



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

January 2012 Issue 16 Volume 1

(Not For Sale)



“On earth peace among those whom he favours!” (Lk.2:14)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
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“On earth peace among those whom he favours!” (Lk.2:14)

O immaculate Lady! Virgin Mother! Carrying the Holy One in your womb! Bringing up the Holy One on your laps!

Mother! Please turn your eyes also to me! May the mercy from your eyes, O Mother! be manifested even to me!

Mother! Fullness of Motherhood and Holiness! O immaculate Lady! Virgin Mother! Have mercy on me!

The earth I live and the world around me Mother persecuting me!

There is no peace! Pain, weariness, worries, confusions fill my heart! Mother! I get wired!

O most holy Queen! Mary who holds King Jesus in your arms! Hail full of grace!



Turn your merciful eyes to me dear Mother! Show me the face of the Fruit of your womb Mother dear!

Hold and stretch out His hands on me too dear Mother! Grant me O Mother! Your graceful touch!

O fullness! O Queen of peace! Grant us peace!

We all as a family bow at your feet. Comfort us Mother! We praise you Mother! Virgin Mary!

Amen! Thank you!

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



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The New Year 2012! Blossoming!!!



The unshaken and everlasting promise of Christ to all! "I will be with you!" May this promise revive and bring joy to every heart this New Year!

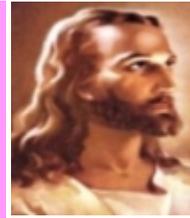
The proclamation of St. Paul "One Lord, the same Lord for all" (Rom.10:12)! May it echo in the depth of every heart! Let us live everyday with the conviction that it is Christ alone who rules our hearts.

Allow Christ to take possession of our hearts, bodies, homes, families and all that belongs to us today. "The Holy Spirit intercedes with sighs so deep for words!" (Rom.8:26). The Mighty Power of Christ will lead us every day and the whole year through. May the Holy Spirit who filled and guided the Virgin Mother to carry the Lord in Her womb, may guide us too. He who at the intercession of the Mother changed the water into wine may fill your homes with the same richness of wine throughout this year! May His glory be manifested in all your homes!

Happy New Year to all!

**Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.
Satya Nilayam, 81, L.B. Road,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai- 600 041.**

“One Lord, the same Lord for all!” (Rom.10:12)



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Who is Jesus Christ?

Almost 2000 years ago, Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary in Bethlehem in the plains of Judea at Palestine which was ruled by the Roman emperor Augustus. Joseph was the husband of Mary. They are the descendants of David. (Lk.2:1-7) “while they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. She gave birth to her first born son.... There was no place for them in the inn”. Thus the gospels testify to us of the simplicity of the birth of Jesus.

Mary’s husband was a carpenter. As soon as Jesus was born, the message “king of Jews is born” perplexed Herod, the then ruler of Judea (Mt. 2:1-15). The wise men from far stated that the child born in simplicity was the king of Jews. There was a secret behind the Wise Men from east calling the child Jesus as a King.

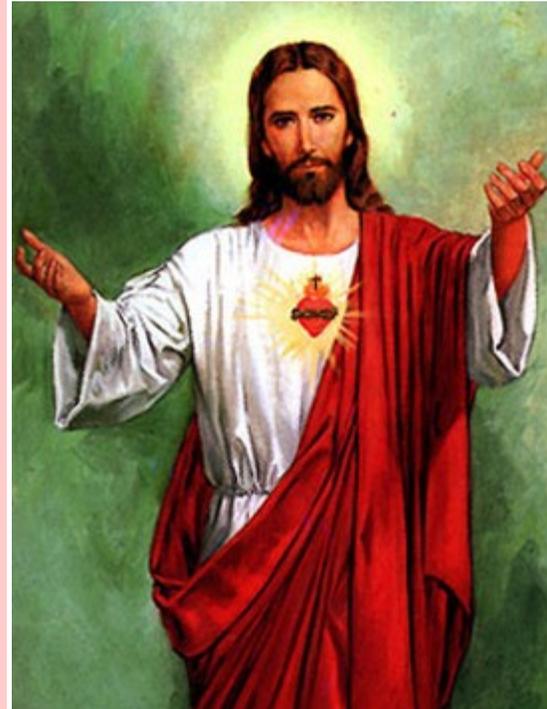
At the same time, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt because of the political disturbances in Judea and they brought up the child in safety there. For few years Egypt granted safety to Jesus.

How a nomad is called the King of Jews? Why does King Herod fear child Jesus?

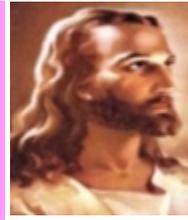
And after the death of Herod, Mary and Joseph with the child returned to Palestine and settled in the district of Galilee in a town called **Nazareth** (Mt. 2:19-23). Jesus was called Nazorean because he settled in Nazareth. **Nazorean** also means “**Consecrated to God**”.

But Pilate, the governor, who handed Jesus to be crucified, also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “**Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews**” (Jn.19:19).

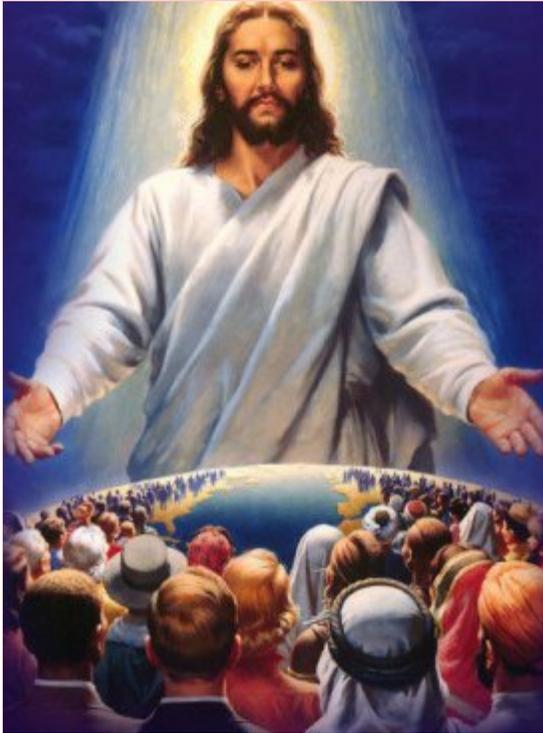
Jesus lived almost 30 years as the son of a carpenter. In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius who succeeded Emperor Augustus, Pontius Pilate became the governor of Judea (Lk. 3:1). It is during this period, John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness started preaching. He proclaimed a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins** (Lk.3:3). The Jews believed and were waiting for a Messiah sent by God to save them. They did not know that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah but John declared of Jesus “**here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**” (Jn.1:29).



“One Lord, the same Lord for all!” (Rom.10:12)



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Jesus started his public life from the day John declared of Him. Like any other, prophets or preachers, he started His public life with much fasting and prayers (Mt. 4:1-11). Jesus began to proclaim “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Mt. 4:17). Nearly three years he proclaimed the Good news, “Taught in their synagogues and proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom and cured every disease and every sickness among the people” (Mt. 4:23).

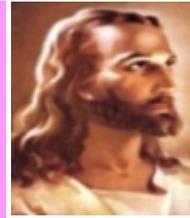
People followed Jesus in huge crowds. Who is this? **He who was born in a hut, worked as a carpenter now meets people with the might of God.**

The disciples of Jesus started proclaiming the Good News of Jesus after he was crucified, died and was resurrected. St. Paul exalted with the message **“There is salvation in no one else”** (Acts. 4:12) to the people of Rome and proclaimed: **“All have the same Lord”** (Rom.10:12).

“All have the same Lord”

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not a preaching of religion. There are many religions and their traditions in the world. Religions to name a few - Hindu, Muslim, Jainism, and Buddhism have their denominations and associations. The Gospel of Christ does not compress in such religious rituals. Stating Christianity as a ‘religion’ or speaking of ‘conversion of religion’ is commonly equal to destroying Christ. The Good News is that God who became man lived among his people as a visible human being, as Jesus, son of Mary in Palestine at Galilee as a carpenter. It will never become a preaching of a religion. Those who listen and interiorize this message does not minimize it to a ‘religious tradition’ or segregate it as a ‘religion’ rather they experience God in their lives and become witnesses of Christ.

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As disciples of Christ, bearing Jesus in their hearts, they live having him alone as their Lord and far from religion, they reflect humanness more explicitly to the world. They are those who have shattered the bonds like religion, caste, creed and status. They accept every one as their brothers and sisters in Christ as a family wholeheartedly. This is a way of life. Love is the foundation.

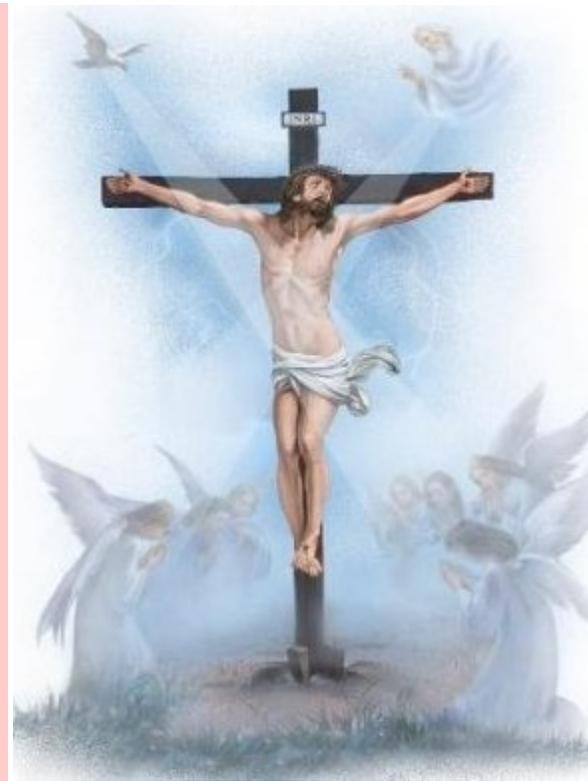
“Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love” (Eph. 3:17). All have the same Lord! This is the Good News God has given to us. “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you Good News of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord” is the message angels brought at the birth of the God Man.

1. Some basic concepts:

Having lived 33 years on this earth he died sacrificing himself for the salvation of Human kind. His salvation history does not end there. He rose again and strengthened the faith of those who belong to Him. He sends them as witnesses to the world. Through them he invited all to his heavenly kingdom as they preached to the people what Jesus had taught them.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:19-20). The essence of this message is not religious conversion. It does not speak of any ritual or rules of a society. It is an enlightenment of a God who became man. It is to transform their lives as pleasing to the Lord whom they have recognized in their lives. St. Peter aspired “ the entire house of Israel to know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah this Jesus who was crucified” (Acts. 2:36) When he spoke on the Pentecost day filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

When people heard Peter, they said “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts. 2:37-38). This is the nutshell of the Gospel of Christ, the Christian discipline. One learns to live as a disciple, an heir of Christ being enlightened by Him.



“One Lord, the same Lord for all!” (Rom.10:12)

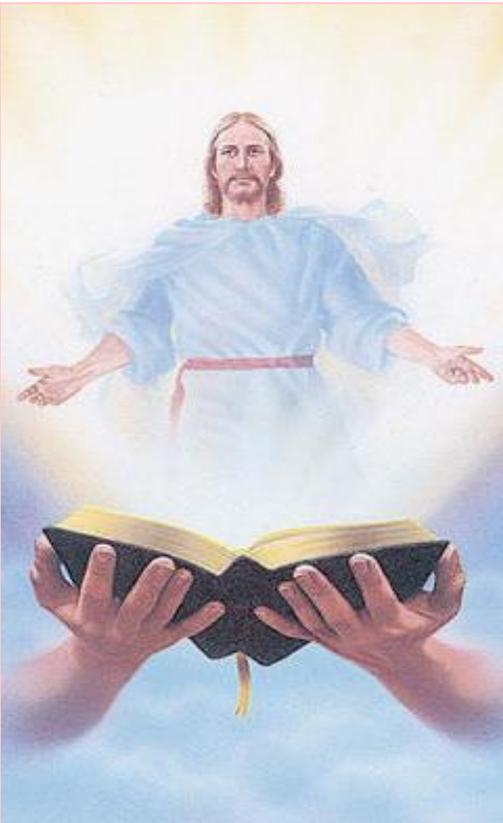


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2. The Knowledge of God:

To know and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ is the Good News. “they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Is. 11:9) is the prophetic message of Isaiah some centuries ago. The inner meaning of this prophecy is the Good News about God. St. Ignatius of Loyola often prayed, “Heavenly Father, help me to know you more clearly, love you more dearly and to follow you more closely.”

Notice how water fills the sea. There is no vacuum in it. They are packed together. Is there a sea without water? It will no more be called a sea. Such is the bond between God and the knowledge of God to human kind. This bond involves human life and its culture. This knowledge of God and the intimate relationship with Him cannot be said under just a religious tradition or ritual rather they should spread humankind like the sea. Evil and destruction open its wings only in the absence of these; sin grows at the ignorance of God.

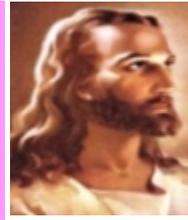


“The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master’s crib; but Israel does not know; my people do not understand. Ah! Sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly, who have forsaken the Lord who have despised the Holy one of Israel, who are utterly estranged!” (Is.1:3-4). The knowledge of God is not science! Neither is it information learnt from books in schools and colleges only to be produced in exam sheets and then to be forgotten. In Bible both in Old and New Testament when it says they knew each other it means that they are very close in relationship. Jesus also instructs his disciples and exhorts them to be in close relationship with Him, “Abide in me as I abide in you... As the father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love” (Jn.15: 1-9).

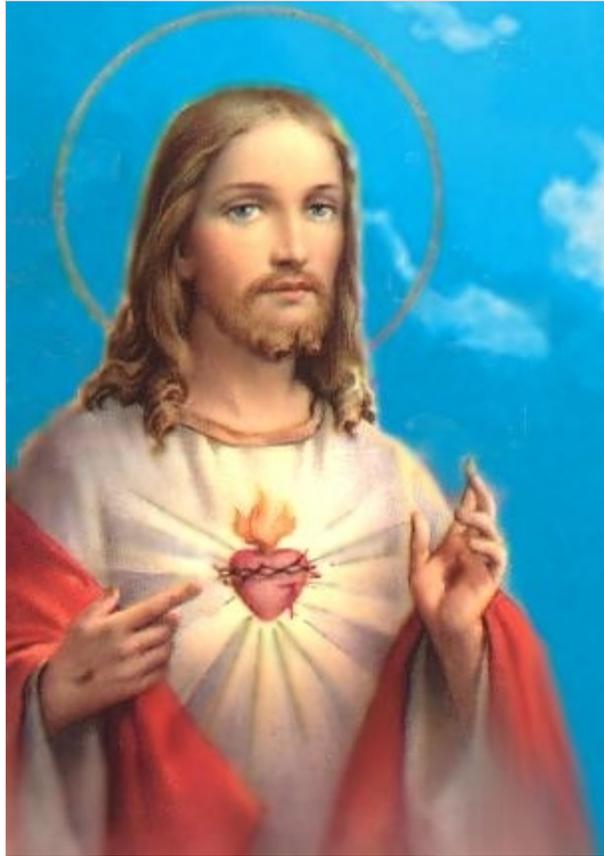
3. Profound love avoids sin:

No one cheats the other if he really loves the other. Couples united in love will never be disloyal to each other. In the same way when one learns to live more close to God they will keep themselves away from the worldly evils. The loving knowledge of God is the only weapon to defend oneself from sin and the evils of this world.

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St. Peter teaches the disciples of Jesus the same message in Acts of the Apostles: “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation” (Acts.2:40). Therefore following the instructions of St. Peter, the early church learnt to know Jesus Christ and to establish an intimate relationship with Him and only on this base were they able to build brotherly relationship with everyone. This Christian culture has been briefly exemplified in Acts of the Apostles. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts. 2:42). “Day by day, as they spent more time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people” (Acts. 2:46-47).

It is a way of social living. The basic culture of the disciple of Jesus is to live with one heart, to live in joy, to share their food and to praise God together. It is never a practice of religious tradition to separate people from society. It is to journey through life with Jesus as its base and goal of life.

4. In the reign of Jesus:

The Gospel of Jesus is not one among many. The rule and authority of Jesus Christ is not like the many kings who have ruled or the governments that have been or like many prophets who have lived. It is neither a compromise of religions, nor one among the many traditions that already exist. There is only one messiah who took human form on this earth to lead humankind as individuals and as society in a right way. **All have the same Lord** (Rom. 10:12). This message is the foundation of all. “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart ... you will be saved.... The same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him” (Rom. 10:9-12). There is no distinction of religion and caste. There is no difference between Jews and Greeks, between Hindus and Christians.

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The knowledge of Jesus Christ is not just a belief in the existence of God. It is not enough to accept Jesus as the only God who exists as many monotheist religions say. It is to believe that God who was not visible to us took human form to live among us, “Immanuel”, as human, as Jesus who was born of a woman, Mother Mary and sacrificed himself as a reparation for the sins of the world. “He entered once for all in to the Holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12). It is the blood of Christ that purifies us from sin. When one accepts Jesus as Lord, he comes under the loving rule of Jesus and receives mercy from the power of the sacrifice of Jesus. He becomes an heir of Jesus.

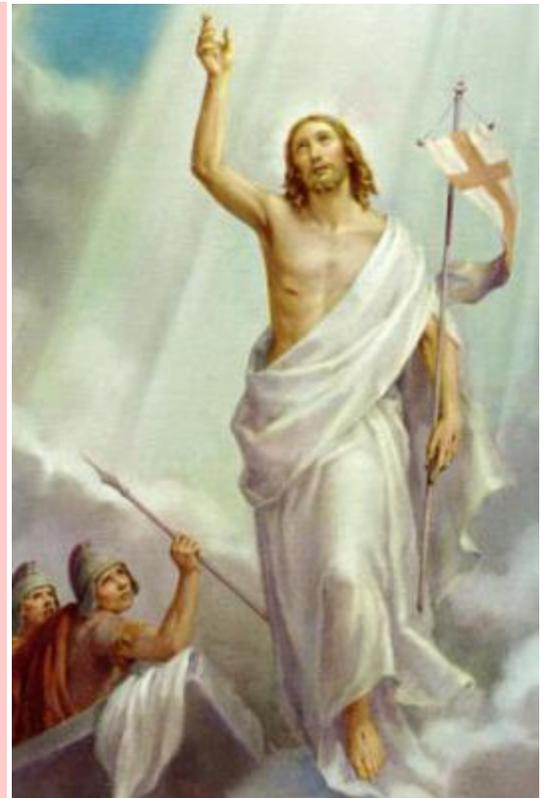
“We have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end” (Heb. 3:14). We will be able to destroy the evil habits and live a life pleasing to God when we accept Jesus as the Lord and abide in His love. We will be called “the people of God”. The Holy Spirit will empower us to call God as “Abba Father” and give us the power and the right to become His children, “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (Rom.8:17).

5. Heirs of Christ:

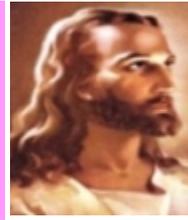
To be one with Christ receiving his power to be His heirs is to partake in His suffering and glory. Jesus who was God in human form took part in our suffering and has called us to partake in His Glory. Therefore if we merge all our suffering into the reign of God they become preparation for the glory about to be revealed to us. We “groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies” (Rom. 8:23).

6. The mystery of our faith:

Faith, hope and love become regulations of Christian life as heirs of Christ. Jesus before sacrificing himself as a living offering called his apostles and shared bread and wine as his own Body and Blood saying “ Do this in remembrance of me” (Lk.22:19). He called them to live in the memory of his suffering and death.



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Jesus death and resurrection as the mystery of our faith remains a driving force for our lives. Every suffering on this earth becomes a glorious scar. Jesus died! He rose again! He will come again! are not just pieces of information. It is not like the daily news in Newspapers. This becomes the blood stream and pulse of a Christian living.

Jesus Christ is now ruling me. He experiences with me my joys and sorrows. He transforms my suffering into His and calls me to share his glory, Therefore we are waiting for the day of our salvation, as St. Peter says, "waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (2Pet. 3:12).



The proclamation of faith that **“All have the same Lord”** is an overall rule of a Christian living. Our witnessing life and responsibility is to make everyone belong to Jesus and call them to partake in His glory.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ...teaching them ...I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt.28:19-20).

Fr. V. Ignatius.S.J.