

APRIL NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

April 2024

‘After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.’ (Acts 1:3).

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, we are given one more Easter Season in our life. Let us thank God for the experiences and spiritual blessings received during this Lenten season.

This is the period when the Church is remembering and celebrating the resurrection of our blessed Lord from the dead and ascension into heaven. Jesus died on a cross. He was buried. The tomb was sealed. On the third day the “very large stone” over the entrance was rolled back. A messenger says, “He has been raised; he is not here.” Christ's victory over sin and death is our hope of eternal life and eternal happiness, and it should be the motive force of our entire lives.

The greatest of all God's blessings is the assurance of his living presence with us. If we know he is with us we don't need to worry. It is significant that while the Gospel of Mathew ends with the promise of Jesus' universal and eternal presence with all his people, John's Gospel ends with his actual presence with his disciples at work. Jesus recognizes the sanctity of work. He reveals himself to those who love him and faithfully fulfil whatever task he has given them to do. He is with us in all life situations, and his ultimate call to us is always "Follow me". We love Jesus because He first loved us and demonstrated that love by dying on the cross, being buried in the tomb and then the third day He rose from the grave. Let us reveal our love to Him by being obedient to Him.

May the power that of the cross and resurrected Christ be an inspiration for us as we move forward in our spiritual journey. Let us use the power of the cross and the resurrected Christ as a driving force for our lives, as we journey together. Let us experience Christ together, as a faith community. Let us patiently wait for His return!

Let us continue to pray for the healing of humanity and the land.

I give thanks to God for the unique flavor of our shared ministry together.

Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. George Abraham
Vicar
Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,
New York.

Message from Youth Chaplain

April 2024 MESSAGE

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I praise the Lord for the last five years for the blessed opportunity I had to serve as the Youth Chaplain of this parish. I am grateful for the opportunities given to grow in fellowship with our youths and to minister to our growing generation of the Mar Thoma community in this region. These past five years have been very special for Justeena Kochamma and me. We made great relationships with people young and old and numerous memories that we will cherish throughout our lives. It is also sad in a way that throughout these years we have lost great people who passed away in five years and became very close to us, and to bid farewell to them was a painful experience for us. Although five years as your youth chaplain Achen has come to an end now, it reminds us that this ministry does not belong to us but rather it belongs to God. We pray that whatever we were able to do in the last five years, especially throughout the pandemic and recovering from it, we were able to do it diligently. We have seen our youths grow up so much. It is a great blessing to witness many of our youths think about getting into college finishing college and heading towards the next step in life. We have seen many overcoming various life situations and witness the hand of God working unconditionally in them.

I look forward to seeing our youths in our time remaining in the campus visits as well as our meetings, Bible Studies, and personal visits. Please pray for the Chaplain’s ministry in New York. I am ever grateful to minister to you alongside the various vicars of our parishes from 2019 till now.

Our new assignment is God willing, to take charge of Redeemer Mar Thoma Church and Zion Mar Thoma Congregation. Along with that, we will also be in the youth ministry of St. Peter’s Mar Thoma Church. Please do keep Kochamma and me as well as our ministry in your prayers. Our love and prayers are with your incoming Youth Chaplain Rev. Jason Varghese. May the grace of God continue to be with all of you. Our love and prayers always. Remember: God is Good, all the time, and all the time, God is Good!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Much love always,
Rev. Jess M. George Achen and Justeena Kochamma

Rev. Jess M. George
Youth Chaplain North-East Region
Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church
(516)532-6115 (Cell)

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
April 7 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
April 14 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
April 21 st – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
April 28 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)

Lectionary

April 7th – Jesus Christ the Lord and God (1st Sunday after Easter – New Sunday)		
	1 st Lesson	Gen. 32:22-32
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 9:1-18
	Epistle	Col. 3:12-17
	Gospel	St. John 20:24-29
April 14th – Jesus Christ who restores (2nd Sunday after Easter)		
	1 st Lesson	Hos. 14:1-9
	2 nd Lesson	Heb. 6:9-12
	Epistle	Gal. 6:1-5
	Gospel	St. John 21:1-14
April 21st – The Resurrected Christ who encourages the dispirited (3rd Sunday after Easter)		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 41:8-20
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 27:27-37
	Epistle	II Cor. 4:7-15
	Gospel	St. Luke 24:13-35
April 28th – Marriage: Call and Commission (4th Sunday after Easter)		
	1 st Lesson	Gen. 2:18-25
	2 nd Lesson	Eph. 5:21-33
	Epistle	I Cor. 13
	Gospel	St. Matt. 19:1-12

Wedding Anniversary

Titus Kurian	Sandra Titus	02-Apr
Abraham C Jacob	Annakutty C Jacob	20-Apr
Gigo K Ninan	Sweekratha	23-Apr

Birthday Wishes

Jeneene Varghese	2-Apr
Esha Anil	2-Apr
Mathew Isac	3-Apr
Merin Kovoov	3-Apr
Silvi George	4-Apr
Arianna Susan Kovoov	4-Apr
Rebah Aleyamma Justin	4-Apr
Deepthi John	8-Apr
Reena Jose	11-Apr
Kevin Thomas	11-Apr
Solomon George Ben	12-Apr
Aaron Mathew Kovoov	15-Apr
Nihal Joseph Easow	17-Apr
Susan Kurian	18-Apr
Jaimie Cherian	18-Apr
Rahul E Joseph	23-Apr
Jensy Anil	23-Apr
Arvin Thomas Kovoov	24-Apr
Ivy John	27-Apr
Alice Varughese	28-Apr
Sooraj Mathews	29-Apr
Isaac Samuel John	29-Apr
Aisley Varghese	30-Apr
Sweekratha	30-Apr
Nikhil John	30-Apr

Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
John C Mathai (Raju)	04/07/2024
John Samuel (Kochumon)	04/14/2024
Rev. Johnson Mathew	04/21/2024
Jose Cherian	04/28/2024
Kurian A Mathew	05/05/2024
Rachel George	05/12/2024
Ryan K. Varghese	05/19/2024
Saji Thomas	05/26/2024

Upcoming Events

1. Wednesday Bible Studies and Saturday prayer meetings via zoom at 7:00pm.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>
Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406
2. April 20th (Saturday), 2024 – Family Night (Conveners: Mr. Rahul Joseph & Mr. Jephin Jose).