

Hermon Marthoma Church

MIDLANDS

March 2008

www.marthomamidlands.co.uk

Volume 1, Issue 11



Next Service:

8th Mar 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm

21st Mar 08 (Good Friday)
Service from 9am to 12pm
followed by Kanji

22nd Mar 08 (Holy Communion)
4pm to 6pm
Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar
Coorilos Episcopa will be
visiting

At

St. James Hill Church
Mere Green Road
Four Oaks, West Midlands
B75 5DD

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Reminder to all

Please confirm your memberships with Achen.

Something to ponder

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This month we celebrate the most important events in the Christian faith. We commemorate the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. It's a time to reflect and remember the selfless sacrifice that Jesus the Christ made on the cross, and to celebrate the forgiveness and hope we have through Him. Jesus' death and resurrection is the defining event of Christianity and the foundation of our faith. Christians have commemorated it every time they worship, not just at Easter.

In the Roman Empire crucifixion had been the cruelest and slowest way of killing a criminal. It was so barbaric and brutal that it was never used on a Roman citizen. Jesus suffered a great deal to deliver us from our sins and transgressions. He was the true suffering servant of God as told in the book of Isaiah.

"He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3-5)"

This depicts the length, breadth, height, and depth of the love of God.



But as we all know, the cross is not the end. Easter is the day when God made His powerful pronouncement against death and His victorious declaration for life by resurrecting His Son, Jesus. God has transformed the cross from a symbol of shame and death to a symbol of glory, power, and life. Because of what Jesus achieved on the cross we have the power, vision, and endurance to live a victorious life in this world and in the world to come. For Paul the cross was a source of power and a way of life. The cross gave meaning to his sufferings and gave him the strength to face the different challenges of his missionary journeys.

We should always thank God for sending His Son to die for our sins. We should also thank Jesus for suffering and dying for us. We should also thank him for giving us hope. Hope that will enable us to face the future, no matter what it may contain. This hope is something that we have to share with others. Hope that things will get better, even if we are suffering now. Hope that allows us to reject whatever wounds weakens or destroys human life.

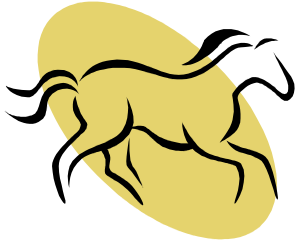
May the Lord help us to celebrate our lives, make us witnesses of the true Christian hope, and enable us to comfort others.

Rev Shibi Abraham

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Corporate Wisdom

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from generation, says "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount". However, often in business and local government, more advanced strategies are employed, such as:



"Be glad for all God is planning for you"

1. Buying a stronger whip.
2. Changing riders.
3. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
4. Arranging to visit other countries to see how other cultures ride horses.
5. Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
6. Reclassifying the dead horse as living-impaired.
7. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
8. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
9. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase dead horse's performance.
10. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
11. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overheads and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do some other horses.
12. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.
13. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.

Did you know

What happened on Good Friday?

Jesus was arrested and was tried, in a mock trial. He was handed over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged with whips. A crown of long, sharp thorns was thrust upon his head.

Jesus was forced to carry his own cross outside the city to Skull Hill. He was so weak after the beating that a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was pulled from the crowd and forced to carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way.

Jesus was nailed to the cross. Two other criminals were crucified with him, their crosses were on either side of him. A sign above Jesus read "The King of the Jews."

Christians believe that Jesus stood in our place. His death paid the penalty not for his own wrong doings but for ours.

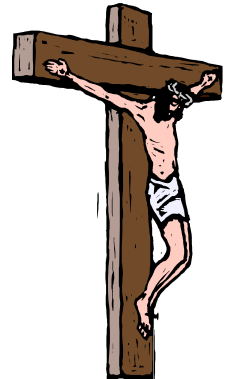
What is Easter?

Easter is the oldest and the most important Christian Festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus Christ. For Christians, the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year.

What is the Easter story ?

Easter is the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem before his death. The Easter story includes Maundy Thursday (the Last supper leading to the Eucharist), Good Friday (the day on which Jesus was crucified) and Easter Day (the day on which Jesus came back to life).

It is a sad story because Jesus was killed. But the story has a very happy ending, because Jesus came back to life and visited his friends and followers once more. He did not die at all, but went back up to Heaven to be with God, his father.



Recipe for the Month

Chena-Vazhakkaya Erissery

Erissery is a popular dish in Kerala, a variety of erisseris can be prepared by substituting different vegetables, pulses or a combination of vegetables and pulses. In some parts of Kerala, erisseri is even served in traditional Sadyas. Of all the erisseris Vazhakka- Chena Erissery is popular

Ingredients:-

Fresh Plantains (Vazhakkaya) along with the skin cut into big pieces - 1 cup
Yam/Suran(Chena) cut into big pieces - 1 cup
Grated coconut - 1 and 1/2 cup
Turmeric powder - 1/2 tsp
Chilly powder - 1 tsp
Black Pepper powder - 1 tsp
Cumin seeds (Jeerakam) - 1/2 tsp
Mustard seeds - 1/2 tsp
Red chillies whole – 2
Curry leaves - a sprig
Salt - to taste
Oil - as needed

Method:-

Mix together plantain pieces, yam pieces, chilly powder, turmeric powder and salt and cook them in a pan or a pressure cooker adding just enough water. When they are

cooked well, mash it lightly with the back of a spoon.

Now grind together 1 cup coconut, cumin seeds and pepper powder into a coarse paste and add this paste into the vegetables and boil it until it reaches a thick consistency. Turn off the heat and let the erissery rest for a while.

Now heat oil in another pan and pop some mustard seeds. Add whole red chillies, curry leaves and the rest of the grated coconut into it and fry until coconut reaches a golden brown colour. Pour the seasoning over the erissery. Mix well and serve hot with rice.

Erissery

Note:-Instead of red chilly powder you can again use pepper powder and that'll give a different flavour.

Recipe Source :- Vanitha

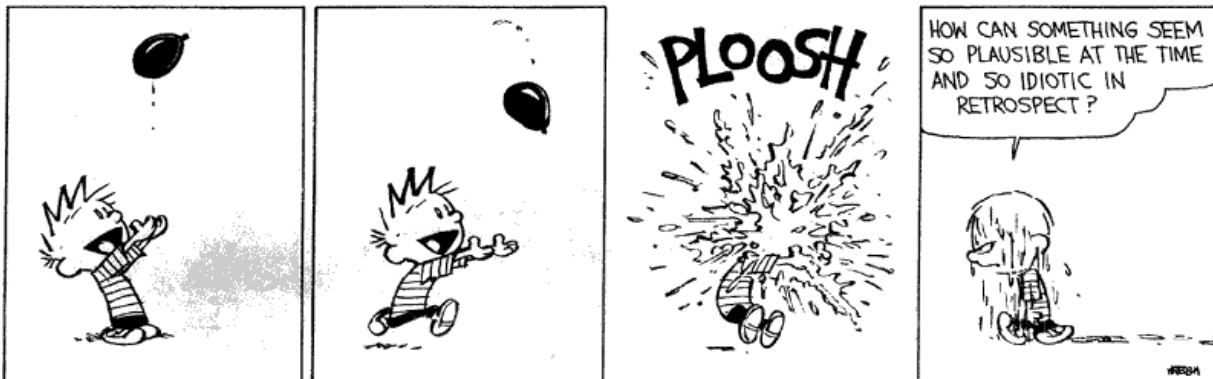


THE FOUR BLESSED LOOKS

Look back and thank God.
Look forward and trust God.
Look around and serve God.
Look within and find God!

OUR WEEK WITHOUT GOD

'Without God, our week is:
Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,
Thirstday, Fightday, Shatterday and
Sinday.
So, allow Him to be with you
everyday!'





Useful contacts

Rev: Shibi Abraham:
07943818819
01612232199

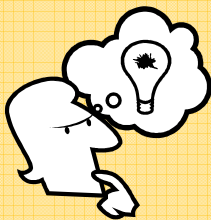
Dr Sunny Thomas
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0247 632 7334

Dr Simon Idiculla
01902 380 363

Sevika Sangam
Marykutty Thomas
0121 772 8697

Sunday school
Susan Abraham
0247 632 7334



Happy Easter

Special Greetings this month

Birthday greetings to

Thomas Abraham, Abey Thomas Sanu Varghese, Reggie Sam John, Raji Simon Idiculla, Bobby Thomas Vineet Abraham, Joji M Philip, Sunil Simon

Congratulations on the Wedding Anniversaries of

Viji George & Sunila Viji, Thomas Abraham & Reena Abraham

Congratulations to Bobby and Sam Thomas on the birth of their daughter

Sunday school

At 3:30pm every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Church.



UNTAXABLE WEALTH

Tax Assessor came one day to a poor Christian to determine the amount of taxes he would have to pay. The following conversation took place.

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor.

"I am a very wealthy man", replied the Christian

"List your possessions, please", the assessor instructed.

The Christian said:

First, I have everlasting life - John 3:16

Second, I have a mansion in heaven - John 14:2

Third, I have peace that passes all understanding - Philippians 4:7

Fourth, I have joy unspeakable - 1Peter 1:8

Fifth, I have divine love, which never fails - 1Corinthians 13:8

Sixth, I have a faithful wife - Proverbs 31:10

Seventh, I have healthy, happy obedient children - Exodus 20:12

Eighth, I have true, loyal friends - Proverbs 18:24

Ninth, I have songs in the night - Ps 42:8

Tenth, I have a crown of life - James 1:12

The Tax assessor closed his book, and said, "Truly you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation".

I pray that all of us will have this kind of tax free "Wealth"

Other announcements

General Body & elections

Look out for the general body to elect new committee for 2008/2009. Please send your suggestions for the various posts to the secretary.

THE GREATEST MAN IN HISTORY

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him..

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us!

