

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

(CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA)

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017



(For Private Circulation Only)

Almanac and Lectionary: April 2017

Date	Theme & Readings	Liturgical colour
<p>Sunday, 2 April 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>2nd Sunday before Easter Theme: The meaning of the death of Christ. O.T. : Isaiah 50:4-10 Psalm : Psalm 89:19-22,34-39,49-50 Epistle : II Corinthians 5:11-19 Gospel : John 11:45-53</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 70</p>	Violet
<p>Sunday, 9 April 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>Sunday before Easter Theme: Christ enters Jerusalem to offer his life for the salvation of the world. O.T. : Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm : Psalm 24:3-10 Epistle : Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel : Matthew 21:1-9</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 74</p>	Red
<p>Monday, 10 April 2017 Worship Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday before Easter Theme: The meaning of the death of Christ. O.T. : Isaiah 42:1-7 Psalm : Psalm 27:2-5,13-14 Gospel : Luke 19:41-48</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 84</p>	Violet
<p>Tuesday, 11 April 2017 Worship Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday before Easter Theme: Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. O.T. : Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm : Psalm 71:1-2,9-12 Gospel : Mark 14:1-9</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 86</p>	Violet
<p>Wednesday, 12 April 2017 Worship Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday before Easter Theme: Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. O.T. : Isaiah 50:4-10 Psalm : Psalm 55:12-14,20-22 Gospel : Luke 22:1-6</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 88</p>	Violet
<p>Thursday, 13 April 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Thursday before Easter Theme: Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment and institutes the Lord's Supper. O.T. : Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 Psalm : Psalm 116:1-2,12-19 Epistle : I Corinthians 11:23-29 Gospel : John 13:1-17,34-35</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 90</p>	White

<p>Friday, 14 April 2017 9 a.m.</p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>Good Friday Theme: The victory of the cross.</p> <p>Meditations on the Seven Sayings of the Saviour on the Cross.</p>	<p>Black</p>
<p>Saturday, 15 April 2017 Dawn Service: 6 a.m.</p> <p>Easter Eve</p>	<p>Easter Eve O.T. : Hosea 6:1-6 Psalm : Psalm 30 Epistle : Romans 6:1-11 Gospel : John 2:13-22</p>	<p>White</p>
<p>Sunday, 16 April 2016 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m. & 9 a.m.</p> <p>Easter Day</p>	<p>Easter Day Theme: The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia! O.T. : Exodus 15:1-2,19-21 Psalm : Psalm 118:1-2,15-18,22-23 Epistle : Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel : John 20:1-18</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 104</p>	<p>White</p>
<p>Sunday, 23 April 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>First Sunday after Easter Theme: Joy and peace, power and new life are given through the Resurrection of Christ. 1st Reading: Acts 2:41-47 Psalm : Psalm 118:19-26 2nd Reading: I Peter 1:3-9 Gospel : John 20:19-31</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 108</p>	<p>White</p>
<p>Sunday, 30 April 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Second Sunday after Easter Theme: Witness to Christ's Resurrection. 1st Reading: Acts 2:22-32 Psalm : Psalm 30:1-4,12-13 2nd Reading: I Peter 3:13-18 Gospel : Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 110</p>	<p>White</p>
<p>Sunday, 7 May 2017 Holy Communion Services: 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Third Sunday after Easter Theme: The Good Shepherd. 1st Reading: Acts 2:32-41 Psalm : Psalm 23 2nd Reading: I Peter 2:19-25 Gospel : John 10:1-10</p> <p>Refer to <i>Readings for Sunday Worship</i> ~ page 114</p>	<p>White</p>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the Cross of Christ I glory

Englishman Sir John Bowring is considered as one of the greatest linguists of all time. He could converse in more than 100 different languages. He served two terms in the House of Commons. In 1854, the year he was appointed as the governor of Hong Kong, he was also knighted by Queen Victoria for his remarkable service to the nation. He was a prolific writer who wrote on diverse subjects like politics, economics and religion. He was also known as a financier and philanthropist. Despite all these achievements, today, Sir Bowring is known primarily as the writer of the hymn 'In the Cross of Christ I glory'.

Once he visited Macao, on the Chinese coast, and was mightily impressed by the sight of a bronze cross towering on the top of a huge wall. The bronze cross and the wall were the only remains of a great cathedral built by the Portuguese that was destroyed by a typhoon. The beautiful sight of this cross from the sea inspired Sir Bowring to pen the hymn:

In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering over the wrecks of time;
All the light of the sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

Indeed the cross of Christ towers over the wrecks of time and around it is gathered all the light of the sacred story. On Good Friday, and during the days leading up to it, we would be considering the message and the significance of the cross. The cross was not an accident. It was the very purpose for which Jesus came into this world. While all of us are born for the purpose of living, Jesus was born in order that he might die. The whole life of Jesus was one deliberate, conscious and steady walk towards the cross. Cross was central to the life of Christ. It is by the cross of Christ that we are saved.

The wonder of the cross is beautifully expressed by Elizabeth C. Clephane in the beautiful hymn that she wrote - 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus':

Upon the cross of Jesus Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears Two wonders I confess –
The wonders of His glorious love And my own worthlessness.

Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross for us. So, we must confess the wonder of God's amazing love and our own worthlessness. The vast gulf between God's greatness and our own worthlessness must cause us to wonder at the love of God. We must also commit ourselves to live under the shadow of that cross. The cross must tower over our lives. Let the attitude of the Apostle Paul as expressed in Galatians 6:14 be ours as well – "God forbid, I should glory in anything except in the cross of Christ."

**In His Grace,
Thomas Jacob**

NEWS & NOTES

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our King;
it is he who will save us.” Isaiah 33:22

Bombay YWCA: A history of the Bombay YWCA entitled “A saga of the YWCA of Bombay” written by Dr.M.D.David was released at the Colaba YWCA on 18 February.

Confirmation Classes: The Confirmation classes will start on 23 April. Interested candidates are requested to give their names.

Mission Sunday: 5 March was observed as Mission Sunday.

World Day of Prayer: 12 March was observed as the World Day of Prayer. Members of the WFCS led the service. The theme was ‘Am I being unfair to you?’ with special focus on the struggles of women in Philippines. Rev. Arpana Rangayya was the guest speaker.

Teens Meet: Teens and college students met on 12 March in the Parsonage with Rev.Thomas Jacob for a time of discussion on the topic ‘Peer Pressure’. Eight youngsters participated.

WFCS: The members of the WFCS visited the inmates of the Shepherd Widows’ Home, Byculla on 5 March.

QCCCS: The QCCCS children leaving Day Care Centre to join school will be presented gifts on 23 April during the worship service. QCCCS will close for summer to reopen in the second week of June.

Membership: We are happy to welcome and introduce our new member:
Ms. Smitha Tehilla Dhanaraj (Associate Membership)

Senior Citizens: We pray for all the senior citizens of our Church that our merciful God will give them good health and strength.

Sick & Homebound: We continue to pray for the sick and house bound members of our Church: Rani Biswas, David C. Matthew, Prakash Naik, Olga Nazareth, Priscilla Sinha, Promila David, Loolu Thomas, Padmini Abraham, Lizy Kurian, Judith Rallia Ram, Anitaa Thakur, Pushpa John and Sumitra Figueredo that God’s merciful healing hands be upon them and strengthen them.

“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”
Hebrews 9:28

Isaac Cladio
Hon. Secretary

HEARD FROM THE PULPIT

5 March 2017 ~ Mission Sunday

Theme: 'Christ commissions us to make disciples of all nations.'

Many Christians think that the beginning of mission is Matthew 28:19,20 where Jesus commissioned his disciples and said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." But God's mission started in Genesis 1 when God created the beautiful universe and entrusted to the humanity the responsibility of taking care of it. And when sin entered the world through the first couple in the Bible, God began the work of reconciliation. Through Christ God is reconciling all of his creation to himself and restoring to its original state (Colossians 1:15-20).

How do we make disciples of all nations? How can we help people to have faith in Jesus Christ? Paul writes in Romans 10:17: "... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." While God's mission is not concerned only about the spiritual dimension, it is nevertheless an important aspect. While living out the Christian faith is important in Christian witness, proclaiming the good news through words is also crucial. Mission is more than evangelising the world, but evangelism is also crucial. In the Old Testament, God chose Abraham and Israel to be the channel of his blessings to the whole world. Today, the church is God's channel of blessings to the world. The church must not, however, remain preoccupied with itself. We must be faithful witnesses for Christ wherever he has placed us so that those around us may come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

12 March 2017 ~ 5th Sunday before Easter

Theme: 'Christ gives the 'living water' of the Spirit.'

The Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus (John 4) is a familiar story. It starts with Jesus asking her for some water to drink. Soon Jesus offers 'living water.' From a literal level, Jesus moved to a metaphorical level. In verse 7, Jesus was asking for water, literally. A few verses later, in verse 10, he was offering 'living water.'

What is this 'living water' that Jesus talked about? In Judaism, 'living water' had four possible references: (1). It could be a reference to life or salvation (Isaiah 12:3; 35:6-7; 55:11-3; Jeremiah 17:13; Zechariah 14:8). As we would know, for the author of the Fourth Gospel – John – 'life' (eternal life) was the central theme.

(2). It could refer to cleansing or purification (Leviticus 14:5-6; Numbers 19: 17ff.).

(3). It could refer to the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 44:3).

(4). It could refer to divine wisdom or teaching (Proverbs 13:14; 18:4; Isaiah 11:9).

Just as the physical body needs water to survive, we need the 'living water' to spiritually nourish us. We need the 'living water' to cleanse us. We need the Holy Spirit to empower us and guide us in way of eternal life. We need the life-giving teaching of Jesus. As we turn to Jesus, he offers us life eternal. Without taking in the 'living water' that Jesus is offering us, we would never be quenched of our thirst.

19 March 2017 ~ 4th Sunday before Easter

Theme: 'Christ is the Light of the world.'

Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord..." (Ephesians 5:8f.) Now, Paul is not saying that his readers were once *in* darkness and now *in* light. While it would have been true that they were *in* darkness and are now *in* light, what Paul says here is more striking. Not only have their environment changed, but also their lives. So, now they were not merely living in light, but were actually light.

Earlier, in the same chapter, he had already warned them against leading sinful lives as that would bring God's wrath upon them. Now, he gives another reason for not getting involved in the evil conduct of unrighteous people. Here, it is not based on the coming wrath/judgment of God but on the past and present state of these believers. It is based on what these Christians in Ephesus once were and now are. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord."

Now that they are light, what does Paul expect from the Christians in Ephesus? And what is expected of us? He says three things: v.9 ~ "walk as children of light."

v.10 ~ "try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

v.11 ~ "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness."

26 March 2017 ~ 3rd Sunday before Easter

Theme: 'Christian living.'

In Ephesians 4:17-32, Apostle Paul describes what it means to live a life worthy of God's call. The essence of his message is that the Christians in Ephesus must no longer live as the Gentiles. Their daily living must reflect their new life in Christ.

Paul then goes on to describe the lives of unbelievers, before expressing how Christians must live. About the unbelievers, he said two things: That their thinking is futile and that "they are darkened in their understanding". Without Christ, our thinking and lives would be meaningless and futile, and we would not be able to see the truth.

Paul then contrasted the conduct of the old nature and the conduct of the new nature in Christ: v.25 ~ "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully..."

v.26 ~ "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..."

v.28 ~ "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."

v.29 ~ "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those listen."

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 ~ "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE

We thank God for the lives and faithful service of all those who passed away in month of April of earlier years.

YEAR	NAME
1890	FAUKLINE MATILDA
1893	RUBHORT ERNST
1912	WILLIAM LIONEL HERBER
1919	CECIL HASTINGS DOUGLAS
1931	CORKE HILDA MARY
1932	CHAMBERS ROBERT EDWARD
1933	CORKE ADA VIOLETTE MARIA
1935	SAMUEL LILY
1940	SALDER JAMES WILLIAM
1946	ROLFE WILLIAM
1972	JAMALUDDIN OLIVE
1986	LORO IRENE
1993	OVID PATRICK JOHN
1997	JACKSON OWEN PHILLIP
2007	BHIDE MANORAMMA
2008	SAMUEL ALEXANDER
2015	HANNAH SOANS
2015	MARGARET STRACHAN

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Worship Services on Sundays: Holy Communion (Said): 7 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Holy Communion (Sung): 9 a.m.**

Activity	Venue	Day & Time	Contact Person	Phone No.
Pastorate Committee Meeting	Parsonage	23 April 10.45 a.m.	Isaac Cladio	9869513872
Sunday School	PHCC	Sundays 9 a.m.	Beulah Tellis	9820432056
Choir Practice	Church	Thursdays 8.30 p.m. Sundays 10.45 a.m.	Vinod Kuriyan	9820239573
Bible Study	PHCC	Thursdays 7.30 p.m.	Rev.Thomas Jacob	9820736359
Teens & College students meet	Parsonage	Second Sundays of the month 11 a.m.	Rev.Thomas Jacob	9820736359
WFCS	PHCC	Fourth Sunday of the month	Silviya Marpu	9769565311
Youth Fellowship			Silas Stanley	9819648873
QCCCS: Day Care Centre & Study Centre	PHCC	Monday to Friday 9 a.m.to 4 p.m. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Sumitra Figueredo	26050229

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Rev. Thomas Jacob, Presbyter-in-charge	9820736359 / 26428803 presbyter@stephenschurch-bandra.com
Isaac Cladio, Hon. Secretary	9869513872
Sabina Solomon, Hon. Treasurer	9820080456
K.P. George, Hon. Jt. Secretary	9821074653
Vimla Philips, Hon. Jt. Treasurer	9892624886

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