

St. Thomas' Church

Free School Street (CNI), Kolkata

(founded 1830 and consecrated 1833)



APRIL
2016

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The Restoration Work of our church was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Paritosh Canning on 5.3.16. Pray for the restoration.

(Letter from Presbyter)

Witnesses to the Resurrection

Almighty God, who endued the apostles with power to bear witness to your Son and sent them to make disciples of all nations; grant to your Church such wisdom and zeal in proclaiming the Gospel, that all whom you call may come to the true knowledge of you and your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

The apostles were endued with power so that they could bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations.

One of the most powerful witnesses is the conversion of all the apostles after the Resurrection of our Lord. They had seen the empty tomb and the disciples. The disciples had seen the Lord in the Upper Room and touched the marks of the nail-prints on the hands of the Master. But in John chapter 21 we see that they have all gone back to Galilee, and started their fishing trade. Peter, James, John, Thomas, Nathanael and two other disciples follow Peter in beginning to catch fish. They toil the whole night and catch nothing. But just as day breaks there is a person on the shore, who asks, "*Children, have you any fish?*" (John 21:5). They reply "*No*". Then this person tells them, "*Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.*" (John 21:6). When they do so they catch so much fish that they are unable to haul the net up. They realize that some years ago while they were fishing unsuccessfully in the same waters, a person had asked them to throw their nets on the deep side of the sea (Luke 5:5). When they had obeyed they had caught a large number of fish. This person was none other than Jesus. They said, "*It is the Lord*" (John 21:7)

Jesus Christ is risen and has made his appearance in the very place where the disciples had been called to be "fishers of men" (*Luke 5:10*)

The captain of the West Indies cricket team, Darren Sammy, gave a big witness to the Lord Jesus Christ when their team won the T20 world match against England on 3.4.16 . He said, that their team does not worry about how the game goes because they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and they are only playing for him. He also said that there is a team pastor who moves with them wherever they go and he prays with them and for them.

St. Paul writes about the Resurrection of our Lord in this emphatic manner: "*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*" (*1 Cor 15:3-7*)

Another great witness to the living Resurrected Christ is the joint Easter Rally which we had on 27.3.16 (*see page 3*).

On Easter Day many Christian children and mothers had met together in a park in Lahore when a bomb went off and killed over 60 of them. Let us remember these innocent victims. As the collect says, may God give us wisdom and zeal in continuing to be a witness to his Resurrection.

The Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb, principal of Bishop's College, conducted our Good Friday devotions on 25.4.16. He focused on the fact that our Lord Jesus



was put on the cross because he challenged the ways of the religious leaders of his day. Jesus shared with the least and the poor. The church of today should also follow his example and be a more giving and sharing church.

Mrs. Mallika Alexander, 67, organist of St. Stephen's Church, Kidderpore and former music teacher of St. Thomas' Girls



School died suddenly. Her memorial service was held on 10th April, 2016. She used to fast and pray and attend all-night prayer. She had a word of encouragement for everyone. Let us pray for Reuben, her son and married daughter.

Darren Sammy, captain of the West Indies team which won the T20 world cricket championships in Kolkata.





On Easter Sunday Christians of Calcutta from the RC, CNI, AG, Methodist, Baptist, CSI (Churches of South India) and other denominations walked on the roads as witnesses of the Risen Lord. Processions started at 3pm from 4 points: Bishop's College, Entally Baptist Church, Sacred Heart Church and Union Chapel and converged to St. James' School grounds for a service. *(Can you spot Fr. Thomas Harris?)* The service had a lively session of praise led by Mr. Gaurav Singha Roy and the Bible Society Youth Group. Archbishop Most Rev Thomas D' Souza, Bishop the Rt Rev Ashoke Biswas and Rev Dr. Ivan Satyabrata took part in the celebrations. About 4000 people bore witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus on that day. We give praise and glory to God for his blessings upon

us.



*Easter
Rally
2016*



Our **Bible Studies**

held every Thursday have been well attended despite

the weather. **Atmanand Singh** shared an interesting series on "The End Times". Now get ready to receive power in the series on the Holy Spirit. Come expecting and praying. *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8)*



The new block of classrooms at the South end of the Church was inaugurated by our bishop, the Rt Rev Ashoke Biswas on 31.3.16. Let



us continue to uphold the Principal, Staff and students in our prayers. Mr. Aniket Deb Roy talks to children at 7:30 a.m. in the morning (see pic)



St. Thomas' Church, Kolkata

Roster for May, 2016.

1/5/16 Joseph the Carpenter: *Thanksgiving for Joseph, the craftsman of Nazareth and spouse of Mary, RFVO pages*
Preacher & Celebrant : Rev Thomas Santosh Harris

8/5/16. Ascension Sunday: *The Son of Man is exalted to the right hand of God, RSW pages 120-125,*

Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. A. Adhikari

15/5/16. Pentecost : *The gift of the Holy Spirit, RSW, pages 128-131* Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. A. Simick

22/5/16. Trinity Sunday *(Sun after Pentecost)_Seven Spices that add to our faith,* Celebrant & Preacher : Revd. Abir Adhikari

Meeting of the Pastorate Committee in the Vicarage

29/5/16. 2 Sunday after Pentecost *The difference between what the world values and what God values. RSW pages 134-137,*
Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Thomas Santosh Harris

Birthdays in May

22 Donald Jobe
24 Alan Jude
26 Maya Chowdhury
27 Brandon D'Moore
29 Nelson Chowdhury

Wedding Anniversaries

21 Angela & Carlton Chater
23 Rina & Clive Gomes
25 Valerie & Lake Howel Lewis

The seven spices that add to our

faith. These Lenten devotions will be shared at our 8:30a.m. eucharist on these days.

April 17 - Bob Punch
May 22 - Abir Adhikari
June 19 - Jason Hardy
July 17 - Monica Diwan
Aug 21 - David Anthony
Sep 18 - Aniket Deb Roy
Oct 16 - Prakash
Nov 20 - Dolly Mani

Important Dates

8.5.16 Electoral Roll will be displayed in the Notice Boar.

22.5.16 Last date for changes in the Electoral Roll.

4.6.16 & 5.6.16 Issuing of nomination forms for the Pastorate Committee.

6.6.16 Submission of forms

7.6.16 Last date of withdrawal of nominations.

11.6.16 (6pm) Scrutiny of Nominations forms by the Pastorate Committee.

12.6.16 WFCS AGM meeting

26.6.16 Annual General Meeting & Elections

The seven spices that add to our

faith. These Lenten devotions from Lent 2016 were so blessed that we are having them again. Below is a picture of Bob Punch and Melody leading our devotions on 17.4.16

