

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KOLKATA, CNI
ROSTER FOR JUNE 2018**



**St. Andrew's Church
Newsletter**



MAY 2018

Private Circulation Only



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESBYTER-IN-CHARGE

03.06.2018: 2ND Sunday after Pentecost: The unique authority of Christ our Lord

Conductor and Preacher: Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
Deut. 5:22-28 : Ms. Gailing Sondhi
Mark 1: 21-28 : Ms. Reena Fletcher

10.06.2018: 3RD Sunday after Pentecost: The Church shares in Christ's Authority to heal sickness and sin

Conductor and Preacher: Rev. Dr. Sunil M. Caleb
James 5:13-20: Mr. Calvin David
Mark 2:1-12: Ms. Zeena Mondal

17.06.2018: 4th Sunday after Pentecost: The Spiritual Freedom which we have in Christ

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher: Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
Deut 5:12-15: Ms. Louisa Jackson
2 Corinthians 3:7-18: Mr. Michael Pook
Mark 2:23-3:6: Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar

24.06.2018: 5th Sunday after Pentecost: Thanksgiving for John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ

Conductor and Preacher: Rev. Dr. Swarup Bar
Isaiah 40:1-5: Mr. David John
Matthew 14:1-12: Ms. Devjani Samaradivakera

FREE HOMEOPATHY CLINIC ON WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON

ASCENSION, PENTECOST & TRINITY



THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

This month of May, three significant feasts in the Church calendar help us to meditate on the mysteries of the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the eternal Godhead. The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, also known as Holy Thursday, commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven. In the Eastern Church this feast is known in Greek as *Analepsis*, the "taking up", denoting that by ascending Christ completed the work of our redemption. Ascension is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox liturgical year.

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THE PENTECOST



Pentecost, also called **Whitsunday**, (Pentecost from Greek *pentecostē*, “50th day”), major festival in the Christian church, is celebrated on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mission to the world.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the early church, Christians often referred to the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter as Pentecost. Baptism was administered both at the beginning (Easter) and end (the day of Pentecost) of the Paschal season.

In Catholic and other Western churches, priests often wear red vestments during Pentecost to symbolize the “tongues of fire” that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit.

The above painting is illustrative of the diversity of the people that forms the community of Christ and baptised by the Spirit. The Church is expected to be an inclusive community which includes people from various regional, national, linguistic, cultural and even religious backgrounds.

ANDREI RUBLEV'S ICON OF TRINITY



This icon of the Trinity is famous in Orthodox churches for its symbolism, painted by Andrei Rublev (b.1360) of the Russian school of art. This icon takes as its subject, the mysterious story where Abraham receives three visitors as he camps by the oak of Mamre. He serves them a meal. As the conversation progresses he seems to be talking straight to God, as if these 'angels' were in some way a metaphor for the three persons of the Trinity.

In Rublev's representation of the scene, the three gold-winged figures are seated around a white table on which a golden, chalice-like bowl contains a roasted lamb. In the background of the picture, a house can be seen at the top left and a tree in the center. Less distinctly, a rocky hill lies in the upper right corner. The composition is a great circle around the table, focusing the attention on the chalice bowl at the center, which reminds the viewer inescapably of an altar at Communion.

On one level this picture shows three angels seated under Abraham's tree, but on another it is a visual expression of what the Trinity means, what is the nature of God, and how we approach him. Reading the picture from left to right, we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity remains the most difficult subject in Christian theology to be grasped. However, a recent trend is the surge in Trinitarian thinking in theology and how it relates to other theological disciplines.

Feast of the Holy Trinity is celebrated in the Christian churches on the Sunday following Pentecost (the 50th day after Easter). It is known that the feast was celebrated on this day from as early as the 10th century. Celebration of the feast gradually spread in the churches of northern Europe, and in 1334 Pope John XXII approved it for the entire church.