

OSSAE-OKR BANGALORE ZONE

E-Bodhini (NEWSLETTER)



Vol 13 : 2021 March

(for private / internal circulation)

MESSAGE FROM THIRUMENI

27th Mar-2021

BLESSINGS!

By the grace of God, we have completed the Sunday school academic year 2020. It was a difficult year with pandemic and all the restrictions. But, by the abundant mercies of God, we could take advantage the modern technology to conduct online classes, online examinations, and webinars. As the vaccination has begun, we pray that sometime this year we can resume the regular physical classes. We wish and pray for all the students, teachers, and the officials of Sunday schools of Bangalore Districts.

One important change happened to the Bangalore Diocese Sunday school at the beginning of the academic year is the reorganization of its administrative structure, as per the new constitution of OSSAE-OKR.

As per the new constitution, a diocese is divided into multiple districts, and each district is composed of multiple Sunday schools. There are no Zones as was in the previous structure. A Diocese is managed by President, Vice President, Director, Secretary, Diocesan Council and Diocesan General Body. A District is managed by President, Inspector, Secretary, District Council and District General Assembly.

I thank the commendable work done by the present Zonal and District officials. I laud the sincere and dedicated work by Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas, Vice President, Bangalore Zone, Mrs. Lousy Biju, Zonal secretary, Bangalore, Mr. Jose Varghese, Zonal Representative, Mr. Varghese M, Mrs. Binu Philip, District Inspectors and Mrs. Grace Varghese, Mrs. Geetha Jacob, Staff representatives.

As per the new constitution, OSSAE-OKR Bangalore Diocese would be divided in to three Districts, Bangalore District 1, Bangalore District 2, and Hyderabad District.

Following are the Diocese and Bangalore Districts officials.

Diocesan Vice President: Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas
Diocesan Director: Mr. Kuruvilla Varghese
Diocesan Secretary: Mrs. Lousy Biju
President, Bangalore District 1: Rev. Fr. Anish Varghese
Inspector, Bangalore District 1: Mrs. Binu Rachel Philip
Secretary, Bangalore District 1: Mr. Thomas Philip
President, Bangalore District 2: Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas
Inspector, Bangalore District 2: Mr. Biju Prasad
Secretary, Bangalore District 2: Mrs. Nisha Binu Mathew

In the present structure, districts have greater autonomy, and we hope the present administrative structure synergize the Sunday school functioning and convey our blessings to the new officials.

May God Almighty bless you and keep you safe!

- *Seraphim Thirumeni*



IN THIS ISSUE

- Messages
- Diocesan & Zonal News
- Results
- Bible & Prayer
- Our Teachers

H.G. Alvares Mar Julius

Let's Learn

- Notes from webinars
- Our Talents
- Articles by our children
- Kids Page
- News from our Sunday Schools.
- Announcements
- Editorial

H.G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim,
Metropolitan, Bangalore Diocese

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT ACHAN,



Fr. Koshy Thomas

The Message of Easter

Sunday school is an important factor in the spiritual development and holistic growth of Christians by providing a forum for learning. Ephesians 4:11 explicitly mentions about teachers within the five-fold ministry of the church – “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”. Sunday School sets the stage for better understanding. It is a complete way of learning from one another and to receive encouragement to live by God's Word.

Without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain. The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did: “...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have”. The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as not only the prophesied Messiah of Israel but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth. The resurrection is the fulfillment of a promise, the realization of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all.

Fr. Koshy Thomas

Vice President, OSSAE-OKR, Bangalore Diocese

27-Mar-2021

MESSAGE FROM DIOCESAN DIRECTOR

By the Grace of God, we have completed the Sunday school academic year 2020, despite the difficult pandemic situation. We could conduct classes, examinations etc. online. I sincerely hope and pray that we will be able to start the physical classes soon. Bangalore Sunday schools has undergone an administrative restructuring as required by the new constitution of OSSAE-OKR. Districts are more independent now, and I hope this will enable smooth functioning of the Sunday school.

The OSSAE-OKR Class X and XII examination results for the year 2020 are published, I congratulate all those who have passed the examination and those who have scored well. Those who could not pass, need not be upset, do prepare, and appear for the SAY examination.

In the pandemic situation the technological tools like video conferencing and related applications were a great boon. In a short time, most of us got used to these tools, and that opened a way to conduct many events which we considered difficult before. This is truly a positive side of the technological advances, in the present situation.

But we must be aware of the negative sides of this scenario. Firstly, many a times the ease at which we can communicate can have the side effect of meetings and classes scheduled at the mealtime, family time, prayer time etc. This can disrupt our routine life. We should insist as far as possible on scheduling online events at the regular office, or class times.

Secondly, being online opens the door to all lot of unwanted and even harmful content on the Internet. This is truly a danger, as without realizing one can be sucked into obsessive habits. One should clearly and firmly make up one's mind, seeking the guidance of God, not to get distracted.

Thirdly, it can create a sedentary life without physical exercise and physical interaction with others. It is very important that we are involved in physical exercise by way of household work, physical exercise etc. Also, we must meet our friends and family under the physical distancing constraints.

May God guide you all in using these technological tools wisely for your spiritual and intellectual growth.

May God Almighty, bless you all!

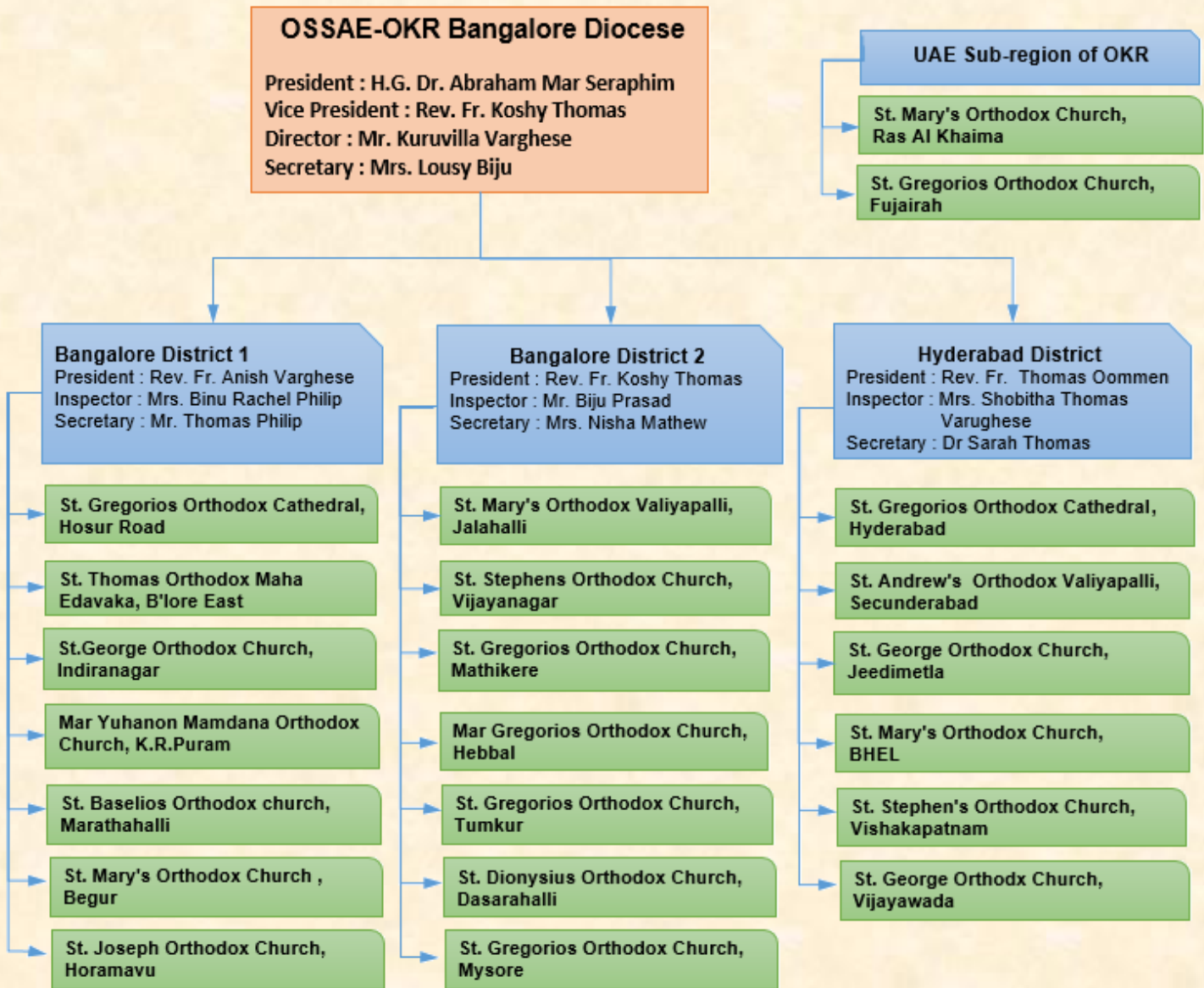
Mr Kuruvilla Varghese

Diocesan Director

OSSAE-OKR, Bangalore Diocese

28-March-2021

OSSAE-OKR Bangalore Diocese - New Organization Structure



OSSAE-OKR Bangalore Zone Sunday school expresses its sincere gratitude and thanks to Office bearers 2020 of OSSAE-OKR Bangalore Zone for their dedicated years of continued service to the Sunday school -

Diocesan / Zonal Vice President	- Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas,
Diocesan Director	- Mr. Kuruvilla Varghese
Zonal Secretary	- Mrs. Lousy Biju,
Zonal Representative	- Mr. Jose Varghese,
District Inspectors	- Mrs. Binu Rachel Philip and Mr. Varghese M &
Staff Representatives	- Mrs. Geetha Jacob and Mrs. Grace Varghese.

Thank You so much!

ZONAL NEWS - BANGALORE

ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST OUTSIDE KERALA REGION - Bangalore Zone

By the Grace and blessings of God Almighty, we present a glimpse of the activities of Sunday schools of Bangalore zone during the year 2020.

The Bangalore zone functions under the OSSAE - Outside Kerala Region, head-quartered at St. Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur. The Sunday school classes for the year commenced on the first Sunday of January 2020 under the able direction of H. G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim as President OSSAE-OKR and Metropolitan Bangalore Diocese, Rev. Fr. Dr. Jossi Jacob as Director of OSSAE-OKR, Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas as Vice-President of Bangalore Diocese Sunday schools and Mr. Kuruvilla Varghese as the Director of Sunday Schools Bangalore Diocese. Bangalore zone recognizes and deeply acknowledges their contributions and will be ever grateful.

All the fourteen Sunday schools of Bangalore zone have been functioning effectively with a total of 1591 students and about 255 teachers located in Bangalore, Tumkur and Mysore Districts of Karnataka. In addition, Sunday schools at two chapels are also functioning.

Bangalore zone appreciates and thanks the outgoing Headmaster of Mar Gregorios Orthodox church, Hebbal - Mr. Biju Prasad and wholeheartedly welcomes Mrs. Sheela John as the new Headmistress.

Bangalore Zone also acknowledges the contributions of the Zonal Representative, District Inspectors, and Staff Representatives for their support in day to day functioning of the zonal activities. Special appreciation to Mrs. Grace Varghese for her contribution towards Sunday school zonal activities.

Due to the unexpected COVID 19 pandemic spread all over the world, all activities of mankind had almost come to a halt. As a result, the activities of Sunday schools was also affected. The arts competitions could not be conducted as scheduled during the academic year. However, Bangalore zone held an online essay writing competition for the Senior and Secondary categories on 7th June 2020. All other competitions at the Diocese level had to be cancelled this year. Taking into account of the difficulty in conducting half yearly examination physically, Bangalore Diocese chose to get students to do a project instead of the usual written examination. Accordingly students had to complete the given project within the prescribed time and submitted it to their respective class teachers for evaluation. The Scheduled students camp NUHRO 2020 was also cancelled for this year as the number of Covid positive cases were increasing in Bangalore.

Executive committee meetings presided by the Diocesan Metropolitan were held online. Two online orientation programs were conducted for Sunday school teachers. Around 200 teachers of Bangalore zone attended the orientation program and Rev. Dn. Job Sam Mathew was the resource person for one of orientation programs. The topic covered was Church History: Pre-Chalcedon Church. Teachers of Bangalore zone Sunday schools was

divided into four groups and orientation classes were conducted on 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th July 2020. The second orientation program was held online on 13th September 2020 and Rev. Fr. K.V. Elias was the resource person. The topic covered was Church and Scripture. Around 200 teachers of Bangalore Diocese attended the Orientation program.

E-Bodhini is an electronic publication introduced with the sole intention of exhibiting talents of our children and teachers. The eleventh edition of E-Bodhini was released by H. G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim during Annual day Celebration on 16th February 2020 at Mar Yuhanon Mamdana Orthodox Church, K.R. Puram. And twelfth edition of E-Bodhini was published virtually in October 2020. Mr. Biju Prasad, Chief Editor of E-Bodhini has worked with sincerity and total dedication to consolidate the materials received from students and teachers of various sunday schools and has made the magazine more informative and appreciable.

Virtual annual general body meeting was held on 17th December 2020. A decision was taken to implement the amended constitution of the OSSAE from the new academic year starting from January 2021 and accordingly the existing administrative structure was dissolved and the office-bearers continued to be the implementation committee till new office bearers were elected as per the new administrative structure. New office bearers were appointed and elected in January 2021 and Sunday school has started functioning as per the new administrative structure.

We express our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledge the encouragement and blessings of H. G. Dr. Gabriel Mar Gregorios, President of OSSAE, H.G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim, President of OSSAE-OKR and Metropolitan, Bangalore Diocese, Rev. Fr. Dr. Varghese Varghese, Director General OSSAE, Rev. Fr. Dr. Jossi Jacob, Director, OSSAE-OKR for their tireless and effective leadership with prayers, directions and support. We also thank Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas, Vice President, Bangalore Diocese Sunday schools and Mr. Kuruvilla Varghese, Director, Bangalore Diocese Sunday schools for leading us with their support, prayers and guidance towards zone activities.

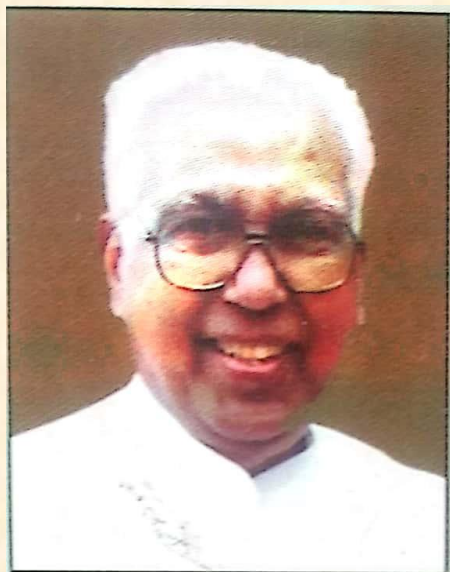
We thank all our Vicars, Office Bearers, Headmasters/Headmistresses, Teachers, Parents and Students for their prayers and support throughout the year in all activities of the Bangalore zone sunday school.

We thank God almighty for the blessings and strength showered on each one of us. Let us all work together for the betterment of Sunday school and guide and help our dear children to know and experience Lord Jesus Christ, our saviour.

Thank you
28th February 2021

Mrs. Lousy Biju
Secretary

IN LOVING MEMORY



MR. M.S. GEORGE
Passed away on 27-Dec-2020



OSSAE-OKR Bangalore Sunday School fraternity expresses its deepest condolences on the passing away of M.S.George Sir.

M.S.George Sir, a zealous believer and member of the Malankara Orthodox Church, served the Sunday school in different capacities, as Sunday School Headmaster of St. George Sunday School, Indiranagar for 11 years from Feb 1986 – Mar 1995, and Secretary of BOSSA during the period 1986-87. He pioneered the growth of BOSSA, streamlining its activities including formation of BOSSA constitution.

We are indebted to Mr. M.S. George for his book “Sapthathi Niravil” with the history of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in Bangalore 1943-2013, which was used as a source for the history of the Bangalore Sunday schools presented in our jubilee souvenir.

OSSAE-OKR BANGALORE ZONE

Results of District Level Arts Competitions 2020 (A+ Grade Winners / Selected for Diocesan Level Competitions)

ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2020 (A+ Grades)

EVENT: ANNUAL EXAMINATION – CLASS X				
SL.	STUDENT NAME	DISTRICT	CHURCH	GRADE
1	Iris Jims	I	Mar. Yuhanon Orthodox Sunday School, K R Puram	A+
2	Joel Regi	I	Mar. Yuhanon Orthodox Sunday School, K R Puram	A+
3	Adam G Alexander	I	St. Baselios Orthodox Sunday School, Marathahally	A+
4	Albert Thomas George	I	St. Baselios Orthodox Sunday School, Marathahally	A+
5	Chris Mathew Thomas	I	St. Baselios Orthodox Sunday School, Marathahally	A+
6	Susan J Andrew	I	St. Baselios Orthodox Sunday School, Marathahally	A+
7	Angela Peter	I	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Begur	A+
8	Edlyn Grace Jacob	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
9	Hanna S Santhosh	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
10	Joel John Alex	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
11	Nidhiya Sara Joseph	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
12	Angel Gibi John	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Mathikere	A+
13	Hanna Thomas	I	St.Joseph Orthodox Sunday School, Horamavu	A+
14	Joel J Mammen	I	St.Joseph Orthodox Sunday School, Horamavu	A+
15	Kevin Mathew	I	St.Joseph Orthodox Sunday School, Horamavu	A+
16	Nikhita Moncy	I	St.Joseph Orthodox Sunday School, Horamavu	A+
17	Joel Aji Philip	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
18	Nevin Roby Varghese	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
19	Ronnie Thomas Thomson	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
20	Ruban Daniel	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
21	Betina Biju	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+
22	Benjamin John	II	St. Dionysius Orthodox Sunday School, Dasarahalli	A+
23	Robin T Daniel	II	St. Dionysius Orthodox Sunday School, Dasarahalli	A+
24	Nohin Binu	II	St. Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Mysore	A+
25	Ann Elizabeth Binu	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
26	Jean Maria Vaidhyan	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
27	Jomi Maria Sijo	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
28	Joslyn Jays	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
29	Sara Susan Daniel	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
EVENT: ANNUAL EXAMINATION – CLASS XII				
SL.	STUDENT NAME	DISTRICT	CHURCH	GRADE
1	Sara Pothan	I	Mar. Yuhanon Orthodox Sunday School, K R Puram	A+
2	Leona E Joseph	I	St. George Orthodox Sunday School, Indiranagar	A+
3	Neha Zachariah	I	St. George Orthodox Sunday School, Indiranagar	A+
4	Annette Elizabeth Thomas	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
5	Benson T Yohannan	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
6	Sharon Ann Mathews	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
7	Sherin Varughese	I	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hosur Rd.	A+
8	Aishwarya Ann Joseph	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
9	Jeffy John	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
10	Riya Thomas	I	St.Thomas Orthodox Sunday School, Bangalore East	A+
11	Ann C Anil	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+

12	Benita Biju	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+
13	Elizabeth Eldo	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+
14	Rahael Jacob	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+
15	Shalom Shibu	II	Mar Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Hebbal	A+
16	Binetta P Biju	II	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Mathikere	A+
17	Sona Yohannan	II	St.Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Mathikere	A+
18	Abel Mathew Skariah	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
19	Natasha Rachel Sinu	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
20	Thomas V Philip	II	St. Mary's Orthodox Sunday School, Jalahally	A+
21	Joel Koshy	II	St.Stephen's Orthodox Sunday School, Vijayanagar	A+

EVENT: ANNUAL EXAMINATION – CLASS IV to IX & XI

SL.	STUDENT NAME	DISTRICT	CHURCH	GRADE
1	<i>Results not published, not received from many Sunday schools.</i>			

Essay Competition 2020 (A+ Grades)

EVENT: ESSAY - SENIOR

SL.	STUDENT NAME	DISTRICT	CHURCH	GRADE
1	Rhea Shajan	I	St. Baselios OCSS, Marthahalli	A+
2	Edlyn Grace Jacob	I	St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS	A+
3	Jiya Reba Jijo	I	St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS	A+
4	Iris Jims	I	Mar Yuhanon Mamdana OCSS, KR Puram	A+
5	Joel Reji	I	Mar Yuhanon Mamdana OCSS, KR Puram	A+
6	Shebin Paul	I	St. Mary's OCSS, Begur	A+
7	Angela Peter	I	St. Mary's OCSS, Begur	A+
8	Anna Varghese	I	St. Joseph OCSS, Horamavu	A+
9	Kevin Mathew	I	St. Joseph OCSS, Horamavu	A+
10	Christal Biju	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
11	Neha Susan Baiju	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
12	Rehan Luke Jacob	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
13	Ruban Daniel	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
14	Sharon Elizabeth Thomas	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
15	Blossom Babukutty	II	St. Mary's O Valiyapally SS, Jalahalli	A+
16	Anjuna Giju	II	St. Mary's O Valiyapally SS, Jalahalli	A+
17	Diya Varghese	II	St. Mary's O Valiyapally SS, Jalahalli	A+
18	Edwin Sam Liju	II	St. Mary's O Valiyapally SS, Jalahalli	A+
19	Anugraha Sara Santhosh	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
20	Yuhan Jacob	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
21	Betina Biju	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
22	Benjamin John	II	St. Dionysius OCSS, Dasarahalli	A+
23	Ashley P. Varghese	II	St. Gregorios OCSS, Mathikere	A+

EVENT: ESSAY - SECONDARY

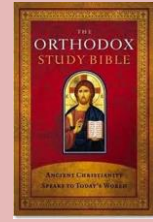
SL.	STUDENT NAME	DISTRICT	CHURCH	GRADE
1	Anne Susan Varghese	I	Mar Yuhanon Mamdana OCSS, KR Puram	A+
2	Ashish Eapen	I	St. Mary's OCSS, Begur	A+
3	Aishwarya Ann Joseph	I	St. Thomas OMESS, Blore East	A+
4	Benita Biju	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
5	Elizabeth Eldo	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
6	Rahael Jacob	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
7	Sharon Jacob	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
8	Steffy Ann Paul	II	Mar Gregorios OCSS, Hebbal	A+
9	Abel Mathew Skaria	II	St. Mary's O Valiyapally SS, Jalahalli	A+

Psalm 91

Assurance of God's Protection

- 1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,[a]
- 2 will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
- 4 he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- 8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,[b]
the Most High your dwelling place,
10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- 12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will
trample under foot.
- 14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
- 15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
- 16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

BIBLE & PRAYER



*Every great movement
of God can be trace to
a kneeling figure."*

- D.L.Moody

**Stay close to God.
His protection ripples
out to others.**

Because you have made
the LORD your dwelling
place— the Most High,
who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to
befall you, no plague come
near your tent.

Psalm 91:9-10

OUR TEACHERS



"In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn."

- Phil Collins



**Antonio Francisco
Xavier Alvares**

(Alvares Mar Julius)

(29 Apr 1836 – 23 Sep 1923)

Alvares Mar Julius

Antonio Francisco Xavier Alvares (Alvares Mar Julius, Julius Mar Alvarez) (29 April 1836 – 23 September 1923) was initially a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in Goa. He converted to the Syriac Orthodox Church and was elevated to Metropolitan of Goa, Ceylon and Greater India in the Syriac Orthodox Church.

Alvares was born to a Goan Catholic family in Verna, Goa, Portuguese India.

He initially was a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in Goa. He joined the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and was elevated to Metropolitan of Goa, Ceylon and Greater India in the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Alvares was a scholar, man of high principles, and had an impressing personality.

In 1871 he started a charitable association in Panaji to render help to the poor, beginning with wandering beggars. After a few years he extended the association to other cities in Goa. During the last ten years of his life he concentrated his activities in Panaji. His home accommodated the poor and destitute as well as leprosy, tuberculosis patients.

After joining the Orthodox Church, Alvares as excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. He was persecuted by the Catholic Church and the Portuguese Government.[18] Though he was advised by some of his old friends to reunite with the Catholic Church, especially when he was very sick, he refused and stuck to his Orthodox faith.

Alvares' remains are entombed at St. Mary's Orthodox church in Ribandar, and declared a regional saint by Paulose II in 2015. (Not officially canonized a saint) Although the congregation was small, the Brahmavar Orthodox Community has survived almost a century after Alvares' death. His dukrono, a memorial feast, is celebrated at St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian church in Ribandar on 23 September every year.

THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE

Parable of the **Barren Fig Tree**

Luke 13:6-9



“Learning is a life long process.”

- Peter Drucker

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”



BASIC DOCTRINES OF OUR CHURCH
... handed over by our fathers.
Translation of MATHOPADESHA SARANGAL
by St Geevarghese Mar Dionysius.

“It is highly essential that those who belong to a religion should learn the faith and precepts of that religion.”

LET'S RECAP...

Chapter 27
ABOUT SIN

(1) It is not only that all human beings are liable to be condemned because of original sin, but also all are condemned because of the sins of their actions. Though it is true that no human being is without sin, (2) sin is not something created in man by nature. (3) It is related to the law of God, and sin was made when the law of God was violated. (4) Man does good or evil, because of his freedom and not because of the variations of nature in creation. God never created anyone as a sinner. (5) He never compels anyone to do good or evil, to reward him accordingly. (6) But God makes it known to man what is good or evil; and it is God's desire that man shall turn to good and do good, and He helps man for that. He does not help man to do evil, since He does not like it, (7) and He leaves everything to the will of man. (8) Satan is not given the power to compel anyone to do evil. (9) Satan makes man fall into sin only through temptation. Just as faith and good works vary, sins too vary. (10) However, there is no sin which will not be forgiven through repentance. Those sins, which are said to be for death, and against the Holy Spirit, are those which are not repented; which easily push man to helplessness. Such sins are not forgiven by the prayer of others alone. Therefore, we should not be frustrated about any sin, but should repent before the (11) merciful Lord with broken heart and tears.

Chapter 28
ABOUT REPENTANCE

(1) When a person does not repent about the sins he has committed, and continues to do them, unwilling to move away from them, then it can be said his sin is unto death, and against the Holy spirit. (2) However, any sinner, if he turns to God with sincere repentance, his sins shall be forgiven, whatever they be. True repentance is to grieve and ask pardon for sins (3) and stop committing sins; and resolve at heart to sincerely obey God in future as it pleases Him. The door of repentance shall not remain closed for any sinner. The teaching of the heretic “Navatheenar” that post-baptism sins, because they are against the Holy Spirit, shall not be

forgiven, is not to be believed; and no sinner shall listen to it and retract from repentance. Instead, they should repent with good hope and true faith about all the sins committed at any time or in any state and turn to God.

Chapter 29 ABOUT JUSTIFICATION

(1) Just as faith without works is dead, (2) actions which do not arise from good conscience and faith are also dead. (3) The grace of God for mankind is not discriminatory, it is given to all uniformly. He never gives free grace to one and not to another. Therefore, man is not justified by faith alone without works, or by works alone without faith; nor free grace alone. (4) But justification is through free grace, by faith and works.

Chapter 30 THAT THERE ARE VARIATIONS IN CONDEMNATION AND PUNISHMENT

(1) The faith and righteousness of all people are not of the same measure. In the same manner, the sins of all people are not of the same measure. There are variations in faith, righteousness and sin. (2) Also, God does not give punishment or salvation on the day of judgement uniformly for all; but they vary according to the measure of faith and works of each one. (3) And that is eternal punishment or eternal salvation. (4) If a person turns from good to evil, then his earlier good shall not be remembered. Similarly, if a person turns from evil to good his earlier evil shall not be remembered. But each one shall receive eternal salvation or eternal condemnation, according to the standing that each one has in terms of good or evil. (5) This merciful and just decision of God, instills in repentant person hope and interest. But the teaching of some people that salvation is predestined by God and is through free grace, it shall be the same for all, amounts to making the righteous God an unrighteous one.



new

Chapter 31

ABOUT RESURRECTION

Body and soul separate through death, and body is turned to dust. (1) But on the Last Day, the body shall be resurrected, and shall unite with the spirit, put on incorruption, and suffer eternal condemnation or eternal salvation. However, it should not be believed in any way, what some heretics and infidels say; that there is no resurrection or that resurrection is only for the righteous, or that resurrection means the spirit leaving one body to enter into another.

(1) Isa.26:19 Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead. Dan. 12:2. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. John 5:28,29, Rom.6:5. 1 Cor. 15, Eze.37

Chapter 32

ABOUT FREEDOM OF CREATIONS, FOREKNOWLEDGE, PREDESTINATION

Though man by nature is liable to lean towards good or evil, (1) human nature is created with the power of free will that he can behave as he chooses. Just as a person has the freedom to commit sin, he has the freedom not to commit sin, if he wills. God only wants that man shall turn his free will towards good, but he never compels anyone to do good or evil, and rewards condemnation or salvation accordingly. However, he helps those who ask him, to do good. Because, even though it is true that God has given man sharp intelligence and freedom to turn to what is good and abhor evil, (2) man does not have the power to do any good by himself without the power of God. (3) Because God hates evil, he does not help man to do evil, but leaves him to his own will. (4) God has the foreknowledge even before the creation of the universe, that such and such people shall be eligible for eternal life, trusting in grace through His Son; and that such and such people shall be eligible for eternal condemnation. (5) But God has not ordained earlier that such and such people shall inherit eternal life, and such and such shall inherit eternal hell. (6) It is not that God has no power and authority to appoint and sanctify for his sendee those about whom he has foreknowledge, (7) Nor is it that He has not set apart and sanctified those whom he has known in his foreknowledge, that they shall be eligible for his grace and his call. (9) It only means that God is unbiased, and full of justice and mercy. He does not create and predestine some people so that they become evil, and then punish them; nor does he create and predestine some people so that they become righteous, and then save them; It also means that he does not make some people inherit eternal life and some others eternal hell after making them do good or evil as predestined by him while denying them freedom of will. But the teaching of some people that whatever things men do, they are made to do so by God as predestined by Him, and these actions shall never be the cause for salvation or condemnation; that salvation and condemnation are given as predestined; shall generate in men the evil thought that “everything will happen as predetermined by God, irrespective of whatever I will or not;’ This will drag men to great dangers like disappointment, disinterest in spiritual matters and unholy activities; and it makes a righteous God unrighteous.

(1) Deu. 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live. Deu. 11:26,27.

(2) John 15:5 because apart from me you can do nothing. Acts 17:28 For 1 In Him we live and move and have our being’.

(3) Psal. 81:12. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. Acts. 14:15 James 1:13, 14, 15.

(4) Acts.2:23. This man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. Rom. 8:29, 11:21, Peter 1:2.

(5) Mich. 6:3,4. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? answer me!" For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Isa.5:3,4 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? Rom. 2:4,5,6 Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourselves on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgement will be revealed. Rom.1:20,21,22. Isa.1:16-20.

(6) Rom. 9:21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? Jeie. 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

(7) Rom. 8*29,30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son, in order that he might be the first born within a large family and those he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

(9) Rom. 2:11 For God shows no partiality. Psal. 19:9-10 the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. 1 Peter 1:17, 23.

to be continued

SYRIAC/GREEK WORDS (used in our worship)

Let's recollect some words -

MANEESO	:	Songs of praise
MAVURBA	:	Songs of Mary
SADEEKE	:	Righteous person
SELUM BASHSLOMO	:	Go in peace
SLOMO	:	Peace

NEW WORDS

SUBUKONO	:	Remission of sin
SLOOSO	:	Prayer
PHAGARO	:	Body
DAMO	:	Blood
KYMTHA	:	Resurrection



.... to be continued

OUR TALENT



“Remember that you are talented & that your talent has value.”

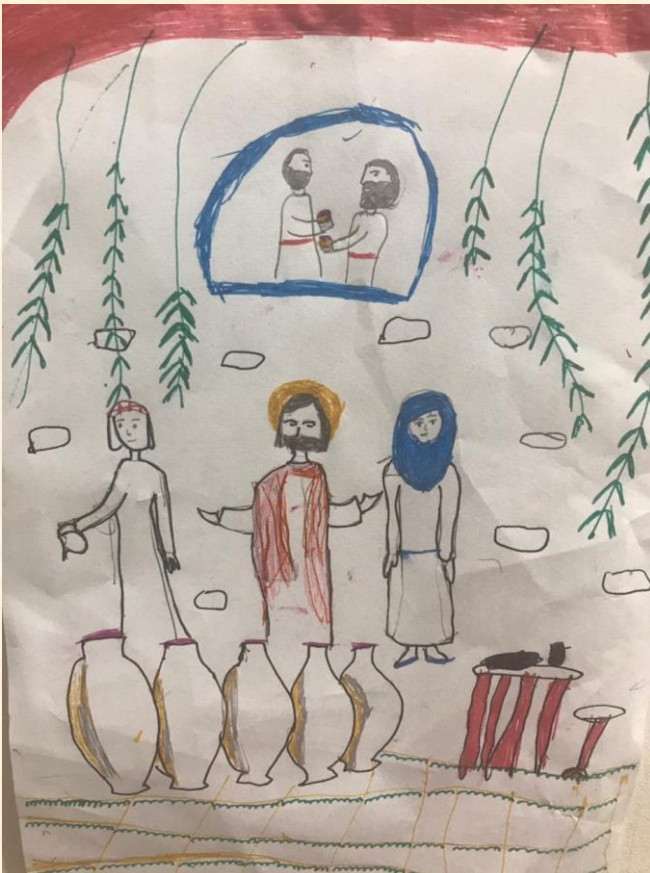
- Jessica Hische



Hannah Aby

Class 4 ,

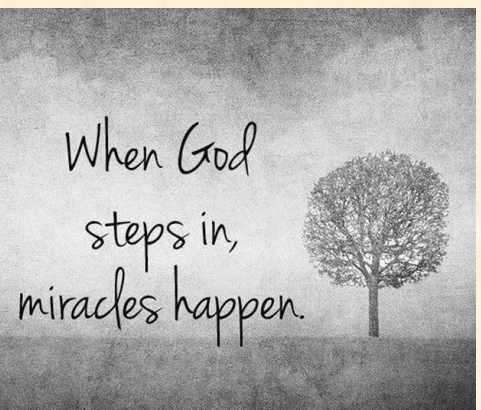
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



Hannah Aby

Class 4,

St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



List of students/teachers by parish who contributed articles to ebodhini-Vol 13
(Our Talent / Messages).



Thank you for sharing your talents.

Bangalore - District I

St. Baselios Orthodox Church, Marathahalli

*Hannah Sam
Alona S George
Rahel Sarah George
Shreya S Deepak
Angelina Biju
Hazel M Denny
Johan Peter Nishant
Joann Maria Mathew
Georgina Susan Mathew
Peter Varkki Chacko
David Varkki Chacko
Amelia Biju
Elsa Liji
Jonathan Thomas Mathew
Lisa Susan Alex
Ivin George
Aaron Shibi Thomas
Alvin Shibi Thomas
Jessica Ann John
Eliana S Cherian
Stephen C.A & Simon C.A
Jenise Susan Shyju
Iris Binu Abraham
Susan Koshy
Shreya Binu
Elisheba Anna Sebjju
Elizabeth Koshy
Alan John*

St. George Orthodox Church, Indiranagar

*Eugene Eric James
Cyril Babu Suneesh
Reanna Shanu Daniel
Christina Sam
Joel Sam
Aleena Grace Alex
Grace Sajan
Jayden Alex Subin
Ryan Philip*

Bangalore - District II

St. Mary's Orthodox Valiapally, Jalahalli

*Alex V. Philip
Hannah Elsa
Samaira Joseph
Jaden Joseph
Ann Maria
Sean Shinoi George
Haron George Santhosh
Kesiya Anna Binu
Jerome Koshy
Renee Anne Jacob
Jovel K Koshy
Jincy
Rian Vijay
Lisa Daniel
Ivan B Philip
Irene B Philip
Jonathan George
Sarah M Sibin
Serah M Sibin
Jeriel G
Nessa Maria George*

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mathikere

*Johaana Joshey
Aimy Sara Sino
James Mathew
Shobana Mathew
Manna Rachel Sanjay
Aleena Yohannan
Edwin Eapen Philip
Johaana Daniel Boban
Ashly Yohannan
Amelia Ann Shenoy
Leisha Sara Prasad
Anna Mariam Sanjay
Evaan Shenoy
Ishan Eapen Philip
Soniya Mathew
Paul John Joseph
Leon Eapen Philip*

Bangalore - District I

Chris Jacob

Kesiya Mariyam Jacob

St. Gregorios Orthodox Cathedral, Hosur Road

Johana Elizabeth Thomason

Dan George

Elaine Mary Alex

St. Joseph Orthodox Church, Hormavu

Nandita Susan Varghese

Ronell Philip Thomas

Isabel Mathew

Maria Joju

St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Begur

NIL

St. Thomas Orthodox Maha Edavaga, B'lore East

NIL

**Mar Yuhanon Mamdana Orthodox Church,
K.R.Puram**

NIL

Bangalore - District II

St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, Vijayanagar

Mikhael Kuruvilla Mani

Sneha Valsa Mobin

Anna Sara Benson

Serah George

Allen Sam Vinod

Ashlin V Samuel

Neha Ann Mobin

Michelle Alex

Hannah Aby

Albi Robin

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mysore

Seraphim Boaz Cyril

Evelyn M Dickson

Rhea Ann Mary

Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church, Hebbal

Veena John

Rachel Mariam John

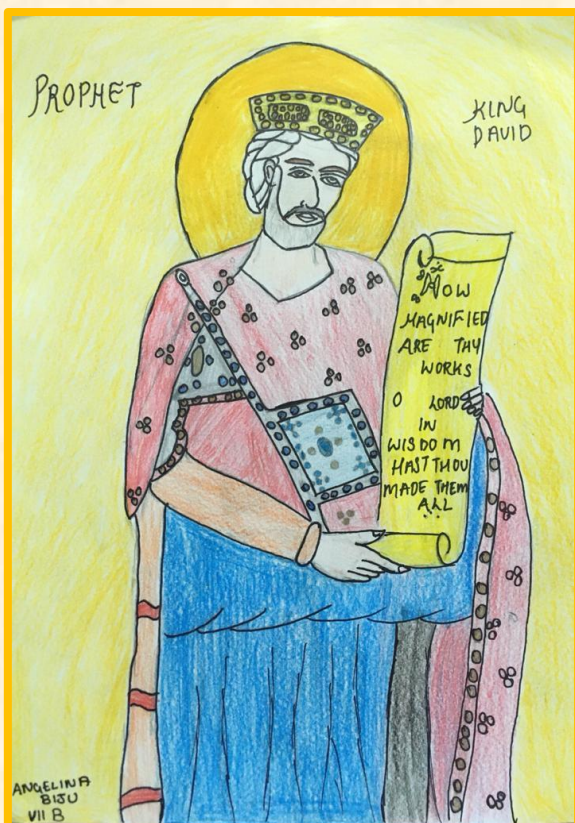
St. Dionysius Orthodox Church, Dasarahalli

Jace C Jinoj

Thomas P J

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Tumkur

NIL



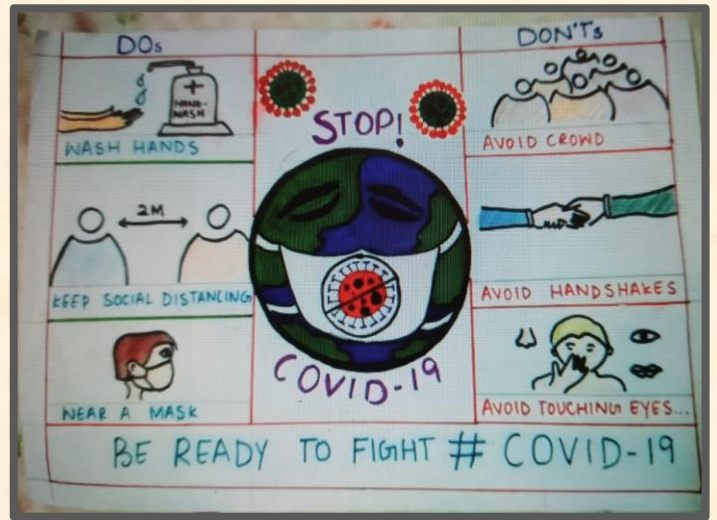
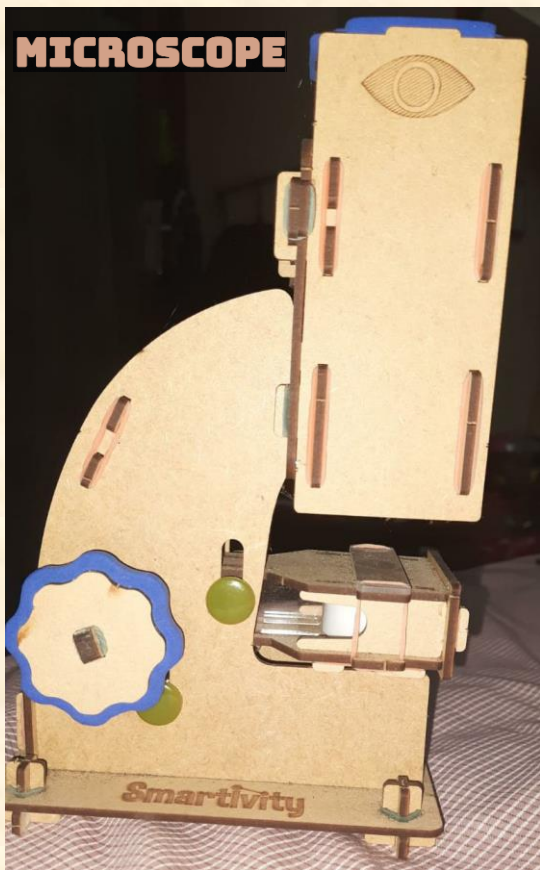
Angeline Biju

Class 7,

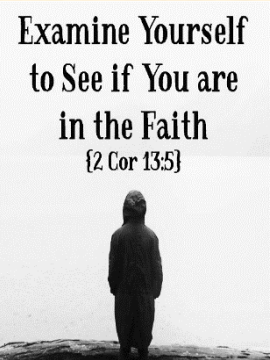
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

I have hidden
your word in
my heart that I
might not sin
against you.

- Psalm 119:11

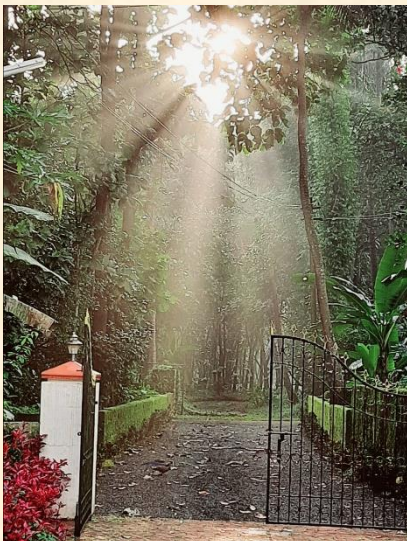


Johana Elizabeth Thomason
 Class 7,
 St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS, Hosur Rd



Johana Elizabeth Thomason
 Class 7,
 St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS, Hosur Rd

**Plant photography session –
 (A Sunday school class activity)**



Eugene Eric James
Class 5,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



Cyril Babu Suneesh
Class 6,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

WHATEVER YOUR HAND
finds to do,
DO IT WITH ALL
your might.

Ecclesiastes 9:10



Bible Quotes for New Year

- Jeremiah **2**9 : 11 "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans of peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope"
- Psalms **20** : 4 "Let God grant what is in your heart and fulfill all your plans."
- Proverbs **23** : 18 "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."
- Philippians **4** : **13** "I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength."

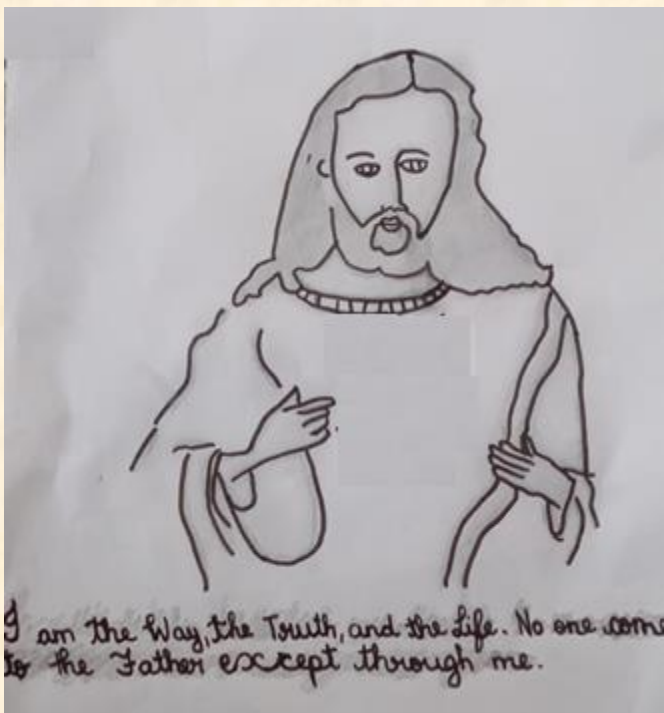
By -Evelyn M Dickson, Class 2, SGSOC-MYSORE

Evelyn M Dickson
Class 2,
St. Gregorios OC SS, Mysore



Rhea Ann Mary
Class 5,
St. Gregorios OC SS, Mysore

**I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
& THE LIFE.**



Reanna Shanu Daniel
Class ,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

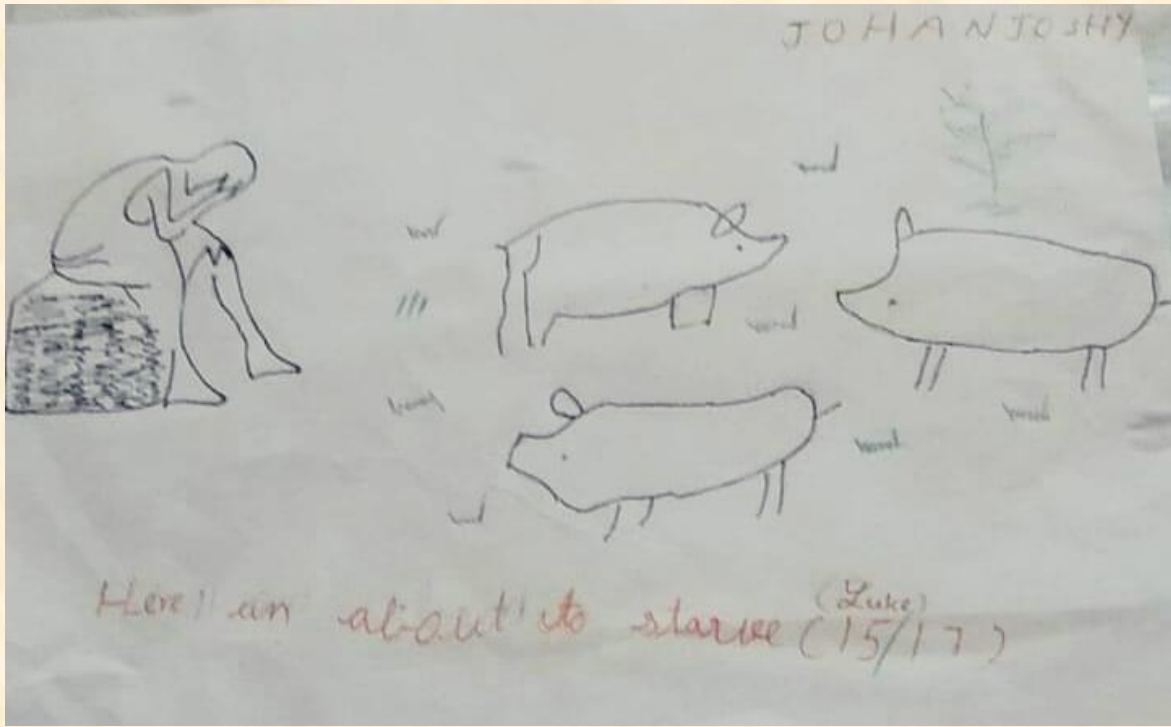




Christina Sam
Class ,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

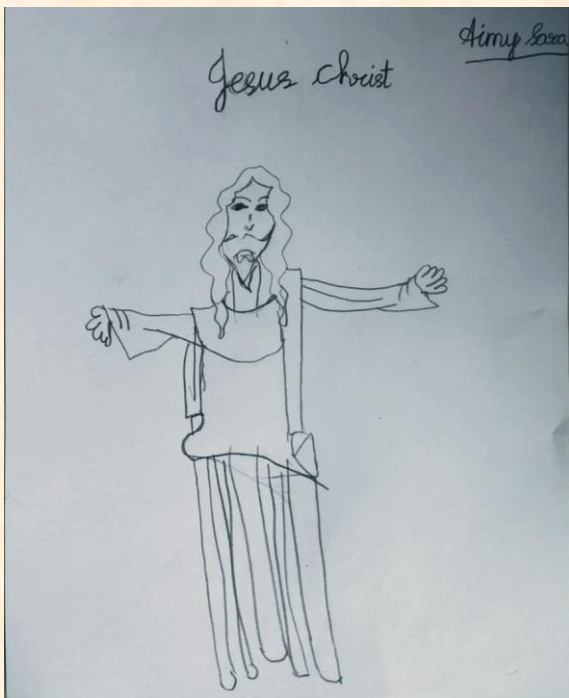


Joel Sam
Class 5,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

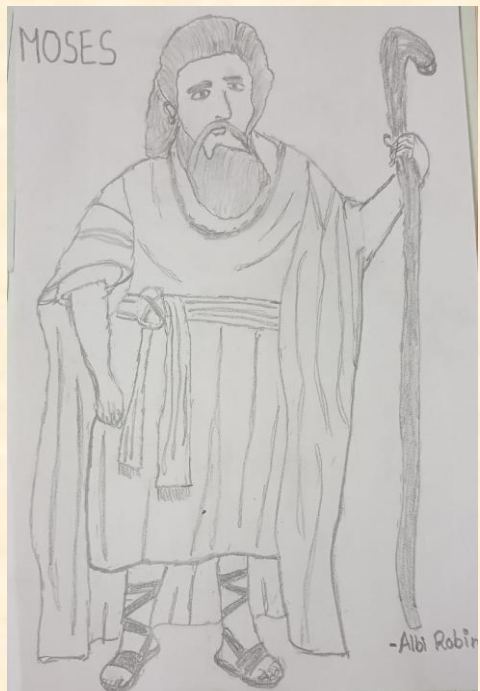


Johaam Joshey
Class 2,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere

"For this son of mine was DEAD and is ALIVE AGAIN; he was LOST and is found." (Lk 15:24)



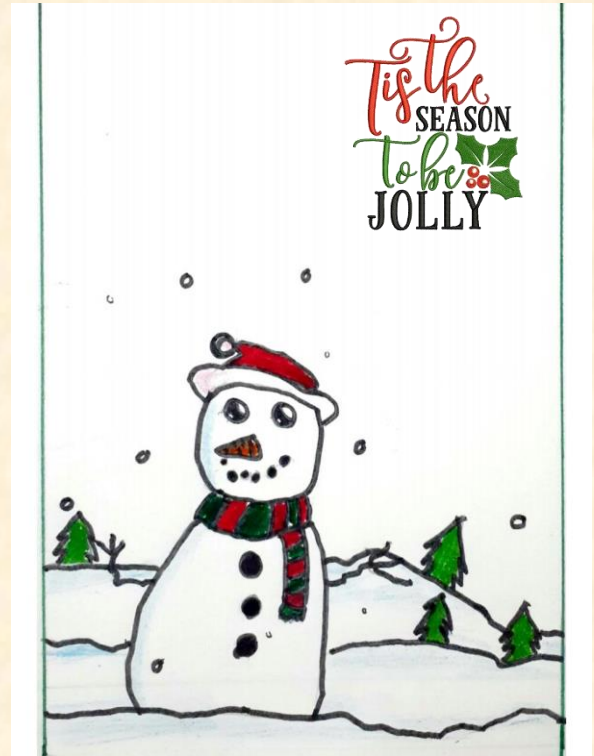
Aimy Sara Sino
Class 2,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



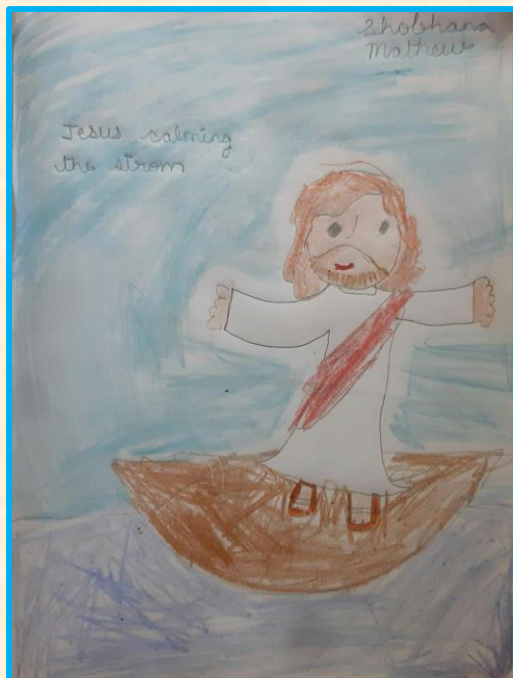
Albi Robin
Class 10,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



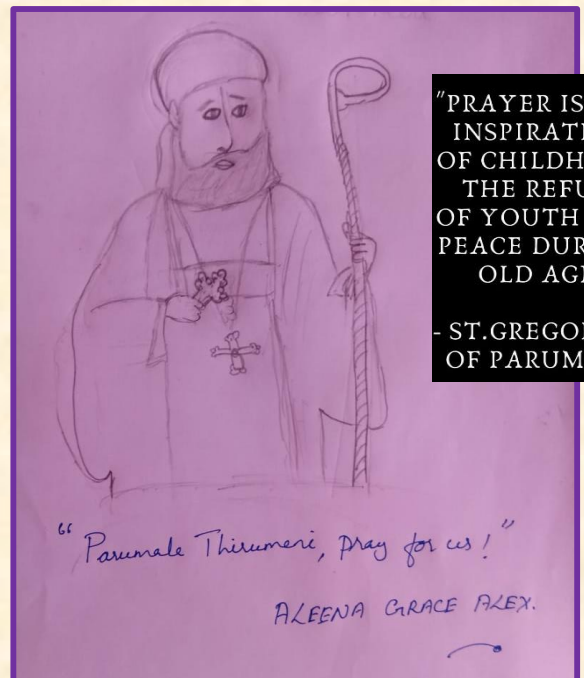
Aimy Sara Sino
Class 2,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



James Mathew
Class 2,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



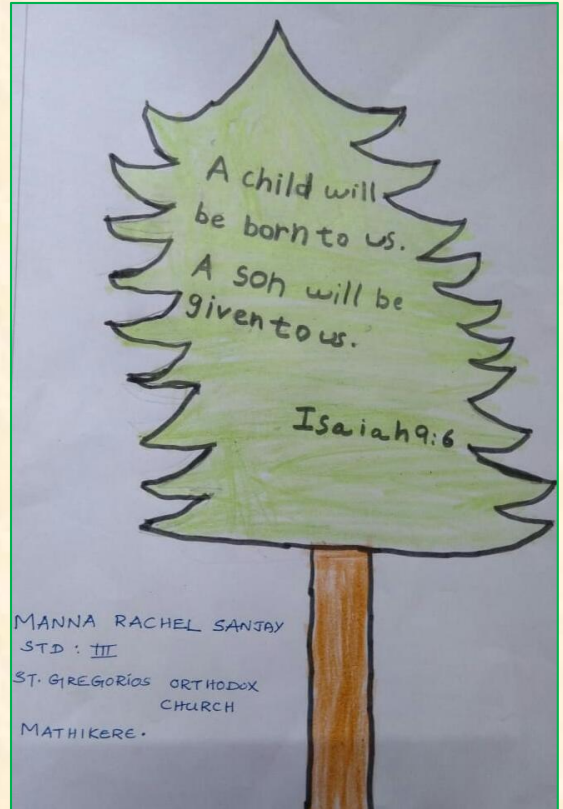
Shobana Mathew
Class 1,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



Aleena Grace Alex
Class 5,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



Mikhael Kuruvilla Mani
Class 2,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar

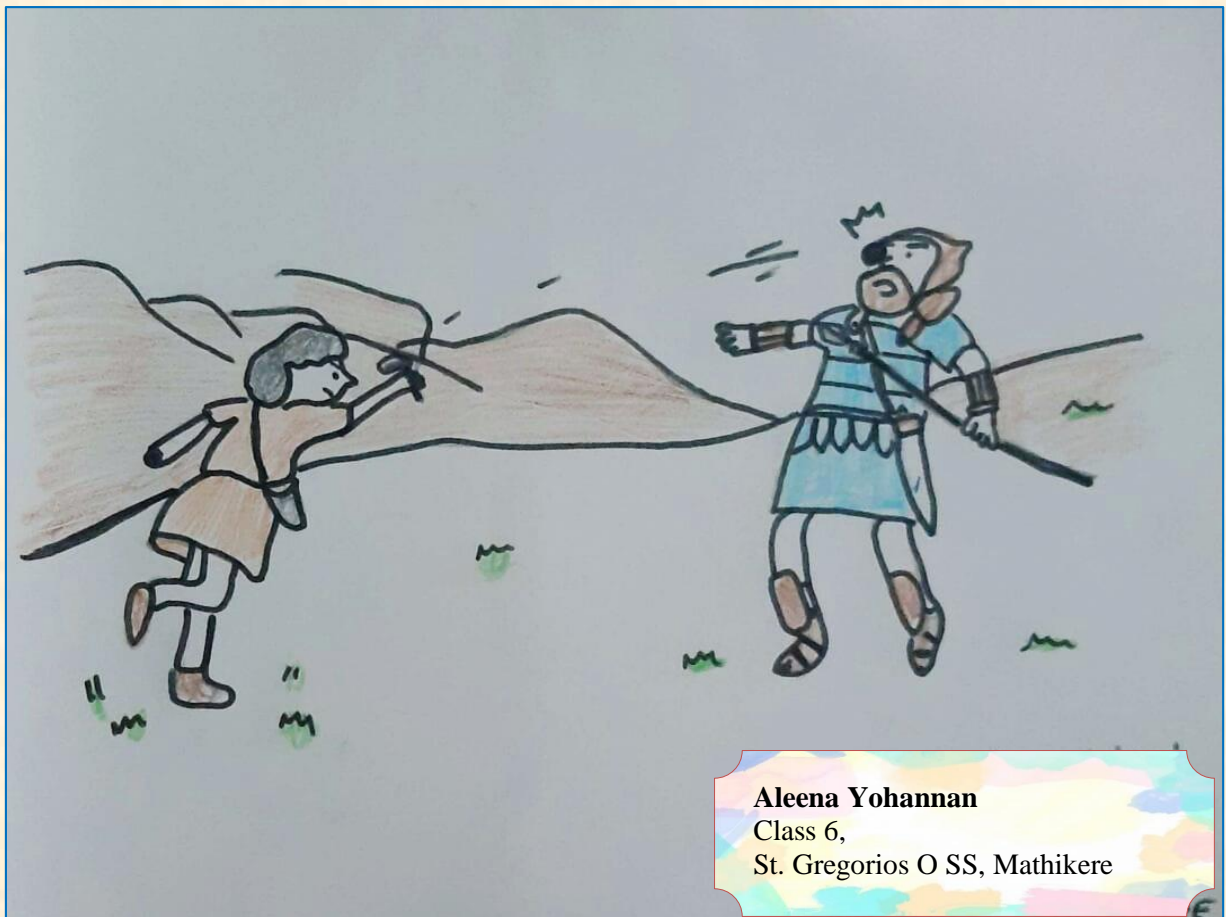


Manna Rachel Sanjay
Class 3,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



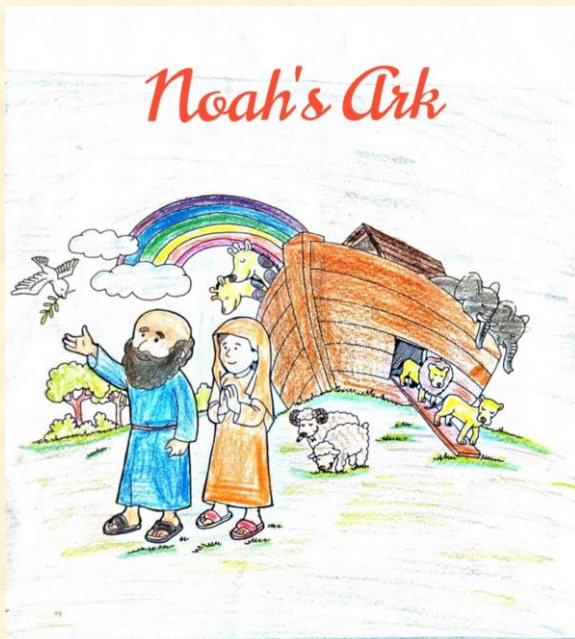
Grace Sajan
Class 5,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

DON'T FORGET TO
PLAY



Aleena Yohannan
Class 6,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere

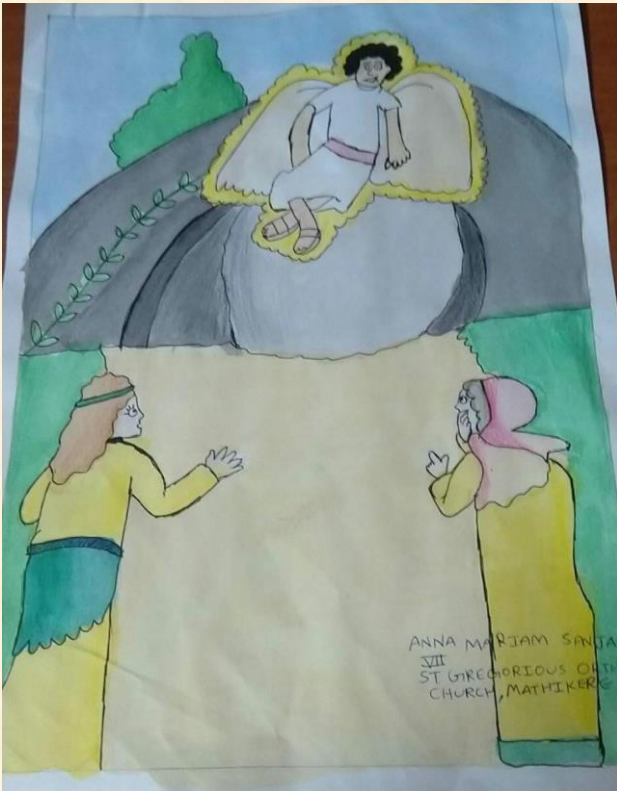
**SOMETIMES
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS
THAT SOLVE A BIG PROBLEM**



Johaana Daniel Boban
Class 4,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



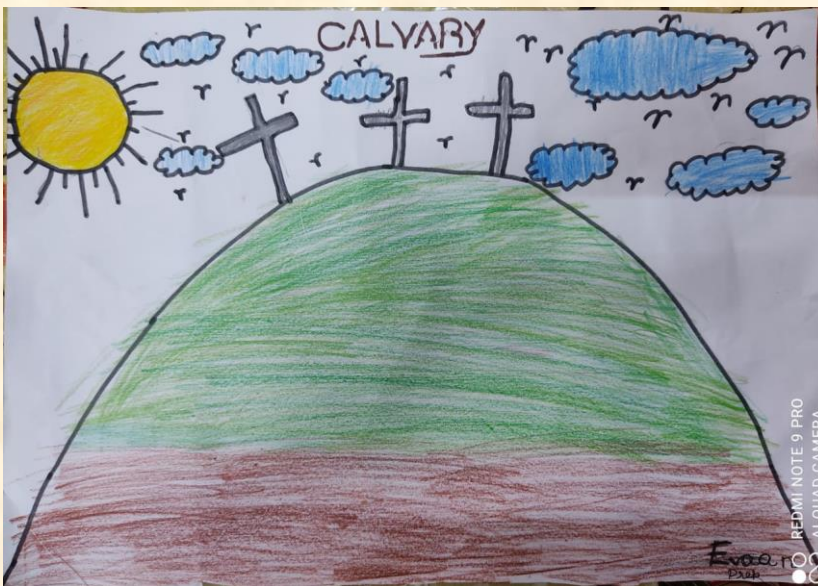
Edwin Eapen Philip
Class 3,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



Anna Mariam Sanjay
Class 7,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



Joel Sam
Class 5,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



Evaan Shenoy
Class 1,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere

*The cross
before me
the world
behind me*



The Crystal Ball

Nasim, a small boy, found a crystal ball behind the banyan tree of his garden. The tree told him that it would grant him a wish. He was very happy and he thought hard, but unfortunately, he could not come up with anything he wanted. So he kept the crystal ball in his bag and waited until he could decide on his wish.

The days went by without him making a wish. One day his best friend saw him with the crystal ball. He stole it from Nasim and showed it to all in the village. They all asked for gold, palaces and more, but only 1 wish was only granted. All started to become angry and upset. They asked Nasim. He wished everything would go back to how it was once. Thus all became happy.

Moral:- Money and wealth do not always bring happiness.

Sneha Valsa Mobin

Class 5,

St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar

കരുണാമയനായ പിതാവ്.. പക്ഷേ..

സകലതിനെയും സൃഷ്ടിച്ച ശേഷം, നാം നമ്മുടെ സ്വരൂപതിലും, സാദൃശ്യതിലും മനുഷ്യനെ ഉണ്ടാക്കും എന്ന് തൃത്വം തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നു. നാം നമ്മുടെ സ്വരൂപത്തിലും സാദൃശ്യപ്രകാരവും മനുഷ്യനെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കും എന്നാണ് ദൈവം തീരുമാനിച്ചത്. മനുഷ്യനോടുള്ള അവിടുത്തെ വലിയ സ്നേഹമാണ് അവിടെ പ്രകടം ആകുന്നത് (ഉല്പത്തി 1:26). തൃത്വത്തിന്റെ സൃഷ്ടിയാണ് മനുഷ്യൻ. കളങ്കരഹിതമായ ഒരു സ്നേഹമാണ് ദൈവം മനുഷ്യനിൽ നിന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചത് എന്ന് തന്റെ ദിവസേനയുള്ള മനുഷ്യനുമായി ഉള്ള സമ്പർക്കത്തിൽ കൂടെയും, എല്ലാ ദിവസവും ഒരു സ്നേഹി തന്നെ കാണാൻ എത്തുന്ന പോലെ മനുഷ്യനെ കാണാൻ എത്തുന്നതും സൃഷ്ടിയുമായി നമുക്ക് കാണിച്ചു തരുന്ന ഒരു സത്യമാണ്.

സ്നേഹവും, സമാധാനവും ഉള്ള ഇടത്ത് തന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വിലപോവില്ല എന്ന് പരിപൂർണ്ണ വിശ്വാസം ഉള്ള ആകൽ കറുസ്സ എന്ന സാത്താൻ വളരെ തന്ത്രപരമായി അവന്റെ പദ്ധതി ദൈവം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയ ഏദൻ തോട്ടത്തിൽ വെച്ച് തന്നെ നടപ്പാക്കിയതാണ് മനുഷ്യൻ പറ്റിയ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ കെണി. ദൈവത്തിനു മനുഷ്യനോടുള്ള സ്നേഹവും, വിശ്വാസ്യതയും വളരെ സങ്കടകരമായ രീതിയിൽ അവിടെ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു. പതിവുപോലെ ഒരു ദിവസം മനുഷ്യനെ കാണാൻ സായാഹ്നത്തിൽ ഏദൻ തോട്ടത്തിൽ എത്തിയ ദൈവത്തെ കാണാൻ കൂട്ടാക്കാതെ ഒളിച്ചിരുന്ന മനുഷ്യരെ , പിതാവായ ദൈവം വാത്സല്യത്തോടെ വിളിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾ നഗൻ ആകുകൊണ്ട് ഭയപ്പെട്ട് ഒളിച്ചിരിക്ക ആണ് എന്ന് പറയുന്നു. അപ്പോൾ അവിടുന്ന് ചോദിക്കുന്നു " നിങ്ങള് നഗൻ ആണെന്ന് ആർ പറഞ്ഞു " എന്നാണ്. എന്റെ കല്പന നിങ്ങള് ധിക്കരിച്ചുവോ എന്ന് ചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ , സർവ ശക്തനായ ദൈവം അവിടെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുക ആണ് എന്ന് വ്യക്തം. അന്നുമുതൽ ഇന്നുവരെ മനുഷ്യൻ കല്പന ലംഘനം തുടർന്ന് കൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കുന്നു.

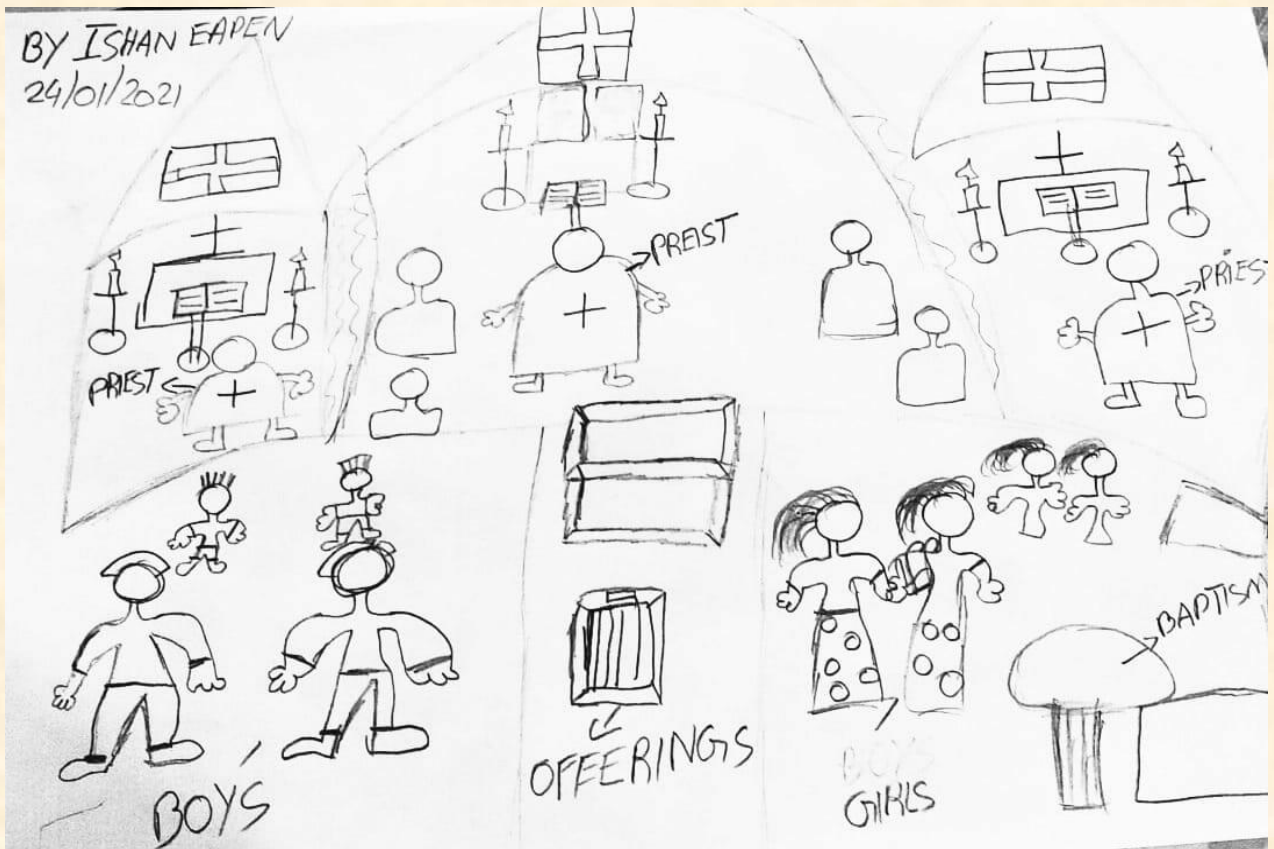
മനുഷ്യൻ ഏകൻ ആയിരിക്കുന്നത് നന്നല്ല എന്ന് ആദ്യം മനസ്സിൽ ആക്കിയത് ദൈവം തമ്പുരാൻ ആണ്. അതിന്റെ പരിണിത ഫലം ആണല്ലോ നരൻ നാരിയെ ലഭിച്ചത് തന്നെ. എല്ലാ നന്മകളും അനുഭവിക്കുവാൻ, പരിപാലിക്കാൻ അവർക്ക് സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും, അനുവാദവും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നല്ലോ. അതുകൊണ്ട് ആരംഭത്തിൽ തന്നെ ആഗ്രഹത്തിന് അറുതി ഇല്ലാതിരുന്ന മനുഷ്യൻ ദൈവത്തെപ്പോലെ ആകുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും , നന്മ തിന്മകളെ കുറിച്ച് അറിവാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം നമ്മിൽ ഒരുത്തനെപ്പോലെ ആയി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് ത്രിത്വം തന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്ക തക്കവണ്ണം ആയിത്തീരുകയും ചെയ്തു.

നഗ്നത സ്വയം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയ ആദമിനെയും , ഹവ്വയെയും ദൈവം തമ്പുരാൻ തന്നെ തോൽ കൊണ്ട് ഉടുപ്പിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കി ഉടുപ്പിച്ച്, തന്റെ മക്കളോടുള്ള സ്നേഹം ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി പ്രകടമാക്കി. പക്ഷെ നന്മ തിന്മകളെ അറിവാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം മനുഷ്യൻ മാറി എങ്കിലും അവൻ പൊടിയിലേക്ക് ചേരേണ്ടവൻ ആണെന്ന് അവിടുന്ന് തീരുമാനിച്ചു.. ഉൽപത്തി 3:19. വീണ്ടും അവർ കൈനീട്ടി ജീവവ്യക്ഷത്തിന്റെ ഫലം കൂടി പറിച്ച് തിന്നു .എന്നേക്കും പാപികൾ ആയി ജീവിപ്പാൻ സംഗതി ആകാതെ ഇരിപ്പാൻ അവരെ അവിടെ നിന്നും പുറത്താക്കുകയും , വീണ്ടും തോട്ടത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കാൻ കേരുമ്പുകളെ കാവൽ ആക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു .നിത്യജീവൻ പ്രാപിപ്പാൻ അവർക്ക് ലഭിക്കാതെ ഇരുന്ന ആ ഫലം ആണ് തൃത്വത്തിൽ രണ്ടാമൻ ആയ ക്രിസ്തുവിൽ വിശ്വസിച്ചു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മക്കൾ ആകുവാൻ യോഗ്യത ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നമുക്ക് നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

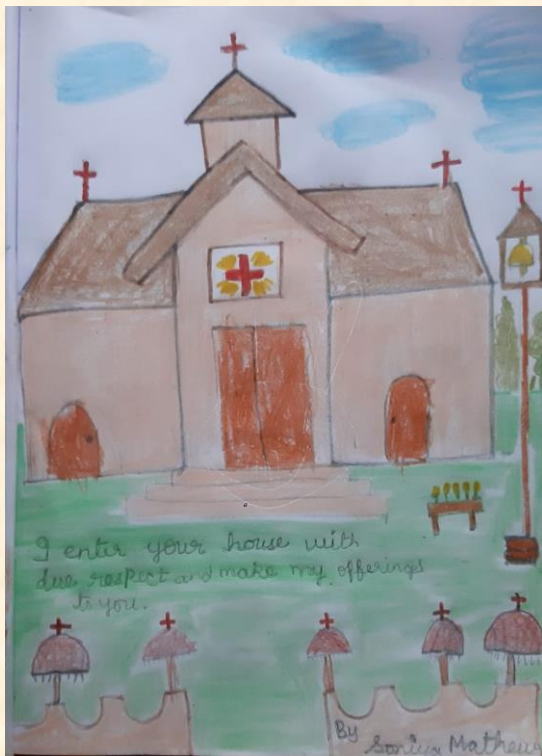
" പറുദീസയിൽ ആദാം രൂചി നോക്കാത്ത ഫലം സാമോദം വെക്കുന്നീ നാൾ നിൻ വായിൽ" എന്ന് പാടി ,മാമ്മോദീസ സമയത്ത് കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുടെ വായിലേക്ക് പുരോഹിതൻ തിരുശരീര രക്തം വെച്ച് തരുമ്പോൾ , വിശ്വാസികളായ മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാർ അവരുടെ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളെ ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ ശരീരത്തിലെ അവയവങ്ങൾ ആക്കി , നിത്യവും കർത്താവിന്റെ ശരീര രക്തങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കാൻ യോഗ്യത നൽകി നിത്യ ജീവനിലേക്ക് എത്തിച്ചിരിക്ക ആകുന്നു എന്നു എത്ര പേർക്ക് അറിയാം. അതും ദൈവ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ ഉദാത്ത ഉദാഹരണം ആണ്.

ഏദൻ തോട്ടത്തിൽ നിന്നും പുറത്താക്കിയ ആദി മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്ക് രണ്ടു മക്കൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. കയീനും, ഹബേലും. ഹാബേൽ നന്മ നിറഞ്ഞവനും , കയീൻ എതിർ സ്വഭാവക്കാരനും എന്ന് മനസ്സിൽ ആക്കിയ ദൈവം ഹബേലിന്റെ വഴിപാട് കൈക്കൊള്ളുകയും, കയീന്റെ വഴിപാട് കൈകൊള്ളാതെ ഇരുന്നതിന്റെയും കോപം സ്വന്തം സഹോദരന്റെ കൊലപാതകത്തിൽ വരെ അവനെ കൊണ്ടെത്തിച്ചു. അതിനു ശേഷം നിന്റെ അനുജൻ എവിടെ എന്ന് കയീനോട് ഉടയവൻ ചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ വളരെ ധിക്കാരപരമായ ഒരു മറുപടിയാണ് അവിടെ കേൾക്കുന്നത് " ഞാൻ അവന്റെ കാവൽ കാരനോ" സർവ ശക്തൻ ആയ ദൈവം തമ്പുരാൻ അവിടെയും അവനോടു ക്ഷമിച്ച്, അവനു സംരക്ഷണം നൽകി തന്റെ സ്നേഹത്തോടെ ഉള്ള ക്ഷമ കാണിക്കുന്നു. ആദ്യത്തെ ആരാധനയിൽ തന്നെ പിണക്കം ഉണ്ടാവുന്നു. കലുഷിതമാ കുന്നു. അത് ഇന്നും തുടർന്ന് കൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കുന്നു. പെട്ടെന്ന് മാനസാന്തരത്തിലേക്കു വന്ന കയീനെ ദൈവം സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതായി നാം കാണുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

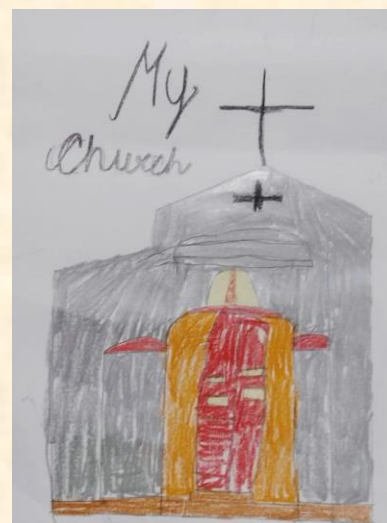
ഈ ഒരു സംരക്ഷണം ഇപ്പോഴും തുടർന്ന് കൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷെ എത്ര കാലം... എക്കാലവും അത് നില നിൽക്കുമോ. ...ഇല്ല.. പത്രോസ് അപ്പോസ്തലൻ പറയുന്നു 'വാക്കാൽ ഉളവായത് തീക്കായി വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു ' എന്ന്., അതിനു മുൻപായി പരീക്ഷയിൽ പാസ്സാവുക... ആ സമയം ആണ് ഇപ്പോൾ.. സമയം തക്കത്തിന് വിനിയോഗിച്ചു കൊൾവിൻ....



Ishan Eapen Philip
 Class 7,
 St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



Soniya Mathew
 Class 3,
 St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere

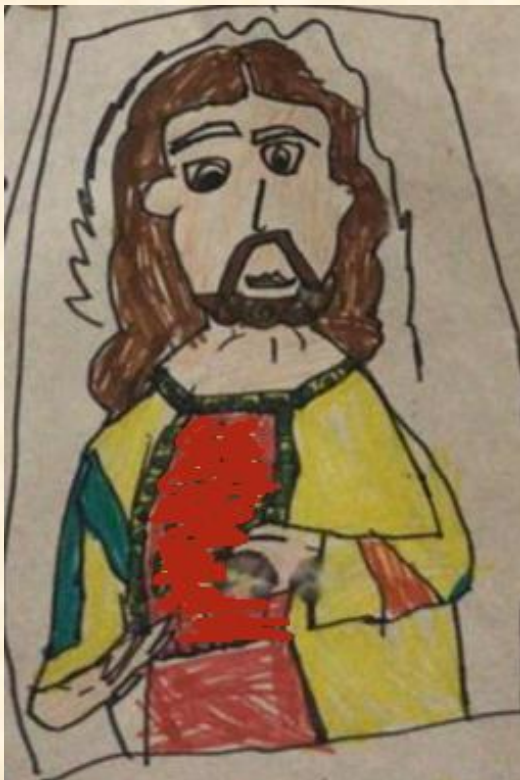


Paul John Joseph
 Class 2,
 St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



ADAM & EVE *in the*
Garden of Eden

Jayden Alex Subin
Class 2,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



God is Love

-1 John 4:16

Anna Sara Benson
Class 1,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar

Cope With Anxiety

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain you; he shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

-Psalm 55:22



"The plans of the diligent leads surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty surely to poverty."

-Proverbs 21:5



"Fear not for I am with you, Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

-Isaiah 41:10

Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

-Philippians 4:6-7

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature"

-Matthew 6:27



Serah George
Class 10,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



PRAYER

Allen Sam Vinod

IV std

St. Stephen's O. Chodai
Sunday school



Why do we need to pray? We need to pray because we love God and He commanded us to pray. As oil is needed to lighten the lamp, the lamp of man needs prayer to shine. As children, we all may have to face many temptations in our lives, there is always warfare against evil. We should overcome them through prayer.

How do we need to pray? Pray to do his will. Our Lord's prayer, the prayer at Bethany in St. Matthew 6:9-14 and St. Luke 11:2-4 clearly teaches us how to pray.

A famous saying of Parumala Thirumani says, "When we pray with a heartful of devotion, God accepts it and we receive blessings in return."

Allen Sam Vinod

Class 4,

St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar

The Holy Spirit



God is only one, but He has revealed Himself as three persons, so that we can come to a better understanding of Him. The Holy Spirit is a fire of divine love that comes to touch us and refine us in a passionate desire to possess God. Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity.

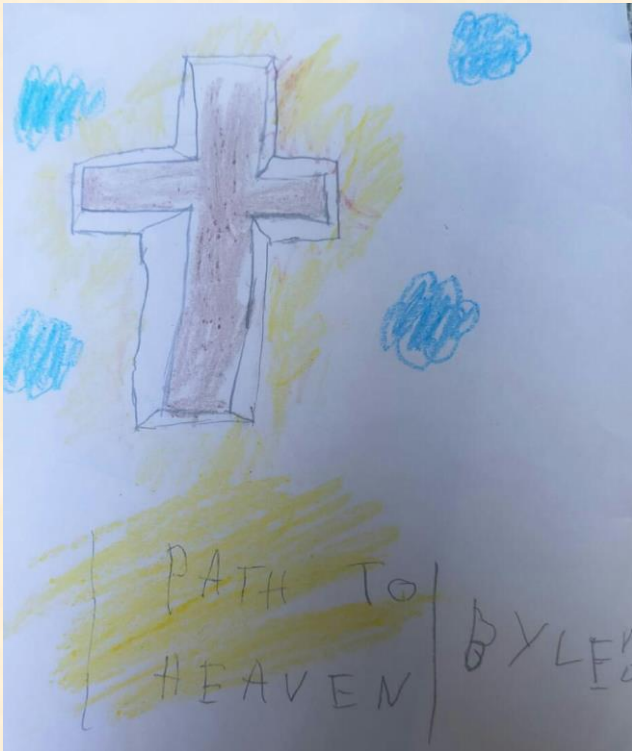
The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit in reference to St. Matthew 3:16 and St. Luke 3:22. The Holy Spirit is compared to a dove at the baptism of Jesus. Doves were used in ancient Israel as "Korban" or religious sacrifice within the Tabernacle and temples.

The symbolism of the dove is first found in the Old Testament, book of Genesis in story of Noah's Ark. When Noah sent a dove and when it returned with an olive branch in its beak (Gen 8:11) since then the olive branch has been a symbol of peace to the world.

Ashlin V Samuel

Class 7,

St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



Leon Eapen Philip
Class 2,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mathikere



Jayden Alex Subin
Class 2,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



Ryan Philip
Class 4,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

JESUS
IS ALL I NEED



The Proud Rose

Date: / /

Once upon a time there was a beautiful Rose plant in a garden. One rose flower on the plant was proud of its beauty. However it was disappointed that it was growing next to an ugly cactus. Every day the rose would insult the cactus about its looks but the cactus stayed quiet.

All the other plants in the garden tried to stop the rose from bullying the cactus but the rose was too swayed by its own beauty to listen to anyone.

One summer a well in the garden dried up and there was no water for the plants. The rose slowly began to wilt. The rose saw a sparrow dip its beak into the cactus for some water. The rose then felt ashamed for having made fun of the cactus all this time. But because it was in need of water it went to ask the cactus if it could have some water. The kind cactus agreed and they both got through summer as friends.

Moral: Never judge someone by the way they look.

One Foot In Front Of The Other

Something that I constantly repeat to myself, every time my unhelpful, and over dramatic brain blows whatever simple problem I am facing into a life and death situation, is the phrase 'One Foot In Front Of The Other'. It reminds me, that however catastrophic the problem seems, the world will keep turning, the sun will keep rising. All I have to do, is keep going. As long as I wake up tomorrow, I have another chance to get back in the ring and hash it out with life.

Sometimes, even in the middle of the night, when I suddenly start rethinking the decisions I have made, I have to remind myself that whatever happens, God has my back. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I like to think every day as a new page. Whatever foolishness was written on the previous page, can be overlooked as long as we write something worthwhile on this one. Lamentations 3:22-23 says 'For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning'. Every day God gives us one more chance to make ourselves worthy of his grace. All we have to do is get up and try. Keep God a little closer, work a little harder, be a little kinder. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Nandita Susan Varghese

Class 10,
St. Joseph O SS, Horamavu



Rahel Sarah George

Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Shreya S Deepak

Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

A flavor of the Lent

Lent is expected to be an integral part of an Orthodox Christians' way of life. While we admire those who strictly follow it and also shower on them the highest accolades, we often, individually, shy away from it for various reasons. Often, there is a feeling that the lent is difficult to manage with the present day life-work style. Perhaps there is a delusion, that we can do quite well even if we are lax about observing the lent. However, the entire Bible shows that disobedience, rebellion and immorality always led to a lot of pain: utter destruction, slavery and hopelessness. Recovery from this state was only through repentance and reconciliation with God.

Lent is a time when we try to humble ourselves voluntarily, by denying ourselves certain types of food and habits and by fasting; that is, avoiding one or a few meals. In the past most people observed lent by having only one, totally vegan meal, a day. Isaiah 58 elaborates on true fasting; that, what is pleasing to God is sincerity rather than a 'show' of the fasting. Ensuring justice for all, charity and giving the due, prominent place, especially in terms of time, for God in our lives is valued most, in fact even over fasting. True lent is a means to that end.

The need for the self-humbling is so that we can get closer to God. Is 57: 15 "God will live with people who are humble and repentant". Being close to God makes our lives sensible and meaningful on Earth and also tunes

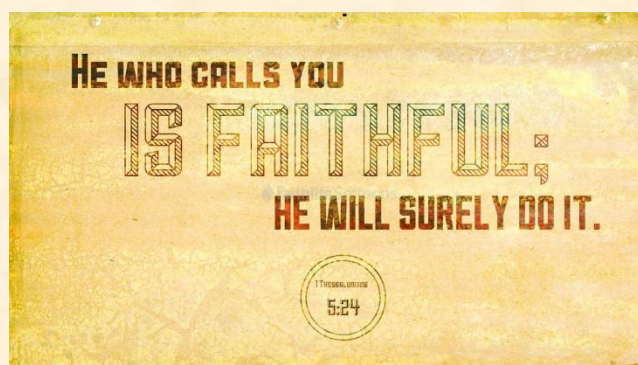
Veena John

Mar Gregorios OC, Hebbal

oneself to the salvation which is the ultimate goal of each one of us. The prescribed daily Bible readings and prayers are the nourishment which assist in upholding the lent. It also directs us to repentance; of our disobedience to Gods wishes. The prostrations are also a veneration of Gods glory and an expression of our total dependence on God's grace.

The lent is not something that is taken up trusting our own fragile self-control or will power. If the trust is placed in God's hands be assured that He never lets anyone down. "He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful" I Thes 5:24. Lent is an opportunity to renew that trust, to learn from failures of being human and to be thankful for the forgiveness. As we accept our frailty we ask for intercessory prayers from the departed clergy, and laity and set apart a service of reconciliation as part of the preparation for the lent.

Lent is a cyclic occurrence in orthodox culture throughout the year. We are familiar with the Nineveh lent, the



apostles lent, the assumption lent, the advent lent and the great lent. The great lent is termed “great” because it was also observed by our Lord. The three day Nineveh lent and an interspersing eighteen days precedes the great lent and the fifty days’ anticipatory period for the Pentecost follows it. You might have noticed that the dates of the great lent vary from year to year. Interestingly, the Easter date is fixed as the first Sunday following the full moon day after the northern spring equinox. The lent begins seven weeks before this date.

As we reach the halfway mark of the great lent, the Golgotha which signifies, Jesus, makes its presence in the middle of the church; together with the laity. It is respectfully venerated by all. It moves from the center of the church to the altar and the colors change from crimson at first to black during the passion week, white on Good Friday and red till the ascension. By then hopefully, we will be prepared enough to give a place for Him in our hearts.

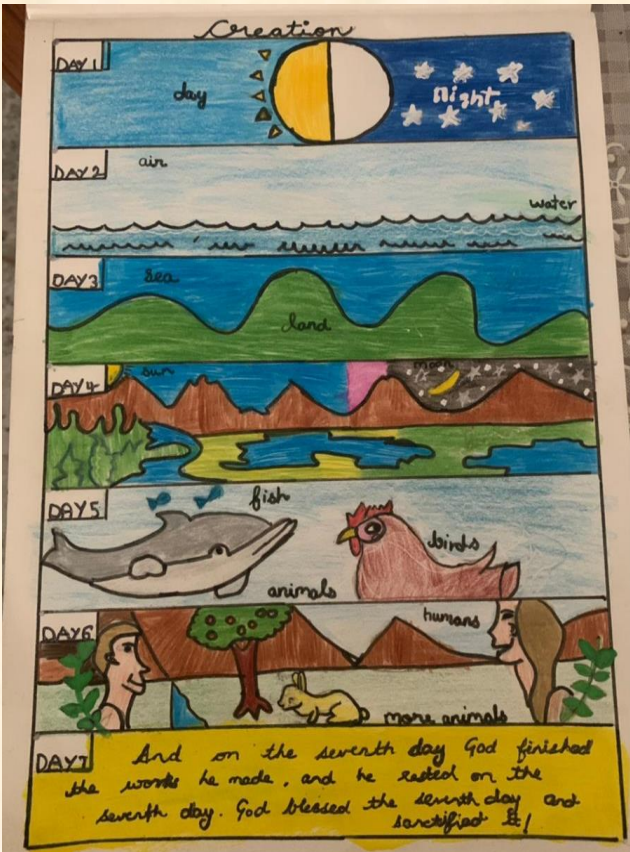
The theme of the Lenten Sundays of the great lent are specially arranged to remind us of the various miracles that our Lord did in His earthly life, which gives us a hope for similar possibilities in our lives even today. Who would not want to liven up bland lives, have clarity of vision, walk straight and upright, have our sins forgiven, get cured of various ailments and banish all hindrances, energize our paralysis and receive the gift of life; present and eternal? Lenten Saturdays too have special significance with dedication to St Aprem and to Jesus’ friend Lazarus, Holy Saturday to mention a few.

In addition to the above, the great lent season has a few additional celebrations and commemorations. The triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem –Hosanna is one such day. Annunciation to St Mary, Catholicate day are such events in the great lent. The Passover which is the institution of the Holy Qurbana, also known as Maundy Thursday, after the new mandate given by our Lord –“to love one another as I have loved you” is an important day, which every Christian strives to observe. The greatest of course is Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, which is the culmination of the passion week and the great lent, and is the fulcrum of all that we believe.

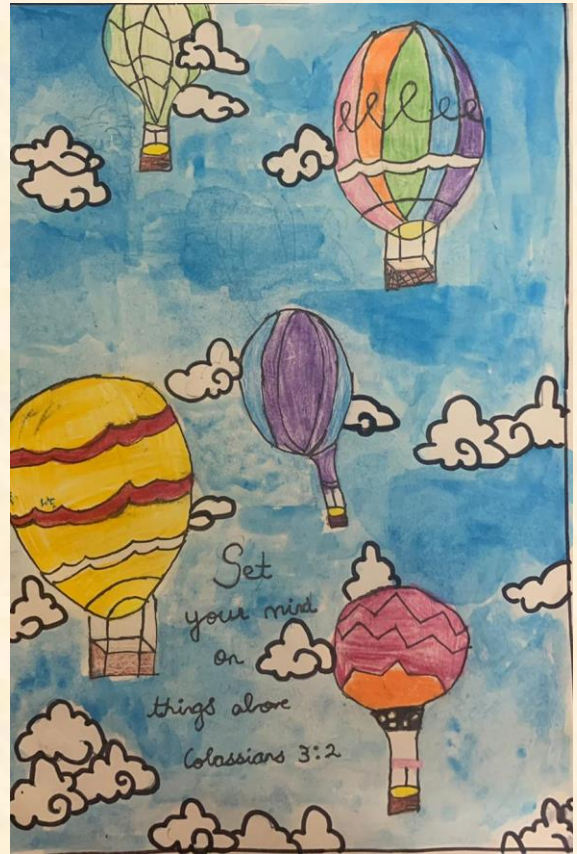
Lent for an Orthodox Christian has myriad hues and flavors, which enrich us beyond description.

by Veena John

FASTING
REDUCES THE
INFLUENCE
OF OUR SELF-WILL
AND INVITES THE
HOLY SPIRIT
to do a more intense
WORK
IN US.



Michelle Alex
Class 4,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



Michelle Alex
Class 4,
St. Stephen's O SS, Vijayanagar



Alona S George
Class 7,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Kesiya Mariyam Jacob
Class 6,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

By: Stephen C.A
Simon C.A

HYMNS SINGED AFTER THUBDEN

Date: 6th February 2021

It is divided into four types

- Kukilion - Ninnal sthuthiyode raagamakal (Hymn 131)
- Ekbo - Bhakthas pukazhcha bhajjaname (Hymn 132)
- Kolo - There are various options in Kolo (4/5)
 - Mannamakalkkayisiloma vanneke (Hymn 133/1)
 - Ravathesi matha (Hymn 133/2)
 - Sweekakanam nedi (Hymn 133/3)
 - Marufamin smoranam (Hymn 133/4)
- Bwoso - Naranasso / kurissun nri (Hymn 134/1)

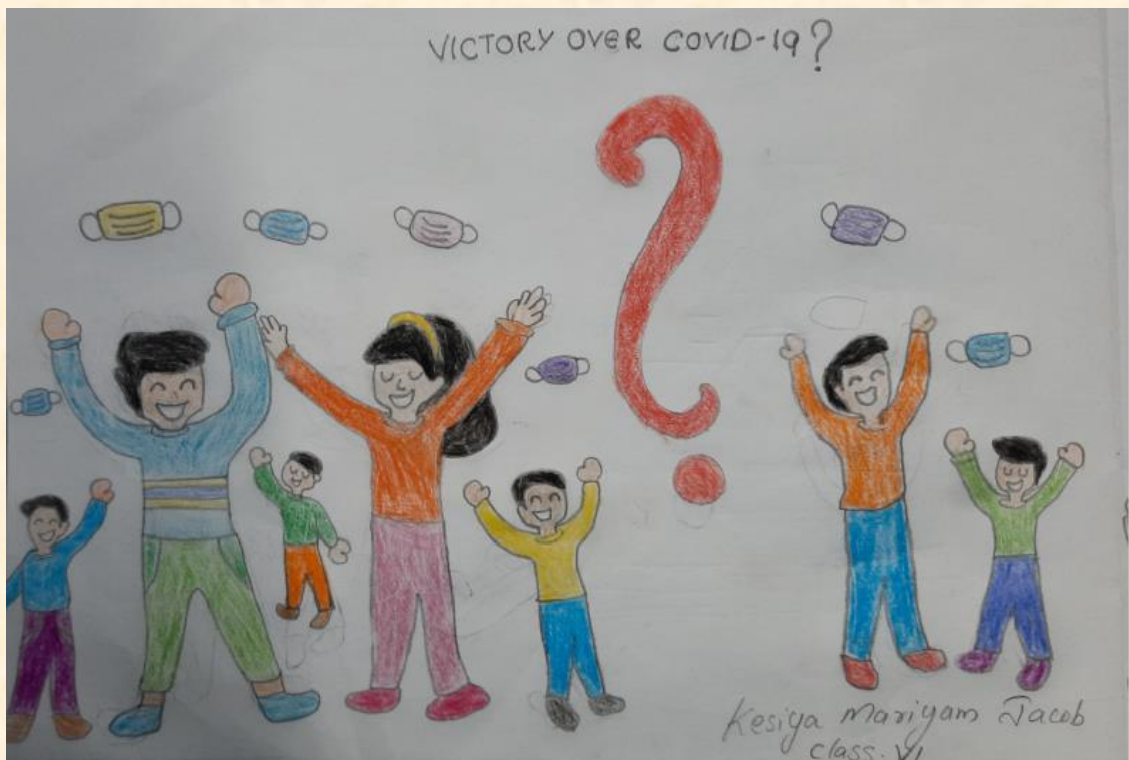
Kukilion, Ekbo and Bwoso are fixed hymns while Kolo has various options

Pg. 1

Stephen C.A & Simon C.A
Class,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

Kukilion

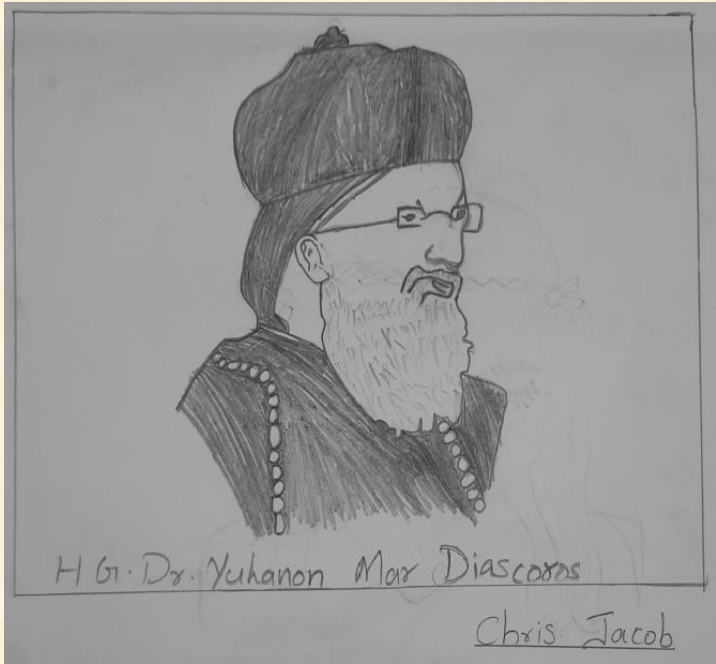
"Kukiliyon" which means "Cycle" are the small Intercessory Prayers or Litany used in the Worship. The Holy Theotokos (God Bearer) St. Mary, Saints, Departed Believers are specially remembered in it.



Kesiya Mariyam Jacob
Class 6,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar



Chris Jacob
 Class 6,
 St. George O SS, Indiranagar



H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoras

Chris Jacob



Samaira Joseph
 Class 1,
 St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

Echo of Ancient Indian Traditions in our Churches

Earlier in India, there used to be no single, united India, like we have now. India was divided into many different smaller dynasties like in the South of India there used to be Pandavas, Cheras and Cholas dynasty. These dynasties ruled separately with different rulers, cultures and traditions. And the church was growing in these regions by adopting to their cultures and traditions.

In the Travancore kingdom, most of the political ideologies (such as communism) and social reforms were welcome. The universality of education and temple entry permission for those considered as 'untouchables' were unique to this part of India. Although tolerant rulers, the Travancore royal family were devout Hindus; they also donated land and material to the construction of Christian churches and Muslim mosques. This patronage was appreciated by local Christians who actively supported the devout Hindu ruler during the Travancore-Dutch battles against a Christian power.



power.

Unlike in the rest of India, in Travancore, the social status and freedom of women were high. In many communities, the women were educated, and had the right to divorce and remarry.

The Christianity that was introduced in India by St. Thomas was truly dynamic. He founded seven and a half churches or Christian communities across the western coast of India. St. Thomas along with his disciples, also baptized 1100 people.

Our ancestors did not change overnight. The ancient churches would have looked more like a temple than a Church in Europe. At that time, there used to be no fast mode of transport or mail system. So, it was not like St. Thomas went to Europe, learned how to build churches, and then came to South India and started building European churches.



Religious clothing is clothing which is worn in accordance with religious practice, tradition or significance to a faith group. It includes clerical clothing such as cassocks, and religious habit, robes, and other vestments. Accessories include hats, wedding rings,

crucifixes, etc. The dressings worn by the Christians while going to pray were very similar.

Christians would wash their hands, face and feet before entering the worship space; this continued in Orthodox Christian churches. They would also take bath before going to church. The practice of ablutions before prayer and worship in Christianity symbolizes "separation from sins of the spirit and surrender to the Lord."

Before entering church we always leave our footwear outside. This is because our forefather could not afford slippers, so they were all barefoot. This is the reason why they wash their feet before entering the church.

At that time there used to be no candles like we have now. They used lamps instead. In accordance with traditional custom, near the tabernacle a special lamp, fuelled by oil or wax, was kept alight to indicate and honour the presence of Christ. The sanctuary lamp, also called a chancel lamp may also be seen in Eastern Orthodox Churches



The temples in India are open from all sides only the main area where the idol is placed in enclosed. Similarly, all the left and right side doors are open in our church. Side walls came into existence because of our Holy Qurbana. In the Holy Qurbana, after Nicene Creed, the next part of the Holy Qurbana was only celebrated among the Christians. Thus, all the Non-Christians were to leave the church. So, the altar boys used to come down and close the side doors during Nicene Creed. But now this practice is obsolete. But we still have the side walls with the doors in all churches.

Mangalsutra is considered as the symbol of marriage in India. The word Mangalsutra is derived from Sanskrit word 'Mangal' which means holy and 'Sutra' which means thread. The tradition of tying Mangalsutra is followed among almost all the Indian communities. 'Pennu Kettu' is the colloquial Malayalam equivalent of wedding, which literally means tying of the bride. The Mangalsutra used in Kerala, the Hindus use 'Thaali' and the Christians use 'Minnu'.



Henceforth, there are many ancient Indian traditions that we follow in our church even today.

Hannah Sam

Class ,

St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

OLD TESTAMENT

SUBDIVISIONS IN OLD TESTAMENT

I. PENTATEUCH

- a. Genesis
- b. Exodus
- c. Leviticus
- d. Numbers
- e. Deuteronomy

II. HISTORY

- a. Joshua
- b. Judges
- c. Ruth
- d. 1 Samuel
- e. 11 Samuel
- f. 1 Kings
- g. 11 Kings
- h. 1 Chronicles
- i. 11 Chronicles
- j. Ezra
- k. Nehemiah
- l. Esther

III. POETRY

- a. Job
- b. Psalms
- c. Proverbs
- d. Ecclesiastes
- e. Song of Solomon

IV. MAJOR PROPHETS

- a. Isaiah
- b. Jeremiah
- c. Lamentations
- d. Ezekiel
- e. Daniel

V. MINOR PROPHETS

- a. Hosea
- b. Joel
- c. Amos
- d. Obadiah
- e. Jonah
- f. Micah
- g. Nahum
- h. Habakkuk
- i. Zephaniah
- j. Haggai
- k. Zechariah
- l. Malachi

Seraphim Boaz Cyril
Class 3,
St. Gregorios O SS, Mysore

Blessed
be the **name**
of God forever and
ever, to whom **belong**
wisdom and
might.

Daniel 2:20



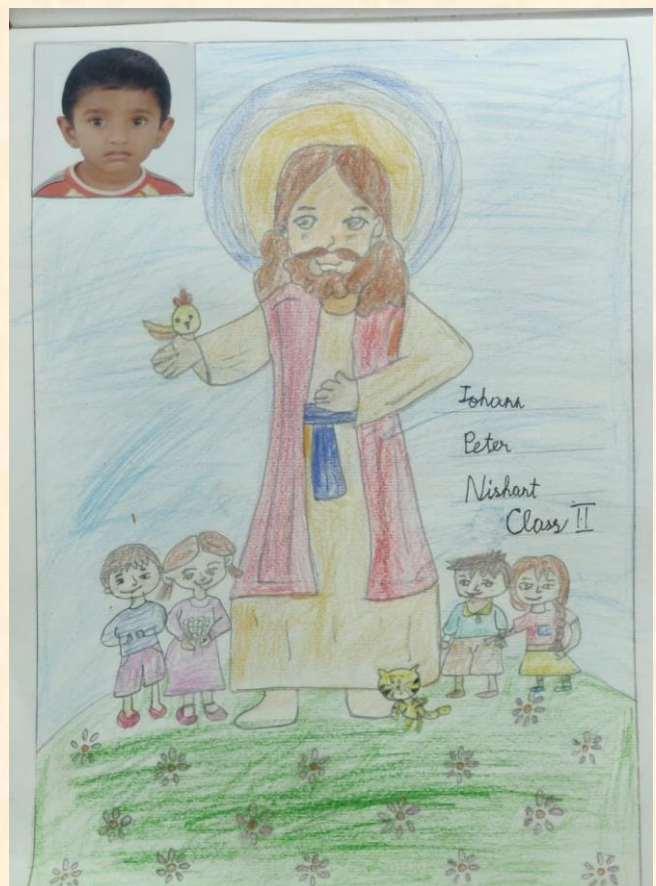


Hazel M Denny
Class ,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli





Hazel M Denny
Class ,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Johann Peter Nishant
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



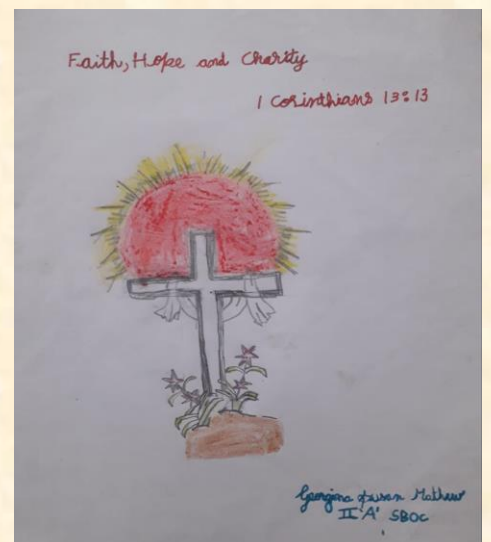
Amelia Biju
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



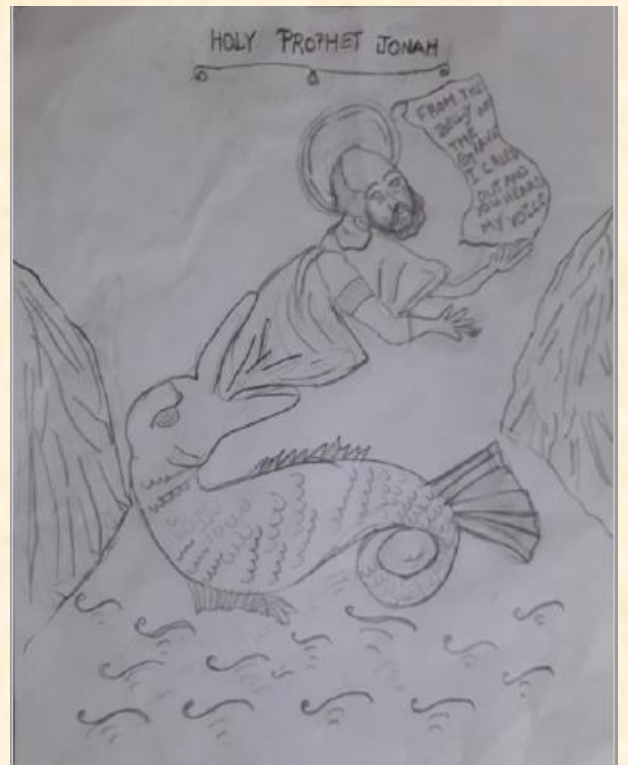
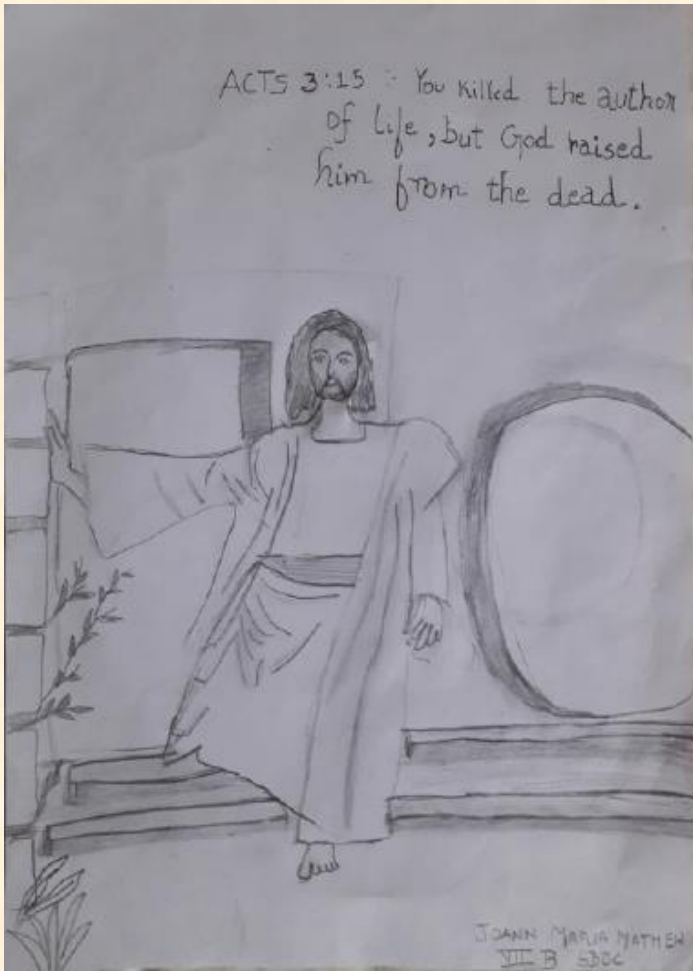
David Varkki Chacko
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Peter Varkki Chacko
Class 1,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Georgina Susan Mathew
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Joann Maria Mathew
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Elsa Liji
Class 2,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

12 Judges of Israel

The book of 1 Samuel lists Eli the priest, Samuel the prophet and Samuel's sons as Judges. There are also a few leaders in Judges, like Barak. However they are not usually grouped with the 12 mentioned in Judges:

12 JUDGES

	JUDGE	NO. OF YEARS (Ruled)
1.	Othniel	40 years
2.	Ehud	98 years
3.	Shamgar	
4.	Deborah	60 years
5.	Gideon	47 years
6.	Tola	23 years
7.	Jair	22 years
8.	Jephthah	24 years
9.	Izbar	7 years
10.	Elon	10 years
11.	Aldon	8 years
12.	Samson	60 years



Dan George
Class 7,
St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS, Hosur Rd

Inference- The 3 additional judges not listed in the Book of Judges are called as "Bonus" Judges. They are given the title because of the duties they performed.



Jonathan Thomas Mathew
Class Prep.,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

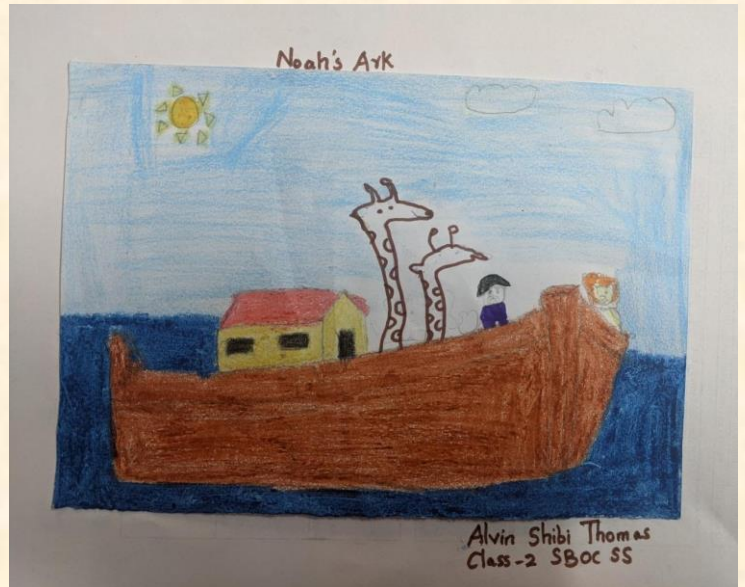
🌹 The roses 🌹

The Roses bloom everyday,
Every morning a petal shall fall.
The Roses the roses smell so sweet
Be careful not to prick a finger!
Ouch that might hurt
The Roses sleep in flower beds like we sleep in our comfy beds
The Roses need watering every day
Don't pluck it or you may get a splinter today
The roses sleep and smell
But they also wither
It won't last so long
Little star ✨
Little star little star
Up so high
Flying flying so high
Little star little star
Come to me
Bring me up and bring me up
And show me everything
Little star up so high
Come down
Become a shooting star
And hold me up
With your little starry hands...

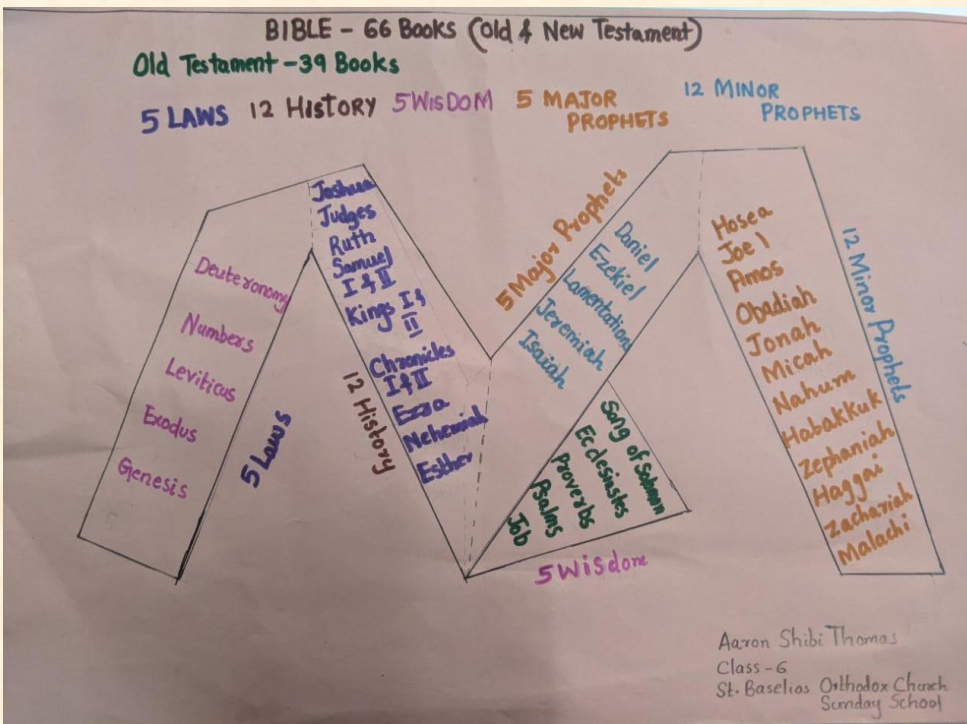
Jessica Ann John
Class 3,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Ivin George
Class 3,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Alvin Shibi Thomas
Class 3,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Aaron Shibi Thomas
Class 6,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Lisa Susan Alex
Class ,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Eliana S Cherian
Class 3,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

It Matters

We as a people united have achieved several milestones over the eons – landing men on the moon, building monuments, developing new technology to make life way easier, advancements in healthcare. We went on to search deeper into the earth and the expanding cosmos to enrich our knowledge.

Well, no one denies that we didn't do any of the said things. Some of us here, in 2021, are still under the notion that everything is under man's fine control.

Let's just take a peek into the story:

We've entered a crucial decade where the effects of our ancestors' exploitation of our resources, is going to permanently devastate the world's balance.

We continue to stockpile weapons and call out threats-and-negotiations despite the knowledge that the increasing number of nuclear warheads could destroy the planet.

We call ourselves the most advanced form of life on the planet. Yet we court chaos and it makes me wonder, what was it that made us so unique? Do we still have it?

Like astronaut Cooper said, "We used to look up at the sky and wonder at our place in the stars. Now we just look down and worry about our place in the dirt."

We're basically shrugging off several things that matter, like the fact that a kid who's in a room full of people still feels lonely, people falling into depression, drugs still flooding most people's lives, but most of all the loss of human connection.

Pablo Neruda wrote, "If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death."

Where does this leave us?

Do we continue to watch a species divided tear itself apart due to hate or do we take a stand to let ourselves heal? It is imperative that the realization dawns on us soon enough.

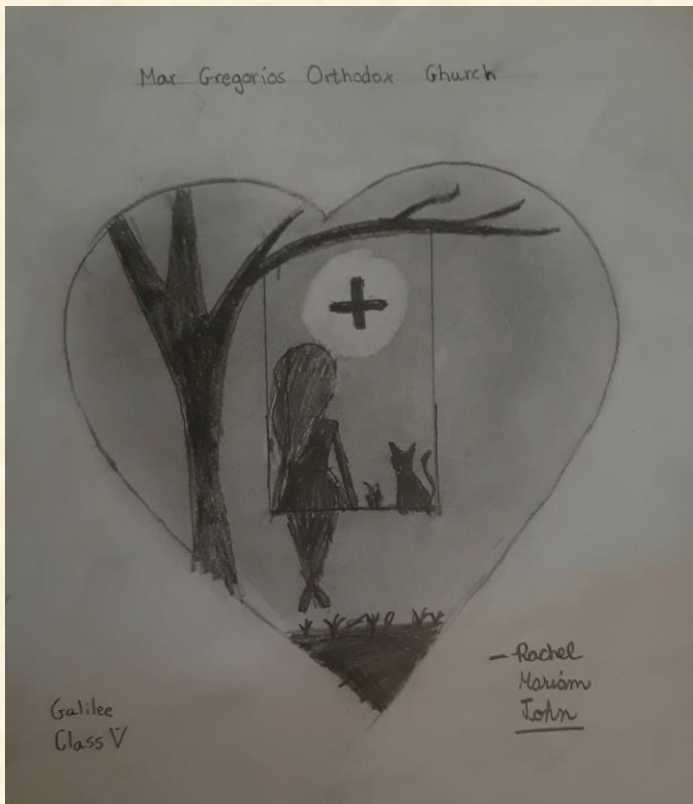
Alex V. Philip

Class 8,

St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Jenise Susan Shyju
 Class 2,
 St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Rachel Mariam John
 Class 25
 Mar Gregorios O SS, Hebbal

God's Love.

Hannah Elsa

Class 6,

St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

Hannah Elsa

VI
Sunday School

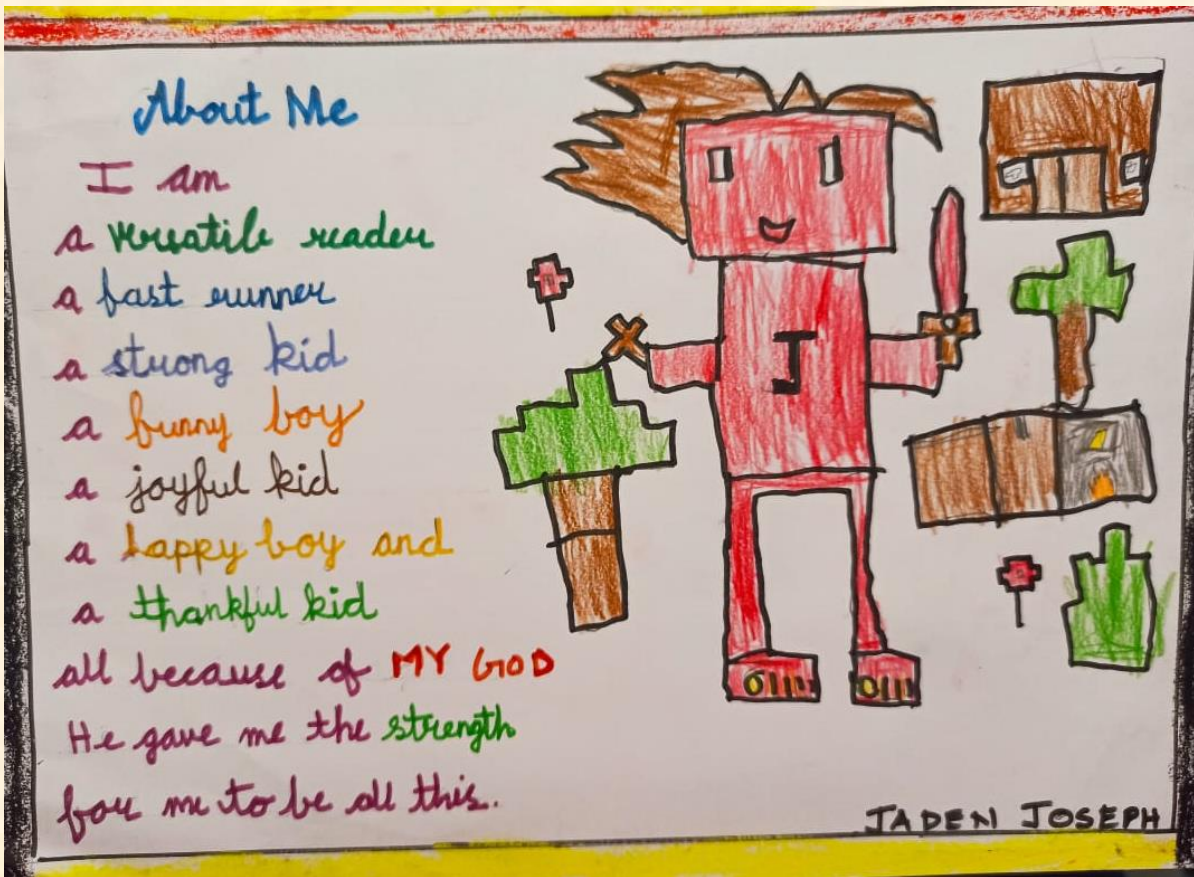
God's Love

When we think of love in general, we often times think of romantic love immediately. But have we ever thought of God's love first? God's love is different from other kind of love, it really goes beyond that His love is so vast, deep and wide. His love comforts us in times of loneliness and despair.

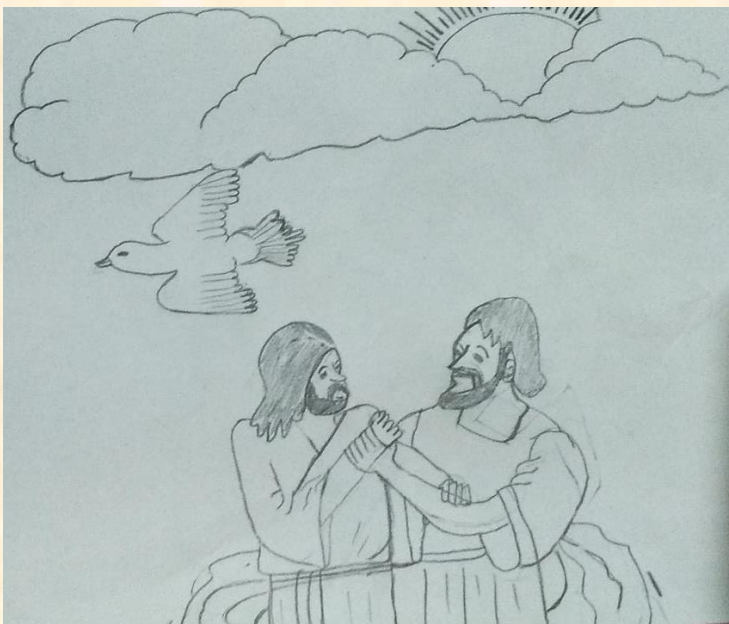
1. God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.
2. But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
3. Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will share meal together.
4. The shape of true love isn't a diamond. It's a cross.

The nature of God's love is unchangeable. Thus alternates all to readily love God with your own affection we shall turn cold Him whenever your unhappy

Thanks



Jaden Joseph
Class 6,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Ann Maria
Class 6,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

JESUS IS THE ANSWER

*Any
Questions?*



Sean Shinoi George
Class 4,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Haron George Santhosh
Class 2,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



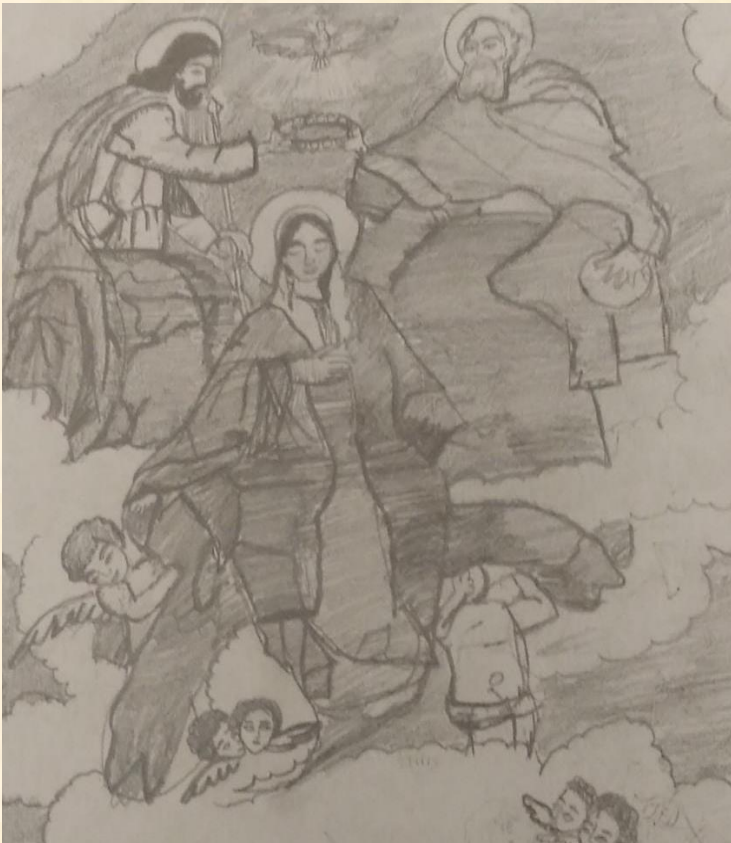
Kesiya Anna Binu
Class Prep,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Jerome Koshy
Class 3,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Renee Anne Jacob
Class 6,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Jovel K Koshy
Class 6,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



For
God so
Loved

THE

WORLD

that he gave his

One &
Only Son

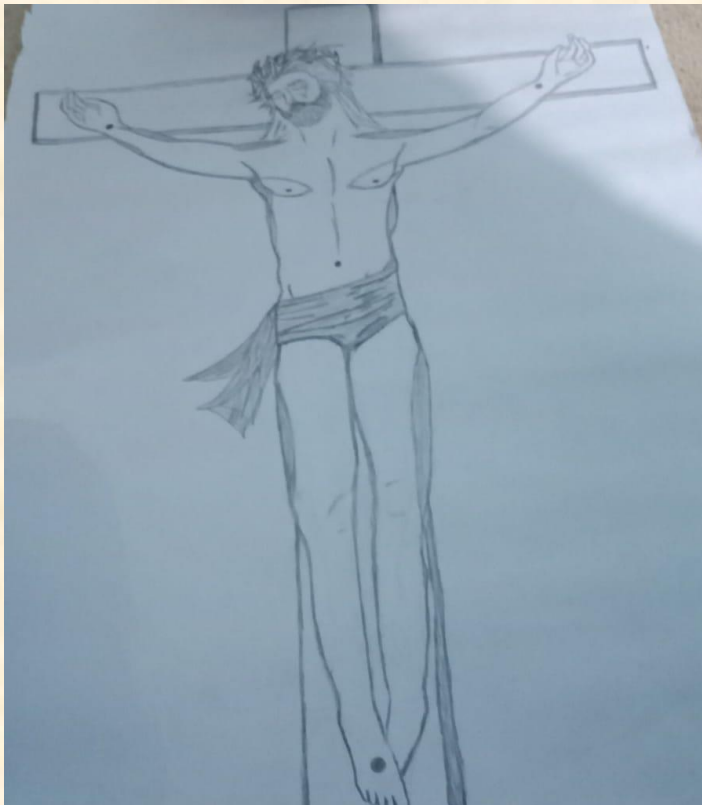
that whoever

Believes

in him should not perish, but have

ETERNAL LIFE

JOHN 3:16



Jincy
Class 9,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

Coping with Covid-19 through Faith.

Elaine Mary Alex

Class 12,

St. Gregorios O Cathedral SS, Hosur Rd

Coping with Covid-19 through Faith.

Glory be to the Triune God and may his grace and mercy be with us forever and ever. Amen.

Covid-19 is a disease which has caused an unprecedented amount of destruction within a period of less than two years. It has caused the stock market to crash and the amount of people who are unemployed is also at an all-time high, it has also affected almost every single country in the world in one way or another.

Through these times, what we need is faith. Faith is trust, assurance and confidence in God. It is derived from the Latin word Fides and Old French feid, and is confidence, trust in a person, thing or concept. We should have strong faith in God as well as his teachings.

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew 9:27-30, it explains beautifully how the eye-sight of the two blind men were restored because of their belief in God. When we go to the Old Testament, in the book of Daniel it tells us how not even one strand of hair from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was burned when they were put

into the flaming hot furnace when they refused to worship the golden statue because of their faith in God.

God gives faith to those who seek Him. This one of the most important truths although none of us actually truly understand its meaning. While we go closer to God through prayer, when we study the Bible our faith will grow exponentially.

Philippians 4: 6-7 which states, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." is one of the most meaningful verses in the Bible which talks about praise and thanksgiving.

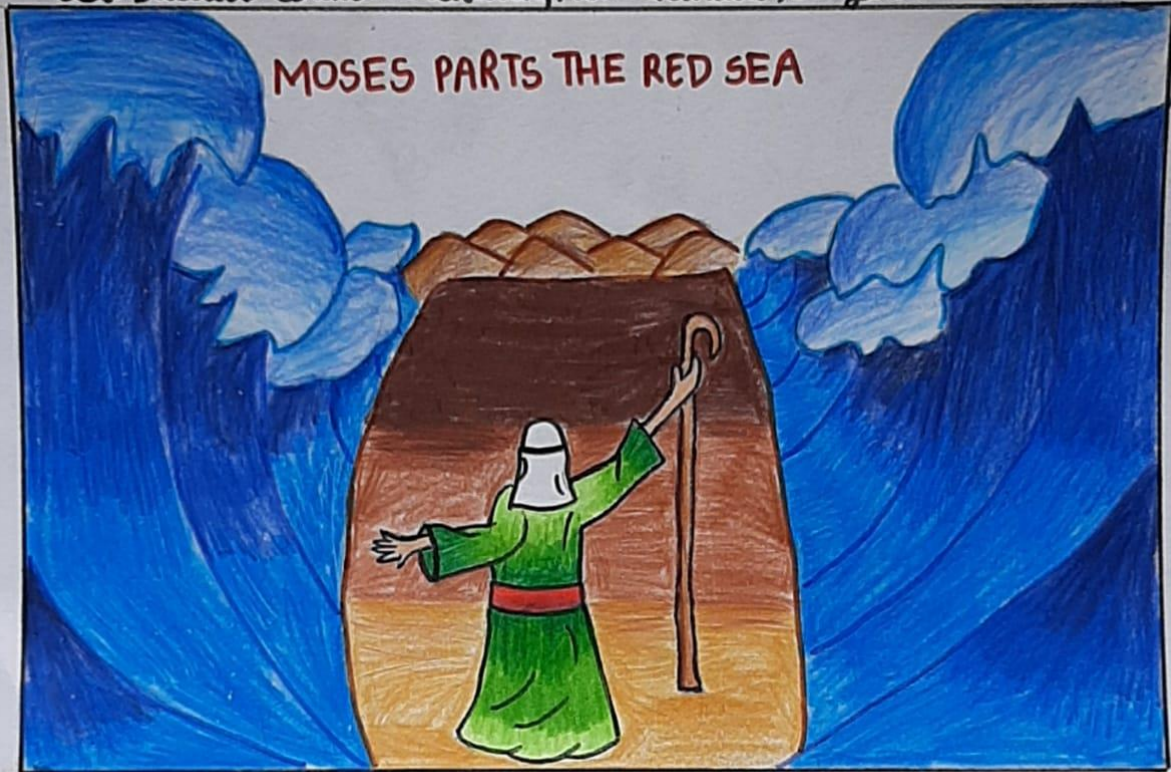
We can compare Covid-19 with the ten plagues which occurred in Egypt. We have to understand that this is not actually punishments but invitations to realize more about God as it is written in Jeremiah 29: 11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." When we read the Bible, our faith, confidence and assurance in God will multiply. God will listen to our prayers and the impossible will become possible.

- Elaine Mary Alex

XII

St. Iregorios Orthodox Cathedral.

MOSES PARTS THE RED SEA



SUNDAY-SCHOOL - IRIS BINU ABRAHAM 5A - 2021

Iris Binu Abraham

Class 5,

St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



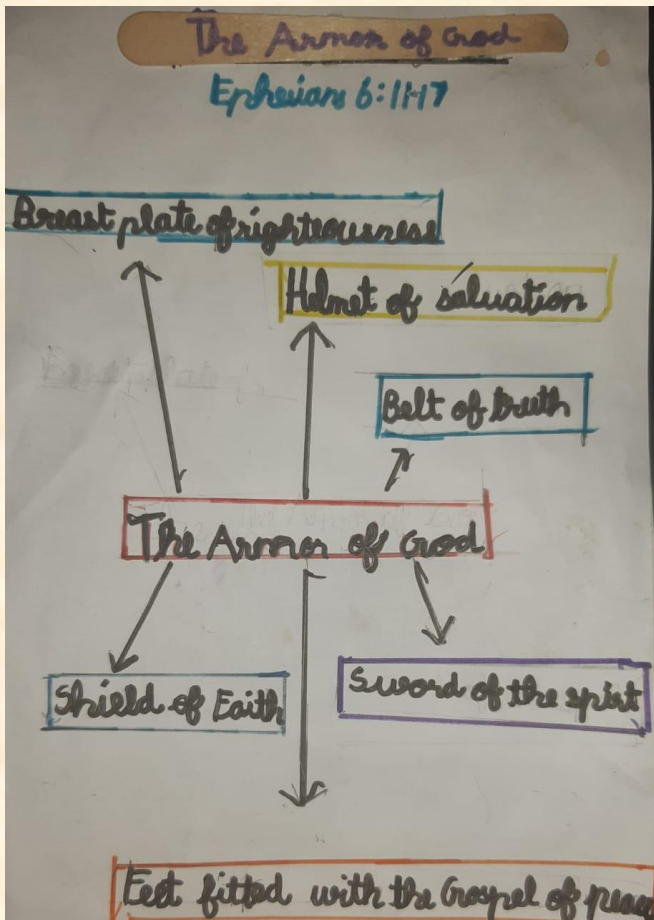
Susan Koshy

Class 5,

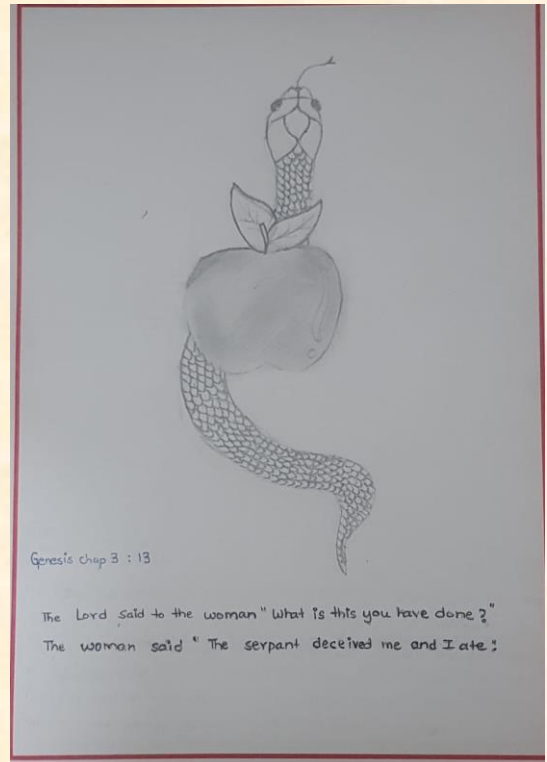
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Rian Vijay
Class 1,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Ivan B Philip
Class 4,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Lisa Daniel
Class 9,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

What is Humility

A Humble person views himself as small before God and small before men. Who is willing to lay down their own desires for the benefit of others. The Holy Bible shows several examples of humility. David's greatness was not in his bravery, it was in his willingness to submit to the will of God and to humble his heart in repentance when he sinned. Humility is the virtue of which God chose Virgin Mary to become the mother of God and the queen of the heavenly and the earthly. One of the most humble statements in the Holy Bible was said by St. John the Baptist in Gospel of John chapter 13:30 he says "he must increase but I must decrease" his role was to introduce Jesus Christ and move out of the way. The Greatest example of all is our Lord Jesus Christ. Equal with God but made himself of no reputation, taking on himself the sin of the world and become obedient unto death, even death on a cross. The key to legitimate Christianity lies in the humility of Jesus. Perhaps its time to walk with the Carpenter from Nazareth and follow in the way he showed.

Jonathan George

Class 3,

St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Sarah M Sibin
Class Prep,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Serah M Sibin
Class Prep,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



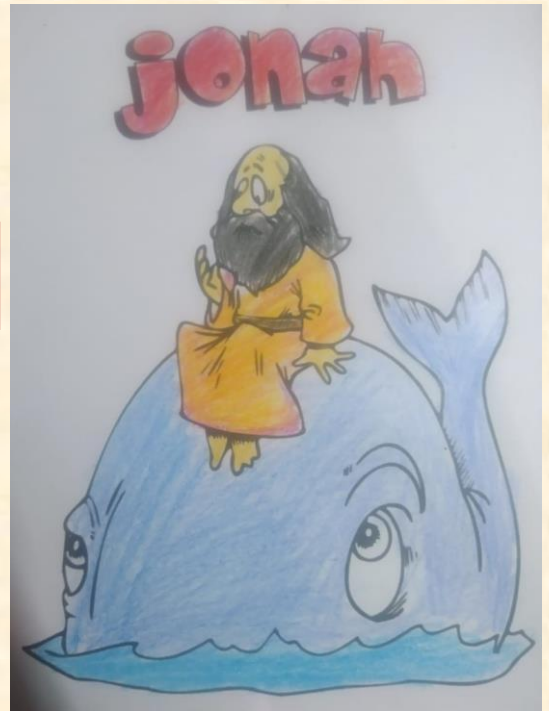
Jonathan George
Class 3,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli





Irene B Philip
Class 4,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

Jeriel G
Class Prep,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli



Nessa Maria George
Class 1,
St. Marys O Valiyapalli, Jalahalli

Fear of Lord is the beginning of wisdom {Proverbs 9:10}

We all need wisdom in our worldly life and spiritual life. This bible verse teaches us that the fear of God is the foundation of true wisdom; all other knowledge is futile unless built upon knowledge of God.

According to the Bible, the word fear can be 'the fright one feels in a terrifying situation' or the reverence or awe a person feels in the presence of someone great. It can also mean the 'respect' a helper has for his master. The fear of Lord is a fusion of all this.

How is fear of Lord the beginning of Wisdom?

-Fearing God lays a strong foundation for Wisdom: A foundation is the starting point of a house. Just as it is impossible to construct a house without a foundation, it is impossible to gain wisdom without the fear of God. If a strong and beautiful house of wisdom has to be built, the solid foundation should be Fear of God.

-Fearing God gives rise to wisdom: Fearing God generates wise habits, priorities and choices and this lead to wisdom. The seeds of Godly fear are sown to grow wisdom.

-Fearing God cultivates wisdom: A gardener removes weed and prunes the plants to produce a beautiful garden. In the same way the Fear of God weeds out hatred, anger, laziness and plants love, compassion, healing words and wisdom.

In the book of James we see how we are encouraged to ask Lord for wisdom. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him" {James 1:5}. So let us all pray to God to fill our hearts with wisdom.



Elisheba Anna Sebj

Class 5,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli

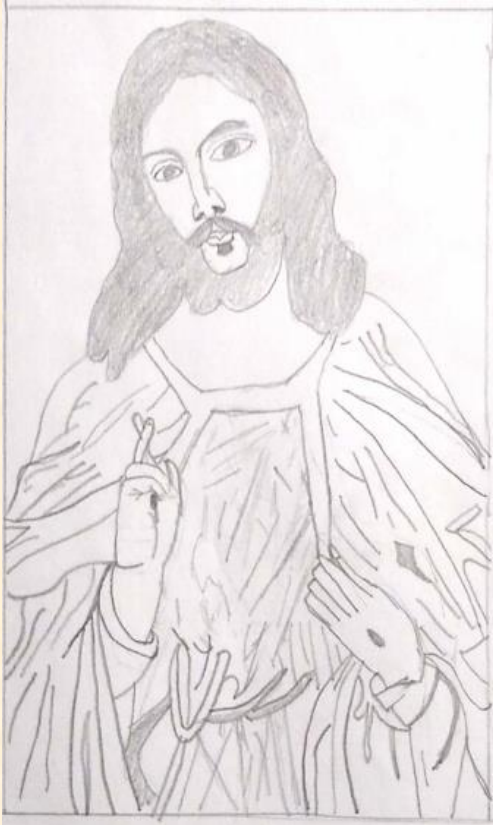
Shreya Binu

Class 7,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



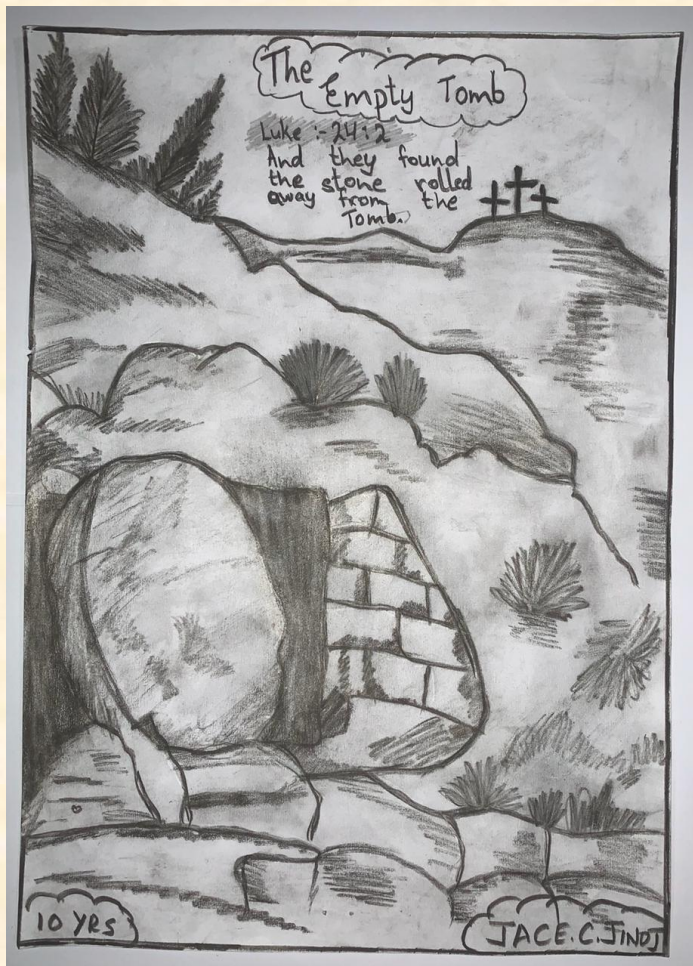
Elizabeth Koshy

Class 1,
St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



faith
 CAN MOVE
 mountains
 °MATTHEW 17:20°

Ronell Philip Thomas
 Class 6,
 St. Josephs O SS, Horamavu



Jace C Jinoj
 Class 6,
 St. Dionysius O SS, Dasarahalli

H.G Dr Geevarghese Mar Osthathios

Mar Osthathios is a father who made many contributions to the church and the community. He is known as **Prophet of love** in the Malankara Church, The Apostle of the Poor, Vedic scientist, Brilliant speaker, Author, Seminary teacher, Ecumenical leader.



Childhood and Education

He was born on 9th December 1917 to Kochitty and Mariamma Kochitty of Mundolil family in Mavelikara. He obtained his B.D from Leonard Theological College, Jabalpur, M.A from Drew University in America and his S.T.M from Union Seminary, Bangalore.

Priesthood

He received the order of Korooyo (reader) from Metropolitan Augen Mar Timotheos on 9 August 1947 and his priesthood from Baselios Geevarghese II, Catholicos on 10 May 1956.

In 1953 he started Mavelikkara St. Paul Wyoming Hall opened (elevated to St. Paul's Mission Center in 1979 - Official Mission Training Center of the Orthodox Church)

In 1958, he started St. Pauls evangelical group. 1959, he started St. Paul ashram and a children's home in Puthupadi.

Some of the churches where he served as a priest:

Kottayam Eliya Cathedral, Kolkata St. George Orthodox Church, Changanassery St. Thomas Church, Karappuzha St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Kuzhimattom St. George Orthodox Church While serving in St George Orthodox church Kuzhimattom, he was nominated to the post of Metropolitan by the Malankara Association which met at Niranam on 2 October 1974. Metropolitan Daniel Mar Philexinos ordained him as a Ramban at St. Mary's Cathedral Puthencavu. He was consecrated as a bishop by Baselios Augen I, Catholicos of the East on 16 February 1975 at Niranam Valiya Palli. He was appointed as the Metropolitan of the Niranam Diocese on 1 st April 1975.

Books written

He has authored over 60 books and over 1000 essays in English and Malayalam. He is also the author of over 50 evangelical hymns. His book *The Theology of a Classless Society*; Published from London, New York, Hamburg, Germany and CLSS, Chennai. Other important books include **The Sin of being Rich in a Poor World, Sharing God and a Sharing World** , and **One religion of love.**

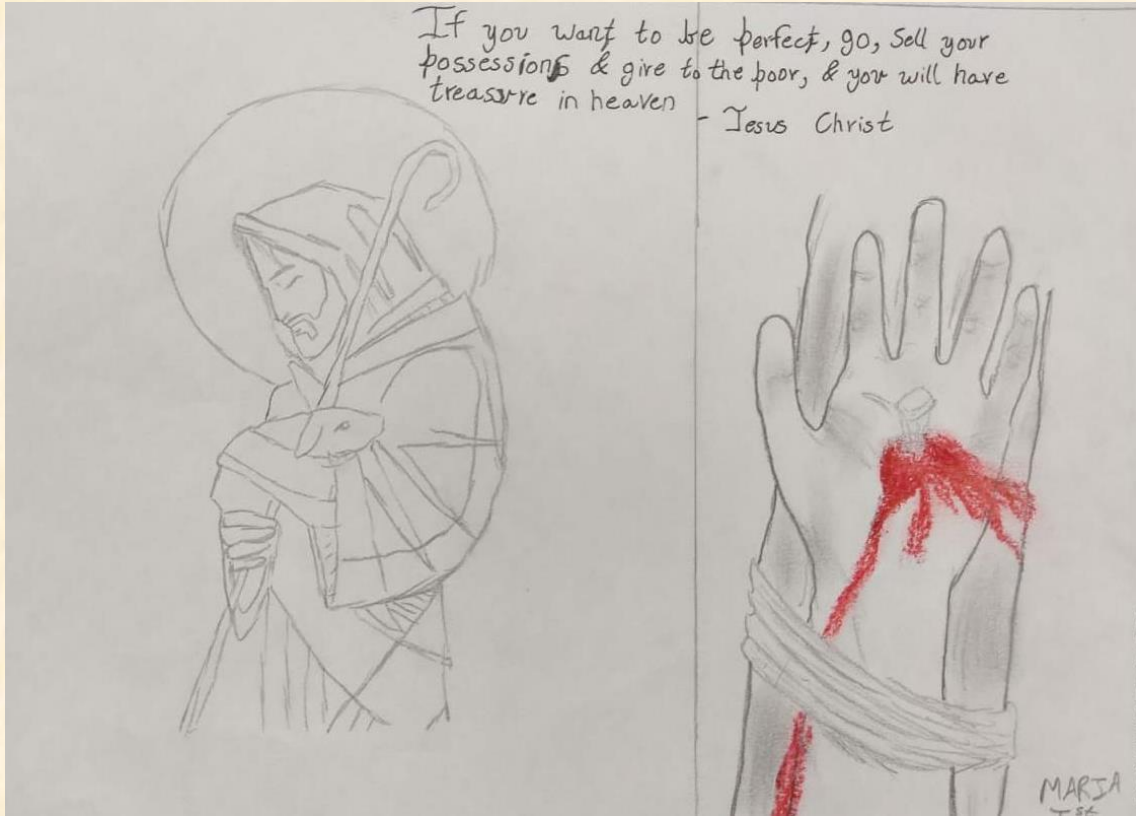
His Holiness passed away at the age of 94 years on February 16 2012, and was buried at St. Paul's Mission Training Center on the 18th of February 2012.

It is now 9 years since Osthathios fell asleep in the Lord, but the light he showed is still burning.

Alan John

Class 7,

St. Baselios O SS, Marathahalli



Maria Joju
Class 1,
St. Joseph O SS, Horamavu



Isabel Mathew
Class 1,
St. Joseph O SS, Horamavu

NEWS ... EVENTS ... UPDATES
from our Sunday Schools in Bangalore Zone

Sunday School day
celebrations on 7-Feb-21
@ St. Stephens
Orthodox Sunday
School, Vijayanagar.

Sunday School day was celebrated physically by St. Stephens Sunday Orthodox Sunday School on 7 th Feb 2021 after Holy Qurbana.



About 40- 50 students along with their parents and all teachers were present. Old Testament readings were read by children. Children & teachers received Holy Qurbana. After Holy Qurbana, a short meeting was conducted. Before starting the meeting, our Vicar Koshy Thomas Achen conducted a common prayer for Sunday School Day. The meeting started with opening prayer by H. M, followed by Bible reading and messages by children from Class V onwards. One student from each class represented the whole class and gave the messages. Students acknowledged their gratitude to Diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim Thirumeni for being with them and giving them spiritual guidance during this pandemic situation. They conveyed their sincere thanks to our Vicar, Koshy Thomas Achen, who is the Vice President of OSSAE-OKR, Bangalore Diocese and the president of OSSAE-OKR District -II, for giving them guidance and moral support during this time. They explained how the Sunday School helped them to be with God during this crisis. The meeting was concluded by a very meaningful message from our beloved Vicar followed by the pledge by all students. The Sunday School day celebration came to an end with the flag hoisting by our Vicar Koshy Thomas Achen and sweet distribution to all students.

We are grateful to all our parents who contributed a handsome amount towards Sunday School cover collection as requested by our Vicar.

- Mrs Ancy Siby (Headmistress)



Sunday School day celebrations on 7-Feb-2021 @ St. Gregorios Orthodox Sunday School, Mysore.

Sunday School day was celebrated physically at St. Gregorios Sunday School, Mysore on 7th Feb 2021 after the Holy Qurbana.

All 11 teachers of our SS and about 30 students along with their parents were present. Children and teachers received Holy Qurbana. The sermon was delivered by HM highlighting the objectives of Sunday school day and the role played by Sunday School in grooming our children. Thirumeni's Kalpana regarding Sunday School day was read out by our Vicar Rev. Fr. Cyril Varghese Vadakkadath. After Holy Qurbana, a short meeting was conducted which was presided by our Vicar Cyril Varghese Achen. Rev. Fr. Sajan C. Mathew (Director, Snehabhavan, Bilikere, Mysore) was the Guest of Honour.

The meeting started with Sunday School day prayer by Ms. Judith V. Sam (Class V). All students and teachers took the Sunday School day pledge which was read out by Master. Emmanuel (Class IX). Our Vicar Cyril Varghese Achen conducted an interactive session with the Children, focusing on what should they achieve through Sunday school. One student from each class and gave a two minute narration on their experiences at the Sunday School. Master. Nohin Binu (Class XI), Master. Shibin (Class X), Master. Roshin Paul (Class IX), Ms. Sharon Arun (Class VIII), Master. Geo Johncy (Class VII) and Ms. Rhea Ann Mary (Class V) took part in this event. They explained how the Sunday School helped them to be with God during the pandemic time. Students acknowledged their gratitude to our beloved Thirumeni for making this year's Sunday School day very special. They conveyed their sincere thanks to the Vice President of OSSAE-OKR, Bangalore Diocese and the president of OSSAE-OKR District -II, Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas, for the guidance on how to organize Sunday School day program. Great enthusiasm was seen among the children during the entire program.

The program was enriched by a very meaningful message from Rev. Fr. Sajan C. Mathew. Melodious devotional singing by Abigail George, Abriyel George and Rhea Ann Mary added fervour to the program. The Sunday School day celebration concluded with prayer and benediction by our Vicar Cyril Varghese Achen followed by sweet distribution to all students.

Many of our parents contributed generously towards Sunday School cover collection responding to the special request from our Vicar.

- Dr Ajish K Abraham (Headmaster)



KIDS PAGE



Contribute articles -

Please send some interesting puzzles, articles, biblical games, quiz to be published in Kids Page.

Please send your answers at the earliest to the Zonal Secretary or to ebodhini@gmail.com

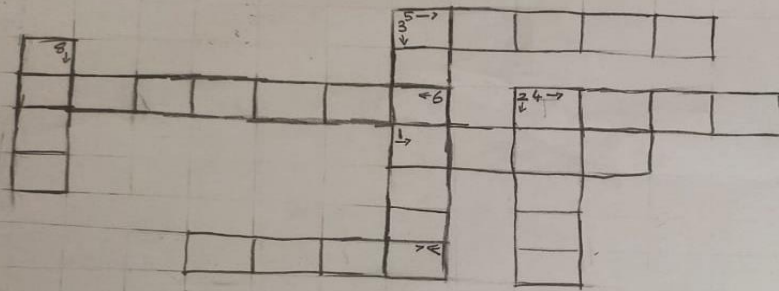
Activity: *Lent 2021.*

Share your experience of Lent 2021.

Books of the Bible Crossword #1

H	J	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	F	G	J	P
G	K	G	E	W	A	S	D	F	H	I	O	P	H	J	O	
U	M	J	U	K	M	B	V	F	D	E	S	P	O	I	J	K
H	J	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	F	E	X	O	D	U	S
J	H	S	A	S	D	G	H	J	K	C	C	F	G	B	D	W
S	T	O	H	J	U	K	I	O	L	D	O	X	C	V	G	Q
G	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D	K	I	N	G	S	O	E	A
N	D	H	H	U	D	F	G	H	G	Y	D	E	Q	I	S	S
I	S	F	N	O	C	F	G	J	B	H	S	N	S	L	D	D
K	E	V	M	P	H	I	H	O	N	G	A	E	D	K	C	F
T	R	B	S	E	F	G	T	I	M	F	M	S	F	J	F	H
S	T	F	E	E	R	F	G	I	K	D	U	I	H	H	G	T
R	Y	J	O	S	H	U	A	L	V	K	E	S	H	T	H	H
I	H	K	L	K	I	K	L	O	P	E	L	R	G	J	U	U
F	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	L	O	U	Y	R

GENESIS	DEUTERONOMY	FIRST SAMUEL
EXODUS	JOSHUA	SECOND SAMUEL
LEVITICUS	JUDGES	FIRST KINGS
NUMBERS	RUTH	SECOND KINGS



Answers:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Adam | 5. Aaron |
| 2. Jacob | 6. Rebecca |
| 3. Abraham | 7. Mary |
| 4. John the Baptist | 8. Saul |

By, JOEL MATHEW, ST. GEORGE OC, INDIRANAGAR

- 1 The first man on Earth (Right)
- 2 Esau's brother (Down)
- 3 Isaac's father (Down)
- 4 Jesus's forerunner (Right)
- 5 Moses's brother (Right)
- 6 Isaac's wife (Left)
- 7 Mother of Jesus (Left)
- 8 First king of Israel (Down)

Joel Mathew
Class,
St. George O SS, Indiranagar

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Contribute some interesting original articles and win some prizes.

We hope you'll join us.

Next Edition planned

Tentative Date : Oct 2021.

Dear Students and Teachers,

Please use this opportunity to express and share your experiences, ideas and thoughts through your articles like news updates, short stories, notes, essays, poems, paintings, quotes, jokes, quiz, games, puzzles, message, etc at the earliest through your teacher/ headmaster .

Note : *Please do mention your Name, Church & Sunday School class and send articles to ebodhini@gmail.com to reach us before 15-Sep-2021.*

NOTE : *Please feel free to share your ideas for themes for newsletters, suggestions, comments, observations, mistakes observed, omissions etc.*

Read previous issues of e-bodhini / sunday school newsletters -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oe8tlrcgLKpkkKZEdDrNGeMnYTJQU9I5?usp=sharing>

Editorial

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's the time of lent, a natural time of reflection and introspection, a time of prayer, sacrifice and doing God's will.

Not much has changed since the last lent with the covid pandemic with its uncertainty and anxiety. Things have not returned to normal, and we are still in masks, social distancing, altered classes and work routines, online worship and Sunday school, skipped vacations. Did we learn anything from those experiences? Did we grow spiritually from them?

As we observe the lent this year, are there any events from the year gone by which God is drawing us to reflect upon?

We should take time in prayer to reflect on the past year as a whole. What are things we should be grateful for? Did we miss out on something? Has anything changed for good or bad in the last one year? We should reflect on what we might do differently if presented with similar situations in the future?

Let these anxious times be the time to focus on deeper prayer and growth in our Christian virtues, and to make changes to ourselves, to gain understanding on thing happening in our lives, and learn to be quiet and listen to and follow the will of God in our lives.

The Church's tradition teaches us that through the practice of fasting, prayer and almsgiving we can sail through such situations and come out victorious.

We are happy that many of you have utilized this lockdown times to put your talents to good use. We have received quite a few very good articles during this period.

Please help spread the news of this newsletter to all your friends in Sunday school. We seek to have more participation in contribution of articles and readership. This initiative is to set our budding minds to express their creativity in words and colours.

I take this opportunity to thank our Thirumeni, **H.G. Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim** for his able guidance and support, the members of the Editorial Board of BODHINI and dear Sunday School Children, Teachers, Head Masters, District officials & Diocesan officials of Bangalore Sunday School for the support and encouragement.

Happy Reading !

For and on behalf of Editorial Board of E-Bodhini.

With Love

Biju Prasad

Chief Editor

(Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church, Hebbal)

OSSAE – OKR Bangalore Zone

Phone: 9945531410, e-mail: sundayschool.bangalorezone@gmail.com

Editorial Board –

Bangalore - District I	Bangalore - District II
Sara Pothan Mar Yuhanon Mamdana Orthodox Church, K.R.Puram	Tanya Ann Thomas Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church, Hebbal
Jaimie Thomas Vengal St. Baselios Orthodox Church, Marathahalli	Jithin B George St. Dionysius Orthodox Church, Dasarahalli
Sarah Mathew St. George Orthodox Church, Indiranagar	Sandra Mary Saji St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mathikere
Elaine Mary Alex St. Gregorios Orthodox Cathedral, Hosur Road	Nohin Binu St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mysore
Joel B Mathew St. Joseph Orthodox Church, Hormavu	Simi Susan Simon St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Tumkur
Kevin Shibu St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Begur	Arpitha Joshua St. Mary's Orthodox Valiapally, Jalahalli
Riya Thomas St. Thomas Orthodox Maha Edavaga, Bangalore East	Joel Koshy St. Stephen's Orthodox Church, Vijayanagar

Region 1 – Mr.Thomas George, Mr.Jose Varghese, Mr. Ajoy Kandathil Joseph, Dr. Emma Mathews

Region 2 – Mrs.Sharon Rajesh, Mrs.Roshini K.K

Chief Editor : Mr. Biju Prasad

Diocesan Officials : Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas, Mr.Kuruvilla Varghese, Mrs. Lousy Biju

District 1& 2 Officials : Rev. Fr. Anish Varghese, Mrs. Binu Philip, Mr. Thomas Philip, Mrs. Nisha Mathew