



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

January 2014 Issue 1 Volume 3

(Not For Sale)



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope."

(Psalm 119:105, 116)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

“Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet And A Light To My Path. Uphold Me According To Your Promise, That I May Live, And Let Me Not Be Put To Shame In My Hope.” (Psalm 119:105, 116)

O God! The God of our ancestors! The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and The God of Jacob!

Bless us dear God as You blest Israel Your people, those days.

Transform us into fertile, fragrant, productive fields, bathed in Your blessing.

Grant us the dewfall of heaven and the fertility of the land.

O God! My God! Grant us grains aplenty and sweet wine!

We Your children will bow down to You as family. We fall prostrate at Your Feet. Fill us dear LORD with Your Joy and Your Peace.

Deliver and save us from the evil weed sown by the evil one. May we never bear the brunt of His crafty designs.

Grant that we may never get entangled under the snares set out by the veil one, and save us we pray.



May Your Word alone be the Lamp for our Feet. May It be the Light to our path.

O GOD ! We should live. Bear us , we pray. Bear us that Our hopes may never go in vain.

May Your abundant Love and Your Immense capacity and Power stay with us throughout this year.

Thank You My God! Thank You!

AMEN ! ALLELUIA !

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



Jesus The Lord

Our Saviour

“ Open the doors of your heart profoundly to prayer, little children, to prayer with the heart, and then the Most High will be able to act upon your freedom and conversion will begin.” Read the Message given by Our Blessed Mother on 25th November 2013 and meditate upon it.



We ourselves stand as stumbling blocks for God to act upon us completely. Our selfishness, the ego called, 'I', the selfishness of 'mine', for me, my thinking. The freedom, 'my decision', all these stand as stumbling blocks for God to fully perform in my life, most of the time. Without realizing that "I am a stumbling block", I stand as a hurdle for what God desires to do in me, and to receive the gifts that He so longs to give me. I must realise this. It is only in deep prayer that God will reveal my failings, and my stumbling blocks. He will act upon me, only when I realise my faults, and give God the complete freedom to act upon me. He will cause a way for Him to act freely upon me, by shaking up my free will and feeling. If I were to draw boundaries to my actions and rules, according to my own will if I were to decide that no one should enter or cross or trample upon these boundaries, even the Almighty Good God will not enter it. The ego called 'I' blocks all the actions of God, and the manner in which He performs in me.

A particular door was once damaged in a room in our Retreat Centre. The latch did not completely fit into the hole right. The lower portion of the door lay tilted downward. I wondered as to why it was thus tilted facing down. A person with a moderate knowledge of carpentry said, " This is a PVC door two small nails that held the latch together and kept it in place, have gone missing. It will be alright once it receives two nails", he said. This is how it is in our prayer life as well. It will hang as if two nails have gone missing. It could be the ego called 'I', the selfishness called, 'mine' or the free boundary called, 'my decision', may be a huge hurdle to our own conversion and to the graces and gifts given by God to us. It is to thwart, melt these barriers that Our Blessed Mother invites us to deep prayer, and invites us to open our hearts. Only when we open up thus, that God will act upon our free will. Pray for this. Pay heed to the voice of Our blessed Mother.

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

VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

For thirty three years Our LORD Jesus Christ walked on the earth meeting people. He is The WORD OF GOD that existed in the beginning! He is The One who became human flesh and dwelt among us.(John 1:14)

Jesus who is the beloved and the closest to the heart of the Heavenly Father, and who possesses the Nature of God, was born in the womb of Mary, the Virgin of Nazareth. He walked n this earth as a human being. He performed marvelous deeds, and made people realise as to who He is. He wished that people realise that He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He was sentenced and subjected to death on the Cross inspite of being blameless and free of sin.

He offered up His Body and His Blood as a living sacrifice to the heavenly Father. For which, He shed Hid precious Blood in atonement for the sins of the world by taking upon Himself the death sentence which was to befall on each one of us. He who was subjected to utmost insult and shame, died on the Cross by shedding His precious Blood, rose again on the third day. He thus reigned victorious having overcome the evil one that deceived human kind, over sin and over death.He said, " I am The way, The Truth and The Life." Those who believe in Him, will never walk in darkness. He mentioned that they would receive fullness of life.

" I came that the sheep may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)He taught all these to the disciples whom He had chosen. He sent His disciples as witnesses to the world, that the future generations should receive Redemption through Jesus. All the witnesses are proclaiming and spreading to date, throughout the world all that Jesus taught and did." No one comes to the Father except through Him." (John 14:6)

Jesus Himself has not written down in a book all that He taught us. He has not even written down anything for us either on a slate or in a scroll.

If there is a scroll that He had written down or a slate in which He had etched , then it is The Eucharist that He has left behind, which is His own Body and His Blood and The Virgin Mother Mary who had given Him flesh ! If He who Is the Word became human flesh, then the one who was instrumental in this, is the Virgin Mother who was filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is why St. Irenaus who lived in the second century, while meditating on the role of Mother Mary in the Redemptive work of Jesus, he mentions , " The Virgin Mother is the Cause of our Joy."



VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

The two pillars that stand as the Joy of the Holy Church and for the spiritual growth of the faithful:

1. The Holy Eucharist given to us by God. " This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)
2. His Loving Mother whom He had entrusted to us ! ' Then he said to the disciple, " Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.' (John 19: 27) In keeping with the Words, " Do what ever He tells you", (John 2:5), from those days to now, the Christian faithful, have as their twin spiritual pillars, The Blessed sacrament and the guidance of Our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary.

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!

If we were to mention the legacy of Jesus bequeathed us, there is no doubt that it is the Blessed sacrament which is His own Precious Body and His Mother the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On Maundy Thursday, the previous day before His death, the night when He invited His disciples to celebrate the Last Supper, Jesus took bread, giving thanks to God, broke It and gave It to His disciples. " This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) The Words that He thus mentioned are not mere Words alone. This is a miraculous deed performed by Him. It is by This Word that the bread was transformed into the Precious Body of Our Lord God! This alone remains with us as the remembrance of Our Lord. And he did the same with the cup after supper , saying, " This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20) So saying He gave His Blood too to His disciples. It reminds us that His Precious Body and His Precious Holy Blood are our food and points out that He is our New Covenant. "There is Redemption in no one else but by Him," (Psalm 4:12), and points out that, " Our sins cannot be washed" by any other blood than by His Precious Blood. (Psalm 3:19).

Similarly on the day that Jesus gave up His Life, on Good Friday, before he could give up His Spirit, saying, " All is finished, " (John 19:30), He completed what was left in His legacy.' When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, " Woman, here is your son." Then he said to his disciple, " Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.' (John 19:26-27)

These Words of Jesus are not simply Words. It is His miraculous work! Just as He gave us His very own Body and His Blood as food and as drink for us, The Mother who gave Him His precious Body and the disciple who loved Him and had an indelible faith in Him, He left behind in the world as a permanent Church.



VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

As Continuation Of His Precious Body, And As The Fruit Of The Miraculous Deed Of His Redemption, He Enjoined His Mother And The Disciple So Filled With Love For Him. It Is This Miraculous Deed Which Continues In This World As The Body Of Jesus , And As A Loving Witness , And Grows And Spreads As The Church.

Where Is The Church?

Where Is The Body Of Jesus?

Where Is Jesus Christ?

Where Is His Precious Holy Blood?

Where Ever Live His Mother And His Loving Faithful, And Function In Unison, There Lives Christ! There Is Redemption There!

On Mt. Calvary Stood A Family Comprising Of His Beloved Mother, Disciples Both Men And Women Who Were So Fond Of Him. This Small Family Was The Church Instituted By Jesus, Then. They Stood Together As The Mother And The Disciples.



They bore the Words of Jesus even amidst difficulties. The Mother of Jesus was accepted as the Mother of the Church. " From that day onward the disciple accepted Her into his home and cared for Her." All the faithful who love Jesus, accept and love this Mother in their hearts and in their homes and comfort Her. No one can separate Jesus and His Beloved Mother , just as it was then.

This incident that is mentioned in John's Gospel, (John 19:25-27).This is something John stored in his mind on deep contemplation.It reminds us of the incident at the garden of Eden given in the Book of Genesis. (Genesis1:1-19) . A woman became the root cause of sin and death due to the craftiness of satan , in the garden of Eden. She who was to be the root cause of life , laid the foundation for curse and death. They could not remain steadfast in the kingdom of God and therefore were caught in the snares of satanic kingdom. But now in the garden called Mt. Calvary, a Woman named Virgin Mary surrendered Herself to God's Word and thereby became the root cause for life and grace.

That day, what ever be the evil crafty design of the evil one, if the lady in the garden of Eden had not given up her freedom, and had not listened or become a slave to the words of satan, sin and death would not have entered the world.

VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour



In the Garden of Calvary, as the Woman who stood at the foot of the wooden Cross said, "Behold the Handmaid of the LORD; let it be to me according to Your Word," (Luke 1:38), " She has become the Cause of our Joy." Just as woman was created out of the bone of Adam in the garden of Eden, in I the garden of Calvary, The Redeemer's flesh was made of The Woman's flesh. There is a surprise in this! There is a mystery in this! Without His legs being broken, Jesus hung on the Cross, as a wholesome Pascal Lamb. "Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out."(John 19:34)

That God's abundant mercy and immense Love may flow from the heart of Jesus, the Virgin Mother Mary who stood as the cause of the Body and actions of Jesus, annulled the evil sown by Eve. She crushed the head of satan. Therefore Jesus gave His Mother as the Mother of the Church saying, " Behold your Mother."The basic characteristic of Motherhood is nothing but giving Life. She who was the Life for Jesus , remains as the Life of the Church. " From that hour"(John 19:27) the time that is mentioned by John, is an hour of Grace, (KAIROS).

There is no difference in timing and day for this Time. This is the hour of Grace of Jesus.

This is Jesus' hour of victory over sin and death, the hour of Redemption, this is the hour of Mercy, the hour of the Divine Mercy. Those who are bound to this time and glory are the faithful of Jesus. The victory of Jesus on the Cross continues even to this day. Wherever the Body of Jesus and the cause of the Body of Jesus, the Virgin Mother, are at work, there Redemption is ! There is Joy as well !
" May it be done to me according to Your Word." (Luke 1:38)

When we think and meditate of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the thought that often comes to our mind is the conversation and the relationship that Mother Mary had with the Angel Gabriel. (Luke 1: 26-38)
The Good news reveals to us that this happened in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. She is a Virgin .She was not yet married. It was the time when she was engaged to be married to one Joseph who belonged to the clan of David. God sent His angel Gabriel to this Virgin. The Angel appeared to Her. May be Mary would have been around 12 years of age. The Angel greeted the Virgin, " Hail Mary Full of Grace! The LORD is with You". The little girl heard this greeting and was disturbed. She was wondering what that greeting meant. The Angel looked at Her and encouraged Her saying, " Do not be afraid, Mary, You have found favour with God."

VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour



The little girl then came a little out of fear. The Messenger then revealed another important message to Her. He told Her that She would conceive and bear a son and that She would name Him Jesus. He also mentioned some of the characteristics of the child to be born. He will be great.

1. He will be called the Son of the Most High.
2. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David.
3. Hew ill reign over the house of Jacob for ever.
4. Of His Kingdom there will be no end.

As the birth of the Child was prophesied , the girl Mary was astonished. The question arose, how would all this happen to Her who was not yet married? The Messenger of God Himself acted as a good Counsellor to Her. He also gave the girl an explanation. " the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." (Luke 1:35) What is to occur, will not happen with the human strength, he made Her realise that this would happen only with the Power of the Most High God.

The Holy Spirit who is the Power of God will overshadow the Virgin Mary and fill Her with His Power. The Power of God which is beyond human nature and strength, would completely fill Virgin Mary and transform Her into the Life-giving Mother. We cannot question and seek answers for this powerful action scientifically. The Angel Gabriel spoke to little Mary in a simple manner and She too accepted It in the simplicity of Her heart. The Angel then revealed two more characteristics of the Babe to be born.

1. The Babe to be born is holy

Holiness is an attribute of God alone. Holiness- it not only refers to God's fullness and wholeness, He does not possess the defects found in creation. He is beyond the bounds of creation.

2. The Child will be called the Son of the Most High God!

Although all of mankind are children of God, yet, The holy One called Jesus, who is born in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is the Holy Son of the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1,2) It is He who became flesh in the Virgin Mother.

VIRGIN MARY MOTHER OF GOD IN MY THINKING



Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour

“He was not created, He came into being, existed.”

It was in this simple manner that the angel Gabriel taught the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus bore witness to the Power of the Most High God. Elizabeth, a relative of the Virgin Mary remained childless for many years. Every one considered Her barren. But due to the mercy of God, she conceived through her husband Zachariah. This incident that occurred to her was a miraculous one! Mentioning this incident, the angel teaches Mary philosophical, that “Nothing is impossible with God.” Learning this in holiness and simplicity, the little girl Mary, and with firm faith in this, She laid this as a foundation for Her life. The synopsis of Her life is summarized in these lines. “ Behold the Handmaid of the LORD; be it done to me according to Your Word.” (Lk1:38)

It was by this Faith, that she became the Mother of God. In the General Council held at Ephesus, while talking about the nature of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the relationship between Her and Jesus, they proclaimed Her, “The Mother of God”-(Theo Dokus Dokys)-(The One who carries The LORD).

She believed in God’s Word, to the extent of carrying God Himself. God’s Word is our life. Since She believed in that Word, totally, She got immersed , became a slave and promised God through the angel Gabriel, “May it be done to me according to Your Word.” Through these words, the Virgin Mary surrendered Her entire will whole-heartedly to the Heavenly Father. The Power of God overshadowed Her and manifested Himself and acted in Her. Without being an obstacle to the functioning of God, in order to act in the manner most akin to God, that She may bear the Word of God, She became the Mother of God, as a Life-giving one. We see a great big difference between the woman we met at the garden of Eden, and to the Virgin Mary of Nazareth. The woman of Eden shunned God’s Word. She became a slave to the serpent which hung on a tree. But the Virgin Mary bore the Word of God. She became the Handmaid of God. Thus She became a Life-giving Mother , and also became the Woman who annulled the curse borne by Eve.

The Virgin Mother Mary who came bearing the Word of God, is a living example to all the faithful and stands as a beacon Light to all. Those who trust and have faith in god, those who bear the Word of God, should possess the Virgin Mother Mary as the ultimate example.

Considering the Virgin Mother Mary as the ultimate law of the Living Church, St. Elizabeth exclaimed aloud, “ Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.(Luke 1:45) The Gospel of Luke beautifully enumerates the relationship between the believing Church and the Virgin Mary. (Luke 1:39-45) The Blessed Virgin Mary bore Jesus in Her womb and went to meet Her cousin Elizabeth. This was the time when Elizabeth was carrying the prophet John the baptist in her womb. The Virgin Mary reached the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard the greeting, the child in her womb, leaped for joy. Elizabeth was fully anointed of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:41)

This incident reminds us of one of the occurrences in the Old testament. (II Samuel 6:12-15) King David brought the Ark of the Covenant from Edom’s place to His city with great pomp and jubilation. He was dancing with his full strength and might n front of the Ark. The house of Israel along with the king, brought the Ark of the Covenant with much praising, jubilation and sound of the trumpets.

How befitting it is for the Church to make jubilation, and make a joyful noise in front of the Ark the Virgin Mary who bore the New Covenant. How great it is !

The ark of the Covenant that was in the time of David, had the tablets made of stone, given by God at Mt. Sinai. But the Virgin Mary did not bear stone tablets., She came bearing the Eternal Word! It is in remembering this, that the Church sings a song of thanksgiving along with the Virgin Mary.

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” Luke 1: 47)

Fr.V. Ignatius. S.J.