



# St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

MARCH  
2016

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Pray for swift recovery of Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Nasir

**The Magnetism of the Cross** sermon preached by Rev Dr. Roger Gaikwad in our church on 17.3.16(**Isa.53:1-11; Jn.12:20-36**)

The term 'magnetism' highlights an important character of the cross of Jesus Christ; it pulls peoples, it draws human beings towards it, it attracts viewers, indeed the cross has a charisma. As Jesus says in John 12:32, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." The word magnet in particular has a very special scientific feature: "like" poles repel each other; opposite poles attract each other. And so it is with the cross, Jesus the godly human attracts ungodly humans; Jesus, the sinless one draws sinners. This magnetism of the cross is vividly expressed by the hymn composer who, as he is drawn to the cross, sings:

Upon the cross of Jesus  
Mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears  
*Two wonders I confess:*  
*The wonders of redeeming love*  
*And my unworthiness*



In the two biblical texts mentioned above, we see three important symbols through which the magnetism of the cross of Jesus impacts our lives and inspires us to follow Jesus' model in our own lives: Servant, Sheep and Seed.

### Servanthood of the Cross

Isaiah 53 is popularly known as a Servant Song. and carries our sorrows . . . But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole."(52: 4-5).A servant in Israelite society did not receive any wages; he/she was the property of the Employer. Though in the society of the times, the servant was to be given the due care of food clothing and shelter, Jesus in his life impressed upon the disciples that they should not expect any recognition or reward for their services:

“Will any one of you, who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘*We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.*’” (Lk.17:7-10)

#### The Sacrificial Sheep

A sheep in human cultural symbolism represents humility and meekness. In Israelite religious society, sheep symbolized sacrificial salvation. The sacrificial lamb assured protection and led to the liberation of the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt.

These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” (Jn 19:33, 36). John also tells us that Jesus was crucified on the "day of preparation" in John 19:31. That would seem to make Friday, the fourteenth of Nisan, the day of preparation, similar to the day of preparation which the Hebrews engaged in before the Lord passed over. Thus Jesus the sacrificial lamb was the Passover lamb of salvation!

#### The Life-giving Seed

John’s Gospel gives this third impressive image of what the crucifixion means. Death on the cross is not the end of life. It is the channel of new life for all. During his life time, Jesus himself presented a beautiful image of his death and resurrection with the analogy of a seed being buried in the ground and then germinating: “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”(Jn.12:24)

It is natural for humans to want to protect their lives from death. One does not want one’s life to cease. However, Jesus reminds us, “Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. “(Jn12:25) It is like a grain of wheat which prided itself in being kept in a museum show-case where visitors admired its appearance. The grain was glad that it continued to exist protected and hoped to last forever. However one sad day a worm got into the showcase and burrowed itself into the grain and reduced it to powder! However a seed which gives itself to the soil, will eventually be the mother of thousands of life-giving seeds.

#### The call to discipleship

The images of the servant, the sheep and the seed are magnetic! They impact us as we seek to follow the steps of Jesus Christ. On a wall in his bedroom, Charles Spurgeon had a plaque with Isa 48:10 on it: “I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.” Commenting on it Charles Spurgeon declared:

We are chosen not in a palace, but in a furnace.  
In the furnace Beauty is marred,  
Fashion is destroyed,  
Strength is melted,  
Glory is consumed

Yet here Eternal Love reveals its secrets and declares its choice

Rev Dr. Roger  
Gaikwad is the  
Secretary of the  
National Council  
of Churches in  
India.

May the magnetism of the cross as it draws us through the images of the Servant, Sheep and Seed make our lives a blessing to all!

**Roger Gaikwad**



**Mr. P.C. Daniels**, Principal of St. Thomas' Church School, Howrah, was the Chief Guest at the Junior School Sports of St. Thomas' Day School, Free School Street on 19.2.16. Mr. Daniels also studied in STDS for 9 years. We are proud that an alumnus of the school has become the principal of a diocesan school and pray for him and his family.



#### **Roof repairs of SAC.**

Mr. David John took umpteen pictures of the roof and damaged parts of the ceiling of our church causing leakage during the rains. Mr. M.J.Pook, Mr. A. Pasricha and Mr. C.J. Nyss are looking at the repair work.



**Mrs. Jolly Joy**, of Youth With a Mission, and a member of our Church spoke On **Mothering Sunday**. She inspired us to reach out to others in love.

#### **Congratulations!**

Dr. Gillian Hart shared the message of motherly love at Mothering Sunday service on 6.3.16. in St. Thomas' Free School Street. She was accompanied by a group of teachers from the Welland Gouldsmith school who sang a beautiful fitting number for us. We also congratulate Dr. G.Hart on being made the Chairperson of the Dr. Graham's Homes Board of Governors.



## St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata

<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

Roster for April, 2016.

**3/4/16. Sunday after Easter** *Joy, peace, power and new life are given through the Resurrection of Christ*

Preacher & Conductor : Rev Andrew Simick

Psalm 114 : Mrs. Gailing Sondhi

Revelation 1:9-20 : Mrs. Sonali Bar

**10/4/16. 2 Sunday after Easter:** *Witnesses to Christ's Resurrection.* Conductor & Preacher : Revd. A. Simick

Psalm 126 : Mrs. Sarmistha Arora

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 : Mrs. Jolly Joy

**Meeting of the Deacon's Court & Kirk Session follow**

**17/4/16. 3 Sunday after Easter :** *The Good Shepherd, Holy Communion:*

Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb

Psalm 23 : Mrs. Louisa Jackson

Revelation 7: 9-17 : Mr. Charles J. Nyss

John 10: 22-30 : Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb

**24/4/16. 4 Sunday after Easter :** *Our redemption is completed through life in union with Christ.* Conductor & Preacher : Revd. James Gomez

Psalm 96 : Mrs. Zeena Mondal

Revelation 21: 22-27 : La Martiniere for Boys



We share here the photos of the wedding of Rishika and Michael that was held in our church on 11.1.16. Rishika, daughter of Nevil and late Anuradha Pradhan, is the granddaughter of Rev D.P. Das. Let us pray for **Rishika** and **Michael** in Geneva.

