entire creation. Everything belongs to God Almighty and we are the stewards. We have to give honour and glory to God by offering the first fruits of all produce of the earth. God sends the former and latter rains for seeds to germinate and thereafter to yield a good crop. He thus provides food for every living creature from His bounty.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep His commandments, His ordinances and His statutes. When you have eaten your fill, have built fine houses, and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and all that you have multiplied, then do not exalt yourself forgetting the Lord your God... Do not say to yourself, 'my power and might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth'. But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..." (Deuteronomy 8: 11-18)

God himself commanded harvest thanksgiving as a reminder that all things come from Him and that all we have is sourced from God's provision. Our offertory prayer curled from David's prayer of thanksgiving as he received overwhelming donations from the people for the building of the temple sums it up. "Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty. For everything in Heaven and on the earth is yours. All things come from you and of your own do we give you" (I Chronicles 29: 11ff).

Three Major Harvest Seasons

Three major harvest seasons are identified in Deuteronomy 16: 16. 'Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place he chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, at the Feast of Tabernacles and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed'. The entire family generally observes the festivals of God, including women and children (Nehemiah 8: 1-12).

Feast of Remembrance

God's seven biblical festivals (Feasts of remembrance) are also contained with the three major harvest seasons:-

1. Passover (PESACH) Exodus 12: 1- 4; Leviticus 23: 5; Numbers 9: 1- 14.
2. Unleavened bread (HAG HAMATZOT) Exodus 12: 15 -20; Deut. 16: 3, 4, 8
3. First Fruits (YOM HABIKKURIM) Ex. 23: 16, 19; Levi. 23: 9-14. Deut. 26: 5-10
4. Weeks (HAG SHAVOUT Greek: Pentecost) Ex.34: 22; Levi.23:15-21; Act 2: 14
5. Trumpets (ROSH HASHANA) Leviticus 23: 23-25; Numbers 29: 1-6.
6. Day of Atonement (YOM KIPUR) Leviticus 16: 1-34; Numbers 29: 7-11
7. Tabernacles also called Feast of shelter (SUKKOTH) Levi. 23: 33-38, 39- 43

Harvest Festival: Worshiping the Lord in Gratitude

These feasts were commanded to be regularly and diligently observed as a constant reminder of man's tiny place in creation and that his whole being is dependent on God's mercies and goodness. Of the 7 feasts, the feast of first fruits was celebrated at the beginning of harvest as a commandment from God (Lev. 23: 10). Israel as a chosen and model nation was particularly commanded to observe these feasts as a continual reminder of God's mighty acts in their affairs. .

In realization of this fact, David sang in Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and do not forget all his benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities. Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagles..."

As we reflect on the words of the Psalmist in our daily experiences of God's mercies and goodness, it is pertinent for us to come before the Lord with praises and gifts, for He is our Maker and we are graciously the sheep of His pasture. The New Testament also reminds us that " Give and it will come back to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured out into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38). "For the Lord loves a cheerful giver." (2Cor.9: 6-7). Therefore, Harvest Thanksgiving is a worship in obedience to His commandments. We must observe this with all seriousness.

Conclusion

Harvest Thanksgiving is a jubilant time in many Churches today. Many Churches depend on harvest proceeds for the execution of major projects in the Church. Some people come with animals, crops and vegetables, etc. While some others come with cars, buses or give large sums of money. In our Church, some years back, the making of fish pickle was introduced as an activity by the women's Fellowship and it was a success and being continued in many of our Churches. In the euphoria of harvest celebration, we need to stop and ponder on the essence of Harvest Thanksgiving. Many a times in the frenzy of an activity, the sanctity is lost. Therefore, when we make fish pickle as part of our harvest festival we must not treat it as a mere physical or commercial activity, but maintain its sanctity with prayer and gratitude to our Creator.

Evergreen Carols Mr. Bino Oommen, Kharghar

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22nd December. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived.

Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In 129, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Another famous early Christmas Hymn was written in 760, by Comas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church. Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write 'Christmas carols'. However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in! The new carols spread to France, Spain, Germany and other European countries.

The earliest carol, was written in 1410. Sadly only a very small fragment of it still exists. The carol was about Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem. Most Carols from this time and the Elizabethan period are untrue stories, very loosely based on the Christmas story, about the holy family and were seen as entertaining rather than religious songs. They were usually sung in homes rather than in churches! Traveling singers or Minstrels started singing these carols and the words were changed for the local people wherever they were traveling.

When the Puritans came to power in England in 1640s, the celebration of Christmas and singing carols was stopped. However, the carols survived as people still sang them in secret. Carols remained mainly unsung until Victorian times, when two men called William Sandys and Davis Gilbert collected lots of old Christmas music from villages in England.

Before carol singing in public became popular, there were sometimes official carol singers called 'Waits'. These were bands of people led by important local leaders (such as council leaders) who had the only power in the towns and villages. They were called 'Waits' because they only sang on Christmas Eve (This was sometimes known as 'watchnight' or 'waitnight' because of the shepherds were watching their sheep when the angels appeared to them.), when the Christmas celebrations began.

Also, at this time, many orchestras and choirs were being set up in the cities of England and people wanted Christmas songs to sing, so carols once again became popular.

New carols services were created and became popular, as did the custom of singing carols in the streets. Both of these customs are still popular today! One of the most popular types of Carols services are Carols by Candlelight services. At this service, the church is only lit by candlelight are held in countries all over the world.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The text was written by Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), an Episcopal priest, then rector of Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia and later of Trinity Church, Boston. He was inspired by visiting the village of Bethlehem in the Sanjak of Jerusalem in 1865. Three years later, he wrote the poem for his church, and his organist Lewis Redner (1831-1908) added the music. Redner recounted the story of his composition: As Christmas of 1868 approached, Mr. Brooks told me that he had written a simple little carol for the Christmas Sunday-school service, and he asked me to write the tune to it. The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. We were to practice it on the following Sunday. Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, 'Redner, have you ground out that music yet to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? I replied, 'No,' but that he should have it by Sunday. On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused about the tune. I thought more about my Sunday-school lesson than I did about the music. But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868.

Advent Season

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". The Latin word *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives, in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year. Advent commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Associated with Advent was a period of fasting, known also as the Nativity Fast or the Fast of December. Since approximately the 13th century, the usual liturgical colour in Western Christianity for Advent has been violet. In the Anglican Church, the readings of Holy Communion on the Sundays of Advent have distinct themes:

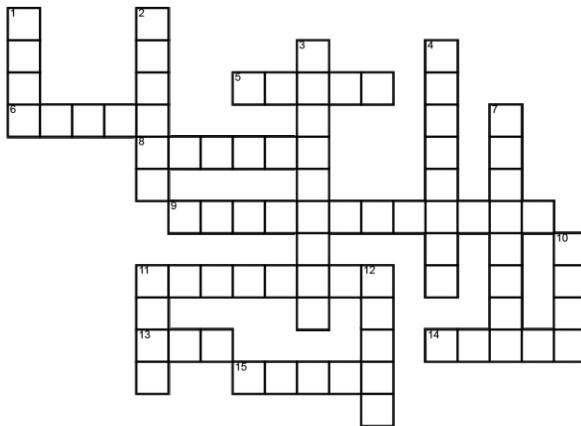
1. On the First Sunday (Advent Sunday), they look forward to the Second Coming of Christ. The readings for the first Sunday in Advent relate to the Old Testament patriarchs who were Christ's ancestors

2. On the Second Sunday, the Gospel readings for the second Sunday concern prophecies related to Christ's birth in a manger.

3. On the Third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), the Gospel reading is about John the Baptist, who came to 'prepare the way of the Lord'.

4. On the Fourth Sunday, the Gospel reading is about the events involving Mary and Joseph that led directly to the birth of Jesus.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 5 The ____ withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)
- 6 You are the ____ of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt. 5:14)
- 8 The chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are _____. (Isaiah 53:5)
- 9 For this is the love of God, that we keep his _____? (1 John 5:3)
- 11 For the time has come for _____ to begin at the house of God. (1 Peter 4:17)
- 13 If we say we have no _____, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)
- 14 Do not rejoice when your _____ falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles. (Proverbs 24:17)
- 15 For by _____ you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:8)

Down

- 1 First King of Israel? (1 Samuel 9:17)
- 2 Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than me is not _____ of me. (Matt. 10:37)
- 3 Plants which Reuben brought to his mother Leah; and Rachel asked for some. (Gen. 30:14)
- 4 Pursue peace with all people and _____, without which, no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)
- 7 For I give you good _____: do not forsake my law. (Proverbs 4:2)
- 10 We ought to _____ God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)
- 11 But the _____ shall live by faith. (Habakkuk 2:4)
- 12 The name of the Lord is a strong _____; the righteous run to it and are safe. (Proverbs 18:10)

Children, fill the crossword and give it to your Sunday School teacher, next Sunday, 10 Nov 19. This is for intermediate students

Shepherding: (Go)spelling Against the Currents

Introduction

The Church as a journeying community travels a long distance and offers a new heaven and earth. By saying so, we should keep in mind that, we are affirming the human agency behind the new heaven and earth along with the divine anticipation. Being a channel of change the church always plays a role of corrective force, which prompts us to dream for this new heaven and earth. It is in this context, as sojourners of faith the shepherding role should be reexamined constructively, critically, and contextually with the lens of suspicion.

In John 21:15-19, Peter is being encountered by the risen Jesus. Here Jesus is commissioning Peter for the leadership. The metaphor Shepherding comes from the Old Testament time, where the community submits its hope to the leader and trusts in them whether they are Judges, kings or the prophets, often resembles to involve ruling, subordinating the sheep. It is in this milieu, we need to relook the very essence of shepherding.

A. Shepherd: A Call to Encounter the Wolves of the Time

The Shepherding is not a saving missionary activity, but it is an effort encountering the dominant order and power. Ched Myers an American theologian specialist in biblical studies and political theology rightly puts it, "that the term 'fishers of men' does not refer to missionary activity, it is not an activity of 'saving souls', but rather it refers an effort to overturn the existing order of power and privilege". This we can see in several Biblical characters. For example, Moses found his calling not at the Pharaoh's palace or in Egypt, but in Midian, not from the center but from the periphery. Why God did not call a prince Moses, but a shepherd Moses? It was not a call from the power center, but from the powerless margin. If he would have use the dominant power, and then the whole history of Israel would have changed in another way. He did not use the power of the palace, he did not use his relationship from his elite locale, he did not use the comfort of his life and he did not use the caste card for the liberation and emancipation of the Israelite community. If he would have used his power politics, negotiation was possible, the adjustment was possible, and mediation was possible. The leadership that Israelite experienced comes from a person who doesn't have any address, it has come from a person who led the life with the sheep, and it has come from uncomforted social setting, it is not coming from the palace, bishop house or not from any other comfort zone, but from the outskirts of the society. When Moses said, 'let my people go', it was not a spoon feeding and the tamed pastoral voice rather a word from a courageous shepherd who was representing the power of the powerless people, and later he was leading the Israelites into the dangerous realities of the desert.

As a German New Testament scholar Joachim Jeremias rightly puts it "shepherd's life in Israel was despised with stereotypical victimhood, they are the people who are not allowed to come closer to the holiness of the Israelites spirituality, they are the wandering deserted community, a second class citizen, socially unacceptable category, and they were technically recorded as sinners".

Therefore, the shepherds are considered as malignant and the people of displaced. Jesus was reestablishing the imagery of the shepherd, questioning the authority, and the power; dismantling the perception of the unjust society. Jesus was reclaiming the soul legacy of shepherding of resistance. He called his disciple from the outskirts of the society, people who did not have 'traditional moorings', people who did not have any importance in the 'temple culture', people who are 'outspoken', and people who are termed as the 'so-called sinners'. But they were all courageous enough to dare the order. Therefore, Jesus is expecting such a leadership quality from Peter, encounter the dominant order.

In most of our theological endeavors we are freezing out these marginalized people, somewhere in the backyard, and we are running after the wise men, shining star, virgin birth, cool breeze, praises of angels so on and so forth. But we need to remember that, it is through these shepherds, the whole world move up and down. Have we ever considered these shepherds valuable in the whole process of 'Gospelling' of the Good news? Why aren't we ashamed to neglect the role of these sidelined people who are faithful and courageous in developing a bold community to encountering the wolves of our time? This will lead us to the further discussion of shepherding.

B. Shepherd: A Call for Unveiling the Sacrificiality Model of Shepherding

Pope Francis said "shepherds have to live with the smell of the sheep, so that people can sense that priest". It is not the incense, not the perfume, not the smell of the currency, but it is the "smell of the sheep" which makes you a good shepherd.

Peter in his first letter is writing "a pastor is called to feed the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof as a shepherd, not as Lord, either in act or in the title but as an example to the flock (I Peter. 5: 2, 3). The Petrine church is demanding the 'sacrificiality' of the shepherd. This is what Johannine community is also dealing with. The Johannine community had read Jesus as a Sacrificial Shepherd who has come from God the almighty. This Johannine Model of Shepherd was accusing the institutional shepherds, who were an elite minority benefiting their life, discarding the justice of the majority, who were running away from the said characteristic of shepherding, leading the flock to liberation, who were neglected the public office of comforting, strengthening, and healing the weak and troublesome. Therefore the Johannine Jesus is saying 'all who have come before me are thieves and bandits, but I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep,' (John.10:8, 11).

It is in this sense, the whole idea of sacrificing shepherding needs to be reviewed. The author is elevating the aspect of love as 'commitment' and enthroning 'sacrificial love' as the perfect model of shepherding. The phrase 'feed my sheep' (*boske ta probatia*) indicates that Jesus expects a leadership from Peter which is similar what Jesus had shown to the disciple. Jesus challenged the spiritual commercialization, he bravely provoked the deformed temple priest, he confronted the fraudulent political leaders, and he courageously walked into the valley of homicide.

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