



St. Andrew's Church Newsletter

OCTOBER
2016

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Reformation Sunday 30 October '16

In 1517, Martin Luther wrote *The Ninety-Five Theses*, where he stated that the selling of

indulgences, purgatory, and the doctrine of the merits of the saints had no foundation in the gospel. Many doctrines and devotional practices had actually no scriptural basis.

The three truths that have been taught by the Reformation are i) the sole authority of Scripture, ii) justification by faith and iii) the priesthood of the believer. The watchword of the Reformation was ***sola Scriptura*** (*by Scripture alone*)

As we give thanks for our Reformers may God give us grace to know and to speak the truth of the saving gospel of our God.

The La Martiniere Schools Founders Day Celebrations.

These took place this year on the 13th and 14th September in the Girls' and Boys' school respectively. In the two services of Thanksgiving, we thanked God for the legacy left to us by the founder, Major General Claude Martin, and 180 years of God's faithfulness to the schools. While Dr. Anuradha Lohia, Vice-Chancellor of the Presidency University was Chief Guest at the Girls' School, Rev Fr John Felix Raj, S.J., Principal of St. Xavier's College University graced the celebrations at the Boys' School.



Message by Rev Fr Felix Raj, S.J., at the La Martiniere for Boys 181st Founder's Day Commemoration Service Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Rt. Rev Bishop ashoke Biswas, Respected Principal, Mr. John Rafi, members of the staff, distinguished guests and my dear students – I consider it a privilege and a blessing to be with you this afternoon on the occasion of your 181st Founer's Day Commemoration Service. I want to thank his Lordship, the Bishop and all of you for your kind invitation.

You are all fortunate to be part of the La Martiniere's long and rich tradition. I am sure, La Martiniere School gives you the integral formation to be what you are in Society, to be leaders wherever you live and work, and to be men for others at the service of humanity.

Today, India has 1.27 billion people, which is 18% of the world's population. India is the world's largest democracy with 825 million eligible voters. India has today, 19 lakh schools with a student strength of 330 million and 22 million teachers. India also has around 36000 colleges, 760 universities with a student strength of 320 million and 8 lakh teachers.

India is also the most youthful country today in the world with 60% of its population between the age group of 15 and 50 years.

Yes, as many of us know, India has adopted faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth as a policy platform in its 12th five-year plan.

But the saddest side is - only 25% of those who come out of our colleges are relevantly employable and our Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is only 22.5%, while the global average is 65%. Our average growth rate is 6.5% but the benefits do not trickle down to the common people.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Villages are the temples of prosperity and Schools and Colleges are temples of knowledge and wisdom, our Schools and Colleges have a greater responsibility in imparting education that is transformative and humanizing, because the country needs educational institutions to change the face of this county. We are the agents of change and transformation and so I wish you all the best in your formation and later in your life to be instruments of peace and love.

As you School Song goes: "*This then our song shall be, as we chant his Eulogy. May our Founder's name endure Ever spotless, ever pure.*" "*This then our song shall be, as we chant his Eulogy. May our Founder's name endure Ever spotless, ever pure.*"

Rev. Dr. Felix J. Raj, Principal,

St. Xavier's College, University, Kolkata.

Mamma Mia! The Welland Gouldsmith schools staged this grand musical on the 5th and 6th of October, 2016 in the Kala Mandir. This was the first production of these schools after many years and proved a stirring success. Produced by Dr. Gillian Hart and directed by Mr. M.S. Calvert the play brought out the immense dancing talents of the children of the two schools. The story was of the bride-to-be trying to find her foster father told using the hitsongs by ABBA the popular group of the 70's. The music was directed by Mr. Derek Fernandes and the dance by the



gifted staff of the W.G. schools led by Dr. G. Hart and Mr. Calvert. In the coming days we look forward to more of these shows by the Welland Gouldsmith Schools.



Mr. Michael J. Robertson. It was wonderful to see Mr. M.J. Robertson, former Chairman and President of the Dr. Graham's Homes, at the "Mamma Mia" show. Mr. Robertson had been sick for about a year. He had caught an infection while on a trip to the USA which doctors had not been able to diagnose. Therefore he was on treatment for everything including his heart and chest. His treatment will continue for a year



The Church Roof. The St. Andrew's Church roof is in need of repairs. Concrete plans and expenses are being worked out by the Kirk Session with help from Mr. James Simpson. Please remember the St. Andrew's Church roof in your prayers.

Naomi and David Behera have relocated to NSW Australia to work there on 26.9.16. Naomi has been employed as a physiotherapist in Keystone Health in Kempsey, NSW. Please remember this couple in your



Pray continually (1 Thess 5:17)

St. Andrew's Church, Kolkata

<http://standrewschurchkolkata.in/>

Roster for November, 2016.

6/11/16. The Harvest Festival: Preacher : Rev John G. Webster

Conductor : Rev Andrew Simick

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 : Ms. Bhaswati Samaradivakera

Luke 12: 15-21: Ms Rina Fletcher

Meeting of the Deacon's Court & Kirk Session follows

13/11/16. The Welland Gouldsmith School Homes Thanksgiving service in B.B. Ganguli Street.

Short service in SAC. 26 Sun after Pentecost : *Wholehearted service of God*

Conductor & Preacher: Rev A. Simick

Ezra 8: 15-32 : Bishop's College

Hebrews 6: 1-12: Mr. Ashok Pasricha

20/11/16. The Police Commemoration Service. *(The Last Sunday after Pentecost, The Kingly glory of Jesus on the cross)*

Preacher: Retd D.G.P. Nigalova, Mizoram,

Conductor : Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb

27/11/16. St Andrew's Church Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service. Celebrant & Preacher: His Grace, the Rt. Rev Ashoke Biswas, bishop of Calcutta.

Zechariah 8: 20-23 : Mr. M.J. Pook

Romans 10 : 9-18 : Dr. Gillian R. Hart

John 12: 20-26 : Rev Dr. Sunil M. Caleb



Aroti Biswas, the mother of our Bishop, the Rt Rev Ashoke Biswas, for whom we had been praying, went to be with the Lord on 17.10.16. Let

us uphold our bishop and his family members at this time of bereavement.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Psal'm 116:15

Garth Mitchell, the son of Mr. Ian Mitchell, and an old boy of Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, visited Rev Simick on 15.9.16 and brought greetings from Dubai where he is working. Garth and the Grahamites of Dubai raised a substantial gift for the repair of the Homes cottages during the earthquake of 2009.



Pray for the persecuted church