



PARISH BULLETIN

Carmel Mar Thoma Church, 467 River Rd, Hudson, MA 01749



Lent: A Journey to the Cross and Resurrection



From the Vicar's Desk

At the time of writing this letter we are well into the Lent season. As we journey through the lent, we heard the news of the dastardly killing of innocents who had gathered for worship in Christchurch, New Zealand. As the world came to terms with this heart-rending event, what stood out is the response of its government, media and citizens. Its Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, who is the youngest female head of state in the world and gave birth to her first child last year, rallied along with her citizens in an extraordinary show of compassion and solidarity with the victims. Although it is frustrating to think how much terrorism can affect the lives of innocents worldwide, such displays of humanity by the citizens of New Zealand show us how to respond to it. It has been a soothing balm for many of the victims and families who have been scarred for life. When hatred makes demons out of humans, it is such love and courage that makes people truly human. Love and truth can be crucified by hatred and a web of lies. But that will not be the end of it. Love will rise again. The truth that love triumphs over all hate will be plain for all to see.

The death and resurrection of our Lord teaches us about Christian hope. When our Lord was crucified, the world thought that it would be the end of Jesus. His disciples could have given up hope and surrendered to the forces of death and destruction. But Jesus came back to life. He appeared to multitudes and sent his disciples all over the world to be witnesses to his resurrection. Resurrection is the pivotal event that changed the life of the disciples. He turned their despair into hope. From fearful disciples they became fearless witnesses of Jesus' resurrection.

As we journey with Jesus this Lent, may the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus arouse in us the courage to live with hope, to believe in love and to be witnesses to his resurrection.

With this issue we hope to revive our parish newsletter after a long time. Mr. Binu Oommen is helping us in developing the content and publishing it on our website. With the coming of April, we are looking forward to the onset of spring. Very soon all our weekends at church are going to be filled with events. I encourage all our members to be an active part of all the events. This year we are taking special initiatives to revitalize all the organizations of our parish and to move ahead with renewed spiritual fervor.

May God resurrect our hope and love this spring season with the discipline of Lent and the joy of Easter.

Yours in Christ
Rev. Thomas John
Vicar
March 28th, 2019

Lectionary for the Month of April			
07 April - English Holy Communion			
Cross:A Model to discipleship			
Lessons	Gen 26:12-33	Epistle	2 Cor 1:3-11
	2 Chroni 11:20-31	Gospel	Mark 10:46-52
14 April -Malayalam Holy Communion-Theological Seminary Day			
Hosanna: Lord Save Us-Palm Sunday			
Lessons	Zech 9:1-12	Epistle	Heb 5:5-10
	1 Tim 4:6-16	Gospel	Luke 19:28-30
18 April -Malayalam Holy Communion-Maundy Thursday			
Passover Eucharist: Fellowship in the suffering of Christ			
Lessons	Exo 12:1-17	Epistle	1 Cor 11:23-34
	Heb 9:1-15	Gospel	Mat 26:1-16
21 April - English Holy Communion			
Easter: Celebration of Resurrection			
Lessons	Gen 23:1-19	Epistle	1 Thess 4:13-18
	Col 3:1-11	Gospel	Mat 28:1-10
28 April - Malayalam Holy Communion - New Sunday			
Proclaiming the Faith of the Church			
Lessons	Gen 28:10-22	Epistle	1 Thess 1:2-10
	Acts 20:7-12	Gospel	John 20:24-29

Lectionary for the Month of May			
05 May - English Holy Communion			
Resurrection experience that gives hope			
Lessons	Lev 25:1-17	Epistle	Gal 4:1-7
	Acts 7:54-60	Gospel	Mat 28:16-20
12 May -Malayalam Holy Communion			
Lord who Restores			
Lessons	Ezek 36:24-36	Epistle	Acts 1:12-14
	Rom 8:12-17	Gospel	John 21:1-14
19 May - English Holy Communion			
Commission by the Risen Lord			
Lessons	Jer 1:1-10	Epistle	2 Tim 2:1-8
	1 Tim 4:6-16	Gospel	John 21:15-19
26 May- Malayalam Holy Communion-Choir Sunday			
Lord who is worthy of Adoration			
Lessons	Exo 15:1-18	Epistle	Phil 2:1-11
	Rev 7:9-12	Gospel	Luke 10:21-24

“There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God.” –Alistair Begg

[Upcoming events at our Parish](#)

Sunday School

May 5	Sunday School exam	8.30 to 10am	Grades 5 to 10
May 19	Diocesan exam	12-1.30pm	Grades 5 to 10
June 14-16	VBS		

Young Women's Fellowship

Next meeting will be on April 26, 2019 at 6.30pm at church

Young Families Fellowship

Meeting of the Milford-Hopkinton area will be on May 3rd at 7pm. We are studying the Gospel according to St. Mark

The Young families Fellowship is planning to host an overnight camp at 24th and 25th of May at the La Salette shrine. More details will be announced later.

Sevika Sangham

Fasting prayer at parsonage at 10am on April 4th, 2019.

Cottage prayer at 2pm:

6 th April	Susan Raj	2 Hemingway Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Ph:508-792-6837
11 th May	Sukki P Cherian	52 Hollow Ridge Dr., Nashua, NH 03062. Ph: 603-718-8696

Parish

Lent prayers at residences:

April 5, 7 pm	Binu Oommen	24 Woodhaven Dr., Franklin, MA 02038 Ph:617-913-8223
April 6, 6.00pm	Willy Isaac C.	4 Robin Cir, Tolland, CT 06084 Ph:860-871-2023
April 12, 7pm	Bobbe Simon	12 Paddock Ln., Lexington, MA 02421 Ph: 781-862-0194
April 13, 5.30pm	Santhosh Mathew	3 Leach Ln, Ashland, MA 01721 Ph:508-202-9641

Passion week services at church:

April 14	Sunday	10am	Palm Sunday Service (Malayalam)
April 15	Monday	7pm	Sandhya Namaskaram
April 16	Tuesday	7pm	Sandhya Namaskaram
April 17	Wednesday	7pm	Sandhya Namaskaram
April 18	Thursday	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service (Malayalam)
April 19	Friday	9am	Good Friday
April 21	Sunday	9am	Easter service (English)

Organizations	
Parish Study Forum	Dr. George Abraham- 508-868-9788
Sunday School	Mrs Saji Varghese- 978-319-3346
Youth Fellowship	Mr Paul Willy- 860-977-5120
Young Womens	Miss Sarah Varghese- 978-399 8997
Young Families	Mr Binu Oommen- 617-913-8223
Sevika Sangham	Mrs Thankam Vinu George- 781-866-1673
Edavaka Mission	Mr Rajan George- 339-222-4878
Choir	Mr Vinay Cherian- 978-394-1864

Past Events

Medical Mission Sunday

The parish observed February 7th, 2019 as the Medical Mission Sunday. Various medical professionals from our parish helped in the Worship. Dr. Annie Abraham gave the message for that day on continuing the healing ministry of Christ. The theme for the day was *Holistic healing given by Jesus*. The offertory collected that day would be sent for in aid of the hospitals run by the Mar Thoma Church.

Young families fellowship – get-together and future plans

With a view to revitalize the Young Families Fellowship and chart out our future course of action a get-together and brainstorming meeting was held on February 9, 2019 at 12.30pm at the residence of Mr. Binu Oommen and Mrs. Sheba. The event started with songs and couple games. Kochamma led the kids' session whereas Achen led a session for the parents on God's design for family as shown in the creation accounts in Genesis. After that we discussed various plans for the future course of action which included get-togethers, area-wise Bible study, overnight camp, mission and outreach programs.



"Continuous effort -- not strength nor intelligence -- is the key to unlocking our potential." –
Winston Churchill

Young Women's Fellowship

The young women of our church came together to form the Young Women's fellowship. Its inaugural meet was held on January 11th, 2019 at the church. It comprises of women from ages 14-40 who want to gather together for a time of spiritual fellowship and study. Meetings are now held once a month on a Friday at 6.30pm at church. After a time of songs and prayer and activities we spend time in an interactive story-based bible study. It has been an enriching experience for all who attend.



Youth Retreat

A year-end youth retreat of the parish was held on 30th January, 2018. It was attended by 30 youths. It had a times of singing and games and sessions led by Achen and Kochamma. It was a good time of meditating from the Bible and also catching up with friends who were home for the vacation.

Students ministry

The Mar Thoma Students' Ministry meets twice a month at the Sacred Space, Ell Hall, Northeastern University. Students from Northeastern, Boston College, Boston University, MCPHS, Beth Israel and some working youths across different churches and nationalities attend the meetings.



“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.”- **Elisabeth Elliot**

Parish Study Forum

The Parish Study Forum was conducted on February 3rd after worship. Dr. John Mathai and Dr. George Abraham led the study. ‘Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: The Marvel of a Cell of the Human Body’ was the topic for the study.

Pulpit Exchange

Our Diocesan Sunday and Pulpit exchange was held on March 3rd, 2019. Rev. Prince Varghese led the Holy Communion Service and gave the message for that day. Our vicar led the services at St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY that day.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer was organized by the Sevika Sangham on March 9th, 2019 from 10am-12pm. It was attended by 60 persons from our parish and neighboring parishes.

“Come, everything is ready” (Luke 14:15-32) was the theme and Slovenia was the country highlighted this year. A liturgy comprised of various prayers, songs and monologues highlighting the plight and needs of the people of Slovenia was used. Fr. Pinto Paul, Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries, gave the message for the day.



Episcopal visit

Our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos visited our parish on March 24th, 2019. 10 children took their First Communion during the Holy Communion service led by Thirumeni.



“The greatest mistake we can make is to stay on the ground after falling.” -Victor Manuel Rivera

From the Trustees

Thank you for your valuable contributions. They have been helping in the various needs of our parish, mission and charity.

So far, we have provided financial aid to 4 requests for medical aid this year.

This year, with upgrades to our accounting software, we would be able to provide an update to the members about their individual contributions in their email every quarter.

Upcoming special offertories

The offertories taken for the following Sundays will be sent to the Sabha for these particular objectives

April 14	Hosanna Sunday	For the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary at Kottayam, Kerala.
May 5	<i>Bhoo bhavana danam</i> (Home for the homeless)	Metropolitan's fund for building houses for the homeless
May 26	Sacred Music Sunday (Choir Sunday)	for Department of Sacred Music and Communications

Other special collections

Rasissa (\$2 per adult) and *uposhana vaaram* (self-denial) will be collected during the passion week services.

Collections for the church upkeep fund is underway. It will help us to complete the ongoing maintenance work and other upcoming projects for later this year.

Kindly approach the trustees to contribute for the above needs.

Mr. Mathew Chacko

Treasurer

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“The love of Christ always helps us see beyond the faults of others.” -**Victor Manuel Rivera**