



# KOINONIA

MAY - JUNE 2024

ENGLISH, MALAYALAM

Vol. 3 Issue 3



"...TRULY I TELL YOU,  
WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE  
OF THE LEAST OF THESE  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE,  
YOU DID FOR *me*" - ST. MATTHEW, 25:40



A bi-monthly newsletter of the

## Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church

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INAUGURATION OF NEW SCHOOL BUILDING  
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*Welcoming  
Our New Asst. Vicar  
Rev. Noble Abraham  
& Family*

*Farewell  
to  
Rev. Renju Thomas Raju  
& Family*





## MESSAGE



Dearly beloved in Christ,

The second Sunday of May is considered Mother's Day in most parts of the world. It is a meaningful time to honor and express gratitude to our beloved mothers, who have shaped our lives.

Mother's Day has a rich history dating back to ancient times when people celebrated maternal figures and motherhood in various ways. However, the modern observance of Mother's Day can be traced back to the 19th century in the United States. One of the early advocates for an official Mother's Day celebration in the U.S. was Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," which called for mothers to come together in promoting peace and social justice.

The idea of a Mother's Day as we know it today gained momentum during the time of Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother, Ann Jarvis, a peace activist who had cared for wounded soldiers during the Civil War. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna campaigned tirelessly for a national day to honor mothers. Anna Jarvis's efforts paid off, and in 1914, American President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The day quickly became popular, with people across the country celebrating by giving cards, flowers, and gifts to their mothers.

However, Anna Jarvis became disillusioned with the commercialization of Mother's Day, as she had intended it to be a day of sincere gratitude and reflection. She spent the later years of her life campaigning against the commercialization of the holiday, even going as far as to file lawsuits against companies that used the Mother's Day name for profit. Today, it is celebrated in various forms and on different dates, but the sentiment of honoring and appreciating mothers' remains at its core.

Every Mother's Day serves as a reminder of neglected motherhood, raising doubts about whether this day has become a mere reminder of lost relationships. However, care and love for a mother should not be reserved for occasional remembrance. Reflecting on the journey shared by Jesus and his mother is poignant at this time. From the moment Mary gracefully received her son (Luke 1:31, 37), they journeyed together, sharing in the needs of others (John 2:1-11) and accompanying Jesus through his public ministry and ultimately to the cross (John 19:25). The final scenes on the cross epitomize longing, love, and care. Even amidst immense pain, Jesus never forgets his duty to care for his mother (John 19:26, 27). On Mother's Day, the Lord reminds us

that a mother's significance should not fade even during our most trying times. It is crucial to acknowledge and remember, on Mother's Day, the example set by our Lord, preserving its essence without compromise.

On this upcoming Mother's Day, let us reflect on the profound impact mothers have on shaping the lives of their children. As expressed in the passage from Timothy (2 Timothy 1: 5), a mother's faith is a powerful force that can guide and nurture the spiritual development of her children. Just as Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice instilled in him a sincere faith, so too do mother's today have the opportunity to pass down their spiritual values to the next generation.

However, we must also recognize the responsibility that comes with motherhood. As illustrated by the example of Ahaziah and his mother's wicked counsel (2King 11: 1-20), the influence of a mother can lead a child astray if not grounded in righteousness. Therefore, it is essential for mothers to seek divine guidance and wisdom in raising their children, praying earnestly for their well-being and spiritual growth.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us honor and cherish the immeasurable contributions of mothers everywhere. Their love, sacrifice, and unwavering faith are truly priceless treasures that shape the course of our lives. May we all be inspired by their example and strive to emulate their virtues in our own lives.

To all the mothers out there, may you be blessed abundantly on this special day, and may your love and dedication continue to be a guiding light for your children and all those whose lives you touch. Happy Mother's Day

After three years of blessed ministry, Reverend Renju Thomas Raju Achen is being transferred to Erode. We thank God for Achen's impactful ministry and convey all the wishes and prayers of the parishioners. We sincerely pray that God will continue to honor Achen's ministry in his new assignment. We are pleased to announce that Reverend Noble Abraham will assume the role of the new Assistant Vicar, starting from the 1st of May. Achen, who is a member of Vishranthwadi Mar Thoma Parish, Pune, has served faithfully and effectively in various capacities within the church. Let us earnestly pray that Achen's work will be a continued blessing to our parish. Achen, you are warmly welcomed to our parish, and we look forward to your guidance and leadership in the days ahead.

With Prayerful regards

*Rev. Vinoy Daniel*

Vicar

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. <b>Mr. AJITH MATHEW THANNICKAL</b><br/>H-20, HIG Block,<br/>TNHB Marvel Apts,<br/>26th Cross Street,<br/>Indira Nagar, Adyar,<br/>Chennai 600 020.<br/>Prayer Group: Santhome</p> |  | <p>2. <b>Mr. MADHU C. MATHEN</b><br/>Q12, Pine Green,<br/>Clover By The River,<br/>River View Road,<br/>Kottupuram,<br/>Chennai 600 085.<br/>Prayer Group: Santhome</p> |
|---|---|---|

## WEDDING BELLS

Name	Prayer Group	Date of Marriage
1. <b>Vinayak Puthran &amp; Martha Preena Jeevakar</b>	Ayanavaram	April 6, 2024

## BAPTISMS

Name	Prayer Group	Date of Baptism
1. <b>Joshua Davin Abraham</b> (S/o Davin Jubi Abraham & Sushma Sapru)	Ayanavaram	March 16, 2024
2. <b>Vinayak Puthran</b>		March 21, 2024

## OBITUARIES

Name	Age	Prayer Group	Date of Death
1. <b>Mrs. Ponnamma Chacko</b>	83	Ayanavaram	March 13, 2024
2. <b>Mr. A.N. Joshi</b>	89	Chetpet	March 29, 2024

*Our heart-felt condolence to the Bereaved Families*

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another,  
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

*~ Ephesians 4:32*





## PROGRAMMES



1. Sunday School : Every Sunday after the 1st Service
2. Yuvajana Sakhyam : Every Sunday after the First Service
3. Monthly Meeting of  
Sevika Sangham : Every 4th Saturday at 4.30 pm
4. Edavka Mission : Every Wednesday at 5.00 pm
5. Fasting Prayer : Every Friday at 10.00 am
6. Choir Practice : Every Saturday at 6.30 pm
7. Elder's Fellowship : Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday  
at 4.30 pm (Church)
8. Sevika Sangham  
Bible Study : Every Friday from  
4.30 pm to 5.30 pm (Online)



## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

May 2024 : **Santhome**

June 2024 : **Virugambakkam**

## ANSWERS TO NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 13

1. ഗിദദയോൻ (8:22)
2. 40 (8:20)
3. 70 (8:30)
4. അബീമേലക് (8:31)
5. ബാൽബെരീത്തിനെ (8:33)
6. യോമാം (9:5)
7. ബേരിൽ (9:21)
8. ക്രമോനിൽ (10:4)
9. ഗിലയാദ് (11:1)
10. അർനോൻ (1:18)



## WORSHIP TIMINGS

### MAY 2024

05-05-2024	8.00 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
12-05-2024	8.00 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
19-05-2024	8.00 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
25-05-2024	8.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
26-05-2024	8.00 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam

### JUNE 2024

02-06-2024	8.00 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
09-06-2024	7.30 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
16-06-2024	7.30 A.M.	Divine Service in English (Yuvajana Sakhyam)
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
22-06-2024	8.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam (Senior Citizens)
23-06-2024	7.30 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam
30-06-2024	7.30 A.M.	Holy Communion in English
	9.30 A.M.	Holy Qurbana in Malayalam

*“The merciful man doeth good to his own soul:  
but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.”*

*~ Proverbs 11:17*



You may send your suggestions/inserts for future issues of Koinonia with your Name, Address, Prayer Group & Contact Number to:  
**chetpetvicar@gmail.com**



## LECTIONARY MAY 2024



Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
05 Sunday	<b>Bhoo-bhavana danam: Remember the Poor (5th Sunday after Easter)</b>		
	Lev. 19:9-16 Gal. 2:1-10	II Cor. 8:1-9	St. Matt. 25:31-40
12 Sunday	<b>Holy Spirit, one among the Trinity</b>		
	Ezek. 37:1-14 Acts 1:6-11	Gal. 5:16-26	St. John 14:14-21
19 Sunday	<b>Pentecost: the Holy Spirit who renews the whole creation (50th day after Easter)</b>		
	Joel 2:28-32 Acts 2:1-13	I Cor. 12:1-11	St. John 16:1-15
26 Sunday	<b>Trinity Sunday; Sing to the Lord: Sacred Music Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	Exod. 19:17-25 Gal. 4:1-7	II Cor. 13:11-14	St. Matt. 28:16-20

## JUNE 2024

Date	Lessons	Epistle	Gospel
02 Sunday	<b>Beginning of Academic year: Education that leads to wisdom; Medical Aid Offertory for the Clergy (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	I Kgs. 3:3-14 James 3:13-18	Eph. 5:9-17	St. Matt. 7:21-27
09 Sunday	<b>Environmental Sunday: Integrity of whole creation in Christ (3rd Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	Isa. 65:17-25 Rev. 21:1-8	Rom. 8:18-25	St. John 3:16-21
16 Sunday	<b>Beginning of Fast of the Apostles: Call and commission to be Christ's Disciples (4th Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	Jer. 1:1-12 II Cor. 4:1-6	Acts 9:10-17	St. Matt. 4:17-22
23 Sunday	<b>Discipleship: the call to bear the Cross (5th Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	Dan. 6:10-23 II Cor. 6:1-10	Col. 1:24-29	St. Luke 9:23-27
30 Sunday	<b>The glorious appearance of Jesus Christ and the disciples who need to be vigilant (6th Sunday after Pentecost)</b>		
	Mal. 3:13-4:2 Acts 1:6-11	I Thess. 4:13-18	St. Matt. 24:42-51



**NEW BIBLE QUIZ SERIES - 14**



1. At the command of the Lord, to the angel of which church did John write, "Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life"  
കർത്താവ് കൽപ്പിച്ചത് പ്രകാരം ഏത് സഭയുടെ ദൂതനാണ് യോഹന്നാൻ '.... മരണപര്യന്തം വിശ്വസ്തൻ ആയിരിക്ക എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ ജീവൻറെ കിരീടം നിനക്ക് തരും" എന്ന് എഴുതിയത്
2. The family of which chief priest does the lineage of Ezra trace back to?  
ഏത് മഹാപുരോഹിതന്റെ വംശാവലിയിൽ പെട്ടവനാണ് എസ്രാ ?
3. Name the Judge who had thirty sons, who rode thirty donkeys and controlled thirty towns in Gilead.  
ഗില്ലീയാദിൽ 30 ഊരുകൾ ഉള്ള, 30 കഴുതപ്പുറത്ത് നടന്ന, 30 പുത്രന്മാർ ഉള്ള ന്യായാധിപന്റെ പേര് ?
4. Through which prophet did the word of God reveal that David was not the one to build God a house to dwell in?  
"എനിക്ക് വസിപ്പാനുള്ള ആലയം പണിയേണ്ടത് നി അല്ല," എന്ന് ദാവീദിനോട് ഏത് പ്രവാചകൻ മുഖാന്തരം ആണ് യഹോവ സംസാരിച്ചത് ?
5. Name one of king Xerxes" s eunuchs who was assigned to attend to Queen Esther.  
അഹശേരോൾ രാജാവ് എസ്തേർ രാജ്ഞിയുടെ ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഒരുക്കിയ ഷണ്യന്മാരിൽ ഒരുവന്റെ പേര് ?
6. Name the son of Barakel the Buzite who refuted Job after his three friends failed.  
മൂന്ന് സുഹൃത്തുക്കളും വാദിച്ച് പരാജയപ്പെട്ടതിനു ശേഷം ഇയ്യോബിനോട് വാദിച്ച ബുസ്യ നായ ബറഖേലിന്റെ മകന്റെ പേര് എന്ത് ?
7. Name the Jew, a native of Alexandria who refuted the Jews in public debate in Achaia, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.  
യേശു തന്നെ ക്രിസ്തു എന്ന് പരസ്യമായി യഹൂദരോട് വാദിച്ച് തെളിയിച്ച അലക്സാന്ത്രിയക്കാരനായ യഹൂദന്റെ പേര്?
8. Name the daughter born to Gomer, which meant unloved.  
"കരുണ ലഭിക്കാത്തവൾ" എന്ന് അർത്ഥമായി വരുന്ന, ഗോമർ പ്രസവിച്ച മകളുടെ പേര് ?
9. Name the land where the Israelites were allowed to settle down in Egypt.  
ഇസ്രായേൽ മക്കൾക്ക് മിസ്രയീമിന്റെ ഏത് ദേശത്താണ് പാർക്കുവാൻ അനുവാദം ലഭിച്ചത് ?
10. How many years did the Israelites live in Egypt?  
ഇസ്രായേൽ മക്കൾ മിശ്രയെമിൽ എത്ര വർഷം പാർത്തു?

**PRAYER MEETINGS****MAY 12, 2024****CHOO LAIMEDU****Mr. SAMSON DANIEL**

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**MAY 25, 2024 (SATURDAY)****ERNAVOOR****Mr. ABY MATHEW**

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**JUNE 23, 2024****SANTHOME****Mr. BINU MATHEW**

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*“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will repay him for his deed.”*

*~ Proverbs 19:17*



# The Humble Young Leader

## FOUR QUALITIES OF GODLY MEN

- Source: Internet

*God created men to be strong and faithful leaders, especially in their families and churches. Becoming that kind of man does not simply happen, however; we need to train ourselves for godliness and Christlike leadership (1 Timothy 4:7-8).*

*To grow as men, we follow Jesus — the only sinless man, the God-man, who alone provides us righteousness and the perfect example of how to live. But we also follow the footsteps of those who followed or foreshadowed his (1 Corinthians 11:1). Joshua, though predating the incarnate Christ, can serve as one such example, especially for younger men.*

*Joshua teaches us that leading well starts with realizing that all you are, have, and accomplish depends on God's gracious provision. Joshua knew this deeply, even in his younger years, as he served God and led the people into the promised land. I would like to highlight four traits from Joshua that men young and old need today: humble confidence, humble dependence, humble submission, and humble patience.*

### **1. Humble Confidence**

*At key times in Israel's history, even as a young man, Joshua stepped forward as a great example of humble confidence. One of the first times we meet Joshua, we see his faith in action, trusting God against the tide of popular opinion.*

*Joshua took part in a search party sent into Canaan to spy out the land God had promised. The spies returned with a dismal prediction about Israel's ability to take on the "giants" in the land (Numbers 13-14). Joshua and Caleb were the only two (of twelve) who urged the people to*

*take the land, because they believed God's word (Numbers 14:7–10). They knew God's track record and his power to keep his promises. Their confidence was not in themselves but in the God they served.*

*Here we see one quality that set Joshua and Caleb apart from the rest of the Israelites — they believed the promises of God. They were not intimidated by the size of the warriors or the strength of the cities. Rather, they knew their God and remembered how he had dealt with Egypt, then the most powerful nation on the earth. If God could take care of the mighty Egyptian army, he could certainly take care of the Canaanite tribes. God rewarded Joshua's and Caleb's faith by exempting them from the entire generation of Israelites who would perish in the wilderness (Numbers 14:29–30).*

*Humility and confidence might seem like opposites, but in Joshua and Caleb, we see they are two sides of the same heart. When we find our identity and security in God, we can rest in knowing that our frailty and sin no longer define us. We can walk in the strength that God supplies, even when we are rightly aware of how weak and sinful we are. In fact, God only chooses and empowers those who know how little we can do on our own.*

## **2. Humble Dependence**

*Joshua could be considered one of the greatest military leaders in history. He led the armies of Israel to victory against far more powerful enemies. Without minimizing Joshua's gifts and abilities, he knew that God is the one who ultimately vanquishes his people's foes. He learned this early in his military career, as he led the people in battle against the Amalekites. Exodus 17 tells the story of God's provision:*

*Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. (Exodus 17:11–13)*

*The outcome of the battle depended on something entirely outside of Joshua's control. Yes, he fought with great courage, but all the while, he realized that the battle belongs to the Lord. The same was true even when the victories were not as supernaturally obvious. God had promised to give the land of Canaan to his people, and Joshua's trust in God's power and faithfulness gave him the faith he needed to be the leader God called him to be.*

*Even when the challenges before us are not nearly as dramatic as Joshua's, the basis of our confidence is still the same faith—faith not in ourselves or even in the gifts and talents God has given us, but faith in the God who is the Creator, sustainer, and provider for every breath, heartbeat, and victory in life. Joshua's example reminds us that any skills, opportunities, accomplishments, or victories come as gifts from our gracious Creator. He deserves all the credit for any good in our lives.*

*We can regularly remind ourselves of this by asking the apostle Paul's rhetorical question in 1 Corinthians 4:7: "What do you have that you did not receive?" Realizing that God is the source and end of all he gives us leads to humble confidence, and that confidence frees us to follow his will and be used as he sees fit.*

### **3. Humble Submission**

*As a young man, Joshua learned to trust God's word, and it guided his life. He knew God's promises are trustworthy, so he followed his plan even when the challenges were great. God's word became the core of his confidence, as we see in God's exhortation to him before the people entered the land of Canaan:*

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:8–9)*

*God calls Joshua to be strong and courageous based on his trust in God's*



word. A godly man's confidence, likewise, does not depend on his own abilities or the opinions of others to predict the outcome of circumstances; rather, it depends on what God says is true. When we submit to the authority of the word of God, we are trusting in the character of God. In our day, one's desires in the moment have become the primary guide for many, but men of God buck that trend and live rooted in the unchanging teaching of the Bible.

#### **4. Humble Patience**

*The best leaders are men who have learned to follow well. They faithfully contribute to the objectives of a team, even if they do not have a title or position. Joshua's submission to God translated into his submission to the leader God placed over him.*

*Joshua served as Moses's assistant when he was a young man (Exodus 17:8–16). After being chosen, he filled that role with patience for forty years. We are told that when Moses would go into the camp, Joshua "would not depart from the tent" (Exodus 33:11). It must have been deeply challenging at times to serve the people in Moses's shadow, but we get no indication that Joshua was anything but a dutiful encouragement to Moses and an energetic partner in the mission. His commitment to patiently serve shaped him into the man who could lead God's people into the promised land.*

*The lessons Joshua learned as a young man shaped him into an old man who could be trusted as a godly leader. And because of his leadership, "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel" (Joshua 24:31).*

*Joshua's trust in God and his word formed him into a man of humble character. His confidence, dependence, submission, and patience offer powerful glimpses of Jesus, who perfectly lived out these qualities as our substitute and example. May God give many young men in the coming generation the ability to trust their God and lead with Christlike character.*

## DANIEL AND THE LIONS

KID'S  
CORNER

*Daniel was a wise and respectful. Most importantly, he loved God. When Daniel was a young boy, he, along with other Israelites, had been taken to live in another country. God had taken care of Daniel and his friends. Now as a much older man, Daniel worked for a Persian king named Darius. King Darius liked Daniel and had plans to make him a great ruler. Some other men who worked for the King did not like Daniel. They tried to catch him doing something wrong, but Daniel faithfully obeyed God and honored the king.*

*Three times a day Daniel went into his room and prayed to God with the window open. This was one way he showed his love for God. The men who did not like Daniel encouraged the king to make a law Daniel could not obey. The king followed their advice without really thinking about what he was doing. The law required that no one could pray to anyone except the king. Anyone who did not follow the law would be thrown into the lions' den.*

*The men watched Daniel closely. They wanted to see if he would keep praying to his God. Sure enough, even though the king had made the law, Daniel continued to pray with his window wide open. As Daniel prayed, the men watched and then went to the king. They told the king that Daniel was breaking the law by praying to his God. King Darius was very sad because he liked Daniel, but there was nothing he could do. The law had been made, so Daniel had to be punished. Daniel was taken to the lions' den. Before he was thrown into the den the king said, "May your God, who you serve continually, rescue you!"*

*The authorities placed Daniel in the den and slammed the door shut. All night long the king thought about Daniel. The next morning he ran to the lions' den and called out, "Daniel, Daniel, has your God been able to save you*

from the lions?" Daniel answered, "My God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions, so they haven't harmed me." The king ordered Daniel to be taken out of the lions' den. God had rescued Daniel! King Darius was thankful that God had protected his friend. The king wanted all the people in the kingdom to worship Daniel's God – the only real God.

Just like God loved and took care of Daniel, he loves and takes care of us. One way that God leads us is through prayer. Pray thanking God for His leadership in our lives and the ability to talk to Him in prayer.

### Unscramble each of the clue words

IUSDAR \_ \_  \_ \_ \_

RAPYRE \_ \_ \_ \_  \_

ONISL \_ \_ \_ \_  \_

TICED \_ \_ \_  \_

STUTR \_ \_  \_ \_

EAGNL \_ \_ \_  \_

END  \_ \_ \_

What did God do for Daniel?

He \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ him.



# DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN





**MISSION TRIP  
TO ATTAPADI,  
SUVISESHA  
SEVIKA SANGHAM,  
CHENNAI CENTRE**

**VBS  
@ SRIPERUMBUDUR  
APRIL 22-25, 2024**



**VISIT BY  
MALAYALI SAMAJAM,  
SRIPERUMBUDUR  
ON 27.03.2024**

**KILPAUK PG  
WOMEN'S MEETING  
ON WOMEN'S DAY**







**FAREWELL TO  
REV. RENJU ACHEN  
& FAMILY**



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