

Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

April 2011 Issue 6 Volume 1

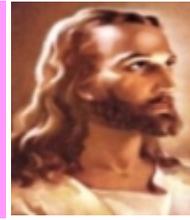
(Not For Sale)



"THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED"

(Matthew 3:17; 17:5)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.” (Psalms 73:25-26)

**Yaweh my God! I praise You. Who else do I have in the heavens other than You?
Yaweh my God! I glorify You . I praise and exalt Your Name . I have none on this earth but You.
My relatives and my friends are not to accompany me. Yaweh my God ! I praise and exalt Your Name.**

Nothing else on this earth belongs to me, other than You and there is nothing here, in accordance with my wish. O Lord, Holy One, You who have always fixed Your gaze on me, I praise You.

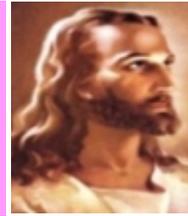
When my heart and my body shiver and become exhausted, I give up my hold on everything. My near ones and the surroundings all then become a falsity! O Lord my God, You alone are my strength and my comfort !



**You alone are my portion , my very own . My God, it is You and You alone who keeps me within Your glance as You prove to be my fortress and shield! I yearn for nothing else on this earth. Nothing else but You alone are mine. O God who are my shelter! I adore You. I praise You for ever.
Thank You my God! Thank You ! AMEN !**

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

“ And when ever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites” (Matthew 6:5)



We the Christian faithful, meditate on the Passion of the Lord, fast and pray for these forty days. We who have the desire to pray, let us learn to pray keeping in mind the teachings of our Lord. When we heap up empty words in prayer (Matthew 6:7) let us not assume that ours is a perfect prayer and that it will be heard or that it is pleasing in the eyes of the Father. Our prayers reveal our inner most longings, and their true intent. Each one's prayer will manifest the depth of his /her closeness to God, and will reflect how he/she relates to God with his/her whole body and mind.

The words of our Blessed Mother at Medjugorje in the month of February calls us for deep meditation:

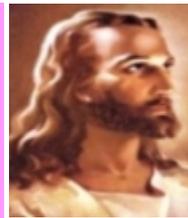
“Dear children, proper prayer comes from the depth of your heart, from your suffering, from your joy, from your seeking the forgiveness of sins.”

True prayer cannot conceal one's inner most feelings or ones deeper truths. A person who is created in the Image of God, is a witness to the truth that , “God is Love”. If a person's heart is filled with and projects hatred instead of love, lies instead of truth, sin instead of purity , then what ever or how ever many the words that are pronounced , can we ever assume that they would be pleasing to the heart of God?

The Lenten season is a time filled with God's grace for the Christians. This is the time when Our Lord's Love, His Fount of Mercy and Forgiveness should fill our hearts and our homes in abundance. I wish you joy.

Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

Every year the Church sets aside forty days as Lenten season beginning from ‘Ash Wednesday’ to Good Friday when our Lord gave up His life, during which we are invited to meditate along with Jesus over the mystery of His Passion. The Christians all over the world spend these days with great eagerness and sacrifice. The Invisible God took a visible form as Jesus the Man and walked on this earth for thirty three years.

For thirty years He was known as a mere carpenter’s son. But His last three years were filled with astounding incidents . Human eyes beheld unbelievable occurrences! Human years heard unbelievable Words ! Human hands felt and experienced unbelievable Truths ! Several people saw God’s glory on the face of Jesus ! Some stumbled looking at Him !

“ Who ever has seen me has seen the Father...Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”(John 14:9-10)

God walked as Jesus on this earth. He still walks with us. He lived for thirty three years. He was crucified on the Cross and died. But He rose again to life and lives with us. This Lenten season is a time of grace to ponder with immense joy and gratitude the fact that Jesus gave up His Holy Body and His Holy Blood in order to live as our life and our blood for all eternity.

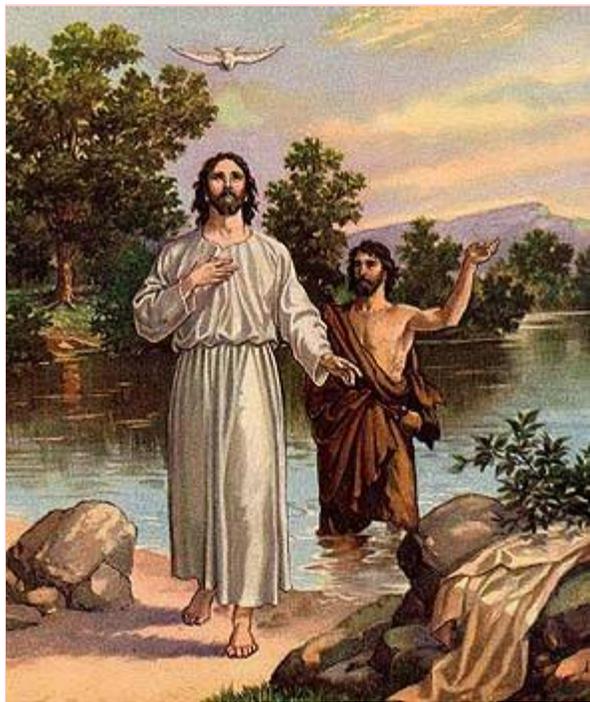
We shall keep a few Biblical verses in front of our eyes inorder to meditate and be benefited. It was the time when John the Baptist called the people and preached the News of ‘Repentance’ saying ,“Repent”, and thus prepared for the coming of the Messiah. It was the time when hundreds of people were listening to the preaching of the Prophet. It was at that time that Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. When Jesus was baptized and He came out of the River Jordan the Heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came and rested on Jesus.



“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour



And a voice from heaven said, “ **This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.**” (**Matthew 3:17**)

The Heavenly Father Himself declared to the world, that Jesus is “The Son of God”. After the Son of God was revealed to the world, He went about to several places in Palestine and met the people. He taught the people. He bore witness to the Good News. He healed the sick. He freed those who were possessed of demons. He forgave sinners. “**And great crowds followed him.**” (**Matthew 4:25**)

The three days at the end of the three years are very important. The Son of God who was revealed as, “ This is my Son the Beloved”, received the verdict of death , and was forsaken by the people saying, “ He deserves death”. “After flogging Jesus , he (Pilate) handed him over to be crucified”, The One who was revealed as the Son of God.

The Voice that echoed on Mt. Tabor , “**With him I am well pleased; listen to him.**”(Matthew 17:5), did not echo on Mt. Calvary. The mocking voice of the crowds, “**If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**” (**Matthew 27:40**), echoed throughout Mt. Calvary. The Heavenly voice that echoed on Mt. Tabor, “ Listen to Him”, did not echo on Mt. Calvary. (Matthew 17:5) ‘Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.’ (**Matthew 27:50**)

The history of Jesus did not stop with ‘He breathed His last.’ But it continues, “ **And remember, I am with you always , to the end of the age.**” (**Matthew 28:20**) The Lenten season is given mainly to ponder over this mystery. Read the Scriptures daily in segments and pray. May these points given below be an incentive in this regard.

1. At the shores of the Jordan...

God the Father revealed His Son at the shores of the Jordan. “This is my Son, The Beloved.” (Matthew 3:17; Luke 3:22). “No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.” (John 1:18)

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

God the Father revealed His Son to the people in the shores of the Jordan. The Son Jesus who bore the Image of the Heavenly Father, came as a witness to the Everlasting God as the Light, the Truth, the Life and as the Way.

“I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

2. In the deserts of Judea...

The Son of God was tempted by satan in the deserts of Judea. (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4: 1-13)

“ I have come to do your will.” (Hebrews 10:7) was the watch word followed by the Son of God who breathed only the will of God and was determined to fulfill it.

“ My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”(John 4:34) This was the reason the Son of God came to the earth and satan tempted him. Turn the stones into bread and give ! Forget about the God in heaven and seek your own fame.

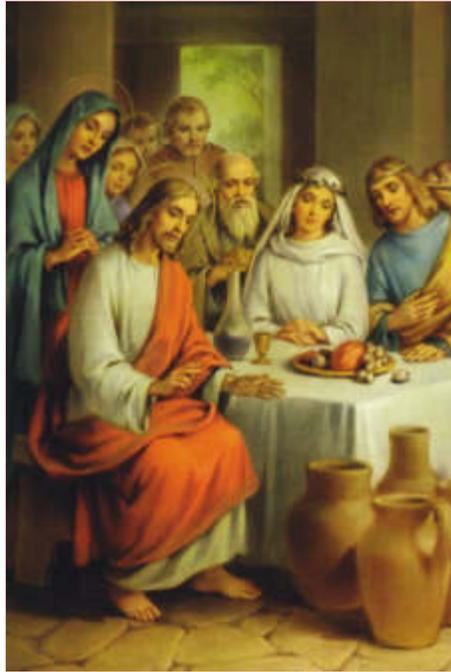


Listen to me and become the owner of a business firm and make the world your own! So saying the deceiver tried to alienate Jesus from the Heavenly Father..Jesus said to satan, “Away with you ,Satan !” (Matthew 4:10)So saying He won over satan, and with the sole trust in the Heavenly Father , He went up to Mt. Calvary

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**



3. In the wedding at Cana...

Mother Mary was the driving force (John 2:1-12) at the wedding feast of Cana, for Her Son to manifest His glory. She said, “ Do what ever he tells you, “ As the Son of God said, the ordinary water too turned into sweet wine !Thus did Jesus manifest His glory. This is the Messianic time.

“ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth... be glad and rejoice for ever. For I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight...and delight in my people;...they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.” (Isaiah 65:17-21) The Son of God Jesus is the Messiah.

4. In the deserts...

The Son of God cooked meals for His people in the desert.(John 6:1-14) He is the prophet who was to come to the world!

When the Israelites were languishing in hunger in the deserts, God poured out bread from the heavens. (Exodus 16). When the people thirsted for water, He struck the rod and granted them water. (Exodus 17:1-7) (Numbers 20:1-13) The same God manifested Himself as the Son of God and gave Himself up as Food in this new world. “For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.” (John 6:55)The same Jesus who said so, said this too:

“ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” (John 6:27)

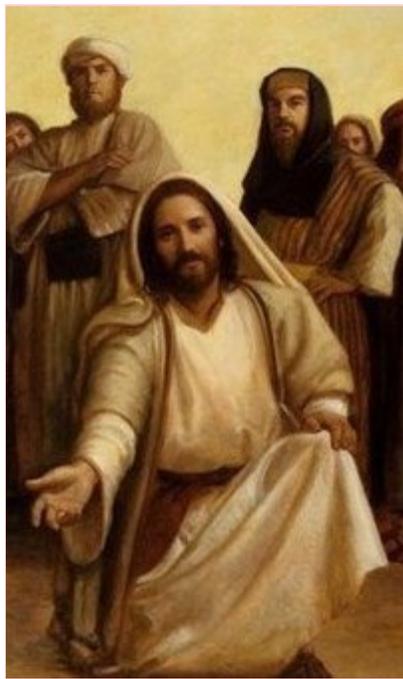
The Son of God Jesus is the Prince who has obtained the authority from the Heavenly King.” So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”(Philippians 2:10)

We are all invited to the wedding feast of this Prince.” I have prepared my dinner...and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” (Matthew 22:4)

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour



5. He taught!

Bore witness ! Healed ! When on this earth, the Son of God went round Galilee, Samaria, Judea in the land of Palestine , and met several people. Jesus went... teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.... And great crowds followed him. (Matthew 4:23-25)

God led the Israelites by calling Moses. He gave the Ten Commandments through Moses. In this New world, God speaks through His Son and is pouring our grace upon grace. (John 1:16-17) “ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.” (Ephesians 1:5-6) Hence Jesus is calling us.
“ Be perfect ,therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

6. On the high mountain...

It was already three years since the heavenly Father had proclaimed about His Beloved Son, “ I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17) Jesus went through the whole country of Palestine, teaching, preaching and healing the sick. His bosom friends and disciples had built castles in their own imagination. They imagined that Jesus would overthrow the Roman empire and establish His own rule. They wished to hold important positions during that rule. For example, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, aimed at holding important designations in Jesus’ rule through their mother’s recommendation.’ She said to him, “ Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left , in your kingdom.” (Matthew 20:21)

But the disciples did not understand that the Kingdom and the method of Jesus’ rule would be entirely different in the eyes of the world. Jesus taught His disciples that opposing the Roman rule or causing a revolt was not His method, but only by “ drinking the cup of suffering” (Luke 20:22) that He would be able to fulfill the will of the heavenly Father.(Luke 22:42)

After making the disciples realize that Jesus ‘is the Messiah, the Son of the living God’ , He taught and revealed that it was He who is to ‘suffer much, be killed, and rise again on the third day’.(Matthew 16:21) He taught them that they had to stand apart from the worldly thinking and bear the heavenly thoughts in their heart. He called His beloved friends Peter, James and John to a high mountain and manifested Himself to them in His glorified form. (Matthew 17:1-13)

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



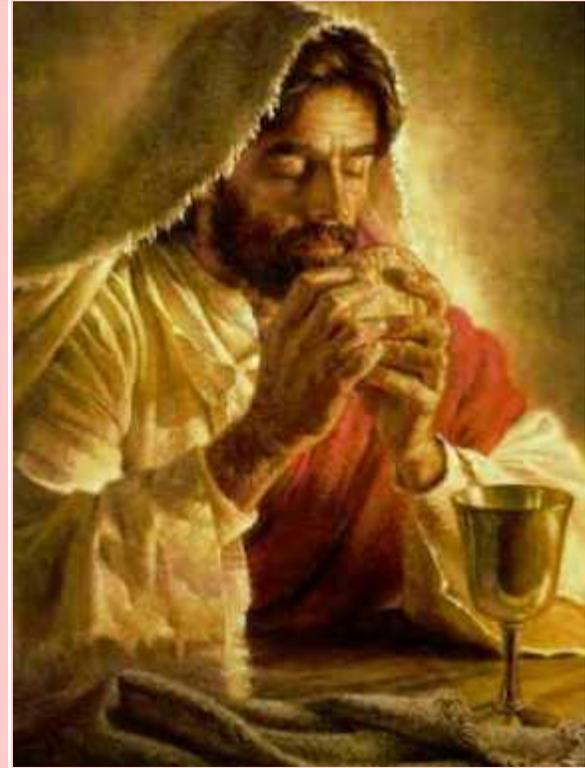
**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

Moses and Elijah were discussing with Jesus that even the one who is the Beloved of the Father should suffer and face death. (Luke 9: 30-31) If He is the Son of God , what is the necessity to fast and be hungry? What is the hidden reason behind the secluded life of the One who is meant to come in Glory?

What is the mystery behind the plan ‘for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.’ (Ephesians 1:10) That in order to have it fulfilled He had to empty Himself, humble Himself and become obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross.’ (Philippians 22:6-9)

“They will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.” (Matthew 20:19) The disciples were so benumbed that they could not comprehend this truth.

7. The Lord’s supper



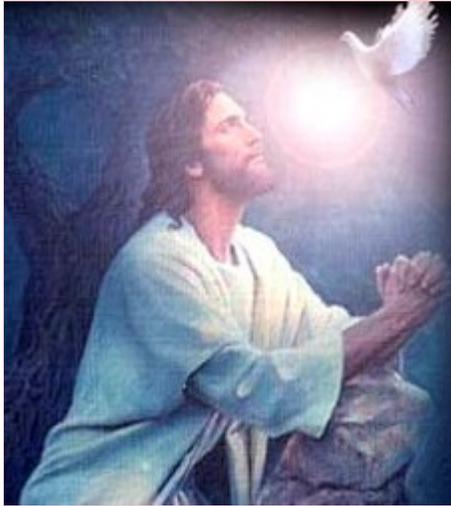
“ The Son of God washed the feet of his disciples”. (John 13:1-20) Although the human thinking had benumbed even the disciples , yet it was to conquer this that the Messiah came to the earth. Hence Patience and Concern were the two weapons He used. Jesus realized that only “God’s matchless love, could melt and transform the maddened and benumbed people.” “ Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” (John 13:1) He revealed this to them and told them to do this in His memory , by sealing this great love with His Holy Blood.

It was the time of the Last Supper ! Those of His own were gathered around Him. It was then that Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, The Lamb of God, The one who was anointed as the Messiah of God, took a towel, wrapped it round His waist, took a jar full of water and began washing the feet of His disciples and wiping them with His towel. (John 13: 4-5). Thus He made Himself a slave and loved His disciples. He made their hearts His very own. He forgave their sins, He gave them “ a share” in His Body and His Blood. (John 13:8)

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour



He gave the bread to eat saying, “ This is my Body given up for you.” He took the cup of wine and said, “ This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” And He said, “ Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19-20)

The Son of God ! The Beloved of the Father !He sacrificed Himself . He wanted to cleanse the whole world with His Blood and reconcile the world with the Heavenly Father. This was His plan. It was for this that He called His disciples and asked them to continue His mission. He gave them the commandment of Love.

“ So if I , your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example , that you also should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:14-15)

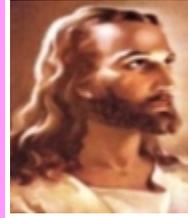
8. In the Garden of Gethsemane

“ My Father, if it is possible , let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” (Matthew 26:39) It was supper time ! The eve of Thursday !He revealed Himself as the Lamb of God to His disciples. He gave His own Body as the Pascal meal, as the unleavened bread, He established a New Covenant in His Blood. “ Abide in me as I abide in you...abide in my love.” (John 15:4-9) Thus Jesus left “a will” (Hebrews 9:16) and having written it, was awaiting the hour planned by the heavenly Father, to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice. He took His beloved disciples along with Him across the Kid’ron valley (John 18:1) entered the garden of Gethsemane and prayed.(Matthew 26:36)

More than His physical pains, the burdens pressed down His heart. “ Come to me , all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11: 28). He thus called all those suffering and comforted them! When He saw the son taken to the grave, He called the poor widow and said, “ Do not weep.” (Luke 7:13) the One who thus consoled was now suffering bereft of any comfort! In His agony , his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground! (Luke 22:44)

Although He was the Son most pleasing to the heart of God, He bore suffering. “ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 5:7-9)

“THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED”



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

With one of Jesus' bosom friends leading them, the soldiers, their officer along with the Jewish police came in a big crowd 'arrested Jesus and bound him'. They took him to the High priests. (John 18:12-13)

'Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.' (John 18:14)

9. Before Pilate...

“ I find no case against him.” (John 18:38) On Mt. Calvary in Golgotha, “ It is finished.” (John 19:30)

When the soldiers and guards bound Jesus and tied him, his closest friends all vanished and hid themselves in fear. The assembly of the Jews called the sanadriion, held council and analysed about the teachings of Jesus and about His disciples. Those who were assembled slapped Jesus on the face. (John 18:22) Saying that He deserved death, “they spat in his face and struck him.” (Matthew 26: 66-67) His very dear friend Peter denied it with an oath, “ I do not know the man.” (Matthew 26:72)

Friday, was the day in preparation for the Passover. Very early that day they had brought the beloved Son of God, Jesus before Pilate the governor.” He is the king of the Jews! ” The Messiah ! The Son of God ! The One who is seated at the right hand of God !(Luke 22:69) He thus calls Himself so. He deserves death ! So saying, they took Jesus to the sanadriion before Pilate. The Governor investigated the case. Pilate said, “ I find no case against him.” (John 18:38; 19: 4,6) releasing the One who was innocent , he sought approval from the people, for Barabas the prisoner. Going beyond the law, Pilate had as a ”prisoner”, Him who was blemishless, and even before passing judgment, he had Him flogged. Even while saying, “ I find no case against him”, he released Barabas , ‘he handed Him over to them to be crucified.’ (John 18:16) Just as it was prophesied by Isaiah the prophet , the Son of God most pleasing to the bosom of the Father, hung on the cross as the suffering servant !“ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;... and by his bruises we are healed.” (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

Bearing the words, “ This is my beloved Son,” in Her heart, the virgin Mother who brought forth the Son of God into the world, stood weeping at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Jesus , Saying, “ It is finished!”, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.(John 19:30)

Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.