

St. John's Church

The Fort, Vellore – 632 004.

C.S.I Diocese of Vellore

Tel.: 0416 - 2220607

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent, the journey to Easter which is repeated each year, is always a new gift from God. As a theologian of the Orthodox Church once wrote, the goal of Lent is not first and foremost about deprivations but more about "*softening our hearts so that they can be open to the realities of the Spirit and experiencing a secret hunger and thirst for communion with God.*"

Likewise even this Lenten Season is set before us as a good opportunity for the intensification of prayer and penance, opening hearts to the docile welcoming of the divine will. It can also be said as a 40- day spiritual journey that will enable us to discover the answer to life's most important question.

Moreover, the word '*Lent*' comes from a German word for "springtime." In many other languages (e.g., Spanish: *Cuaresma*), the name for the season before Easter is derived from the Latin word for "40," a clue that something else important is happening, something that our Scripture talks about. The 40 days of Lent recall the 40 days of Jesus' being tempted in the wilderness (Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13). But when we look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus' temptations we see that they in turn direct us further. Jesus' temptations recall the 40 years of Israel's temptation in the wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land. By and large, the bible is clear that God considers 40 days a spiritually significant time period.

Numbers in the Bible are often not meant to be taken literally, but serve a symbolic function. Our suspicions are aroused especially with a number that recurs so frequently as 40. What would be the symbolic meaning of the number 40? On one level, it represents a longer period of time, but there is more. The longer time has *content*: It is a time of need, of struggle, of testing. There is in fact extra-biblical evidence for this usage as well. But in the Bible, a third level of meaning appears. *Forty* denotes a period of preparation for some special action of the Lord; it is a time of grace.

During Lent, a spiritual journey is outlined for us that prepares us to relive the Great Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. This is done primarily by listening to the Word of God more devoutly and by practicing mortification more generously, thanks to which it is possible to render greater assistance to those in need. May this privileged time of Lent allow you to open yourself ever more resolutely to meeting our Triune God who, once preferred and loved, will know how to satisfy your every desire. A Blessed Lenten Season 2008!

Yours ever.

Rev. S. Clive E. Ponnuraj.

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NEWS & NOTICES

Pastorate Committee meeting:

The Pastorate Committee meeting will be held on the Friday, 8th February 2008 at 6:00p.m in the Parish hall.

Congratulations to Newly Weds:

Janette Farzana Gracie & Sam Vijay Kumar On 17th January 2008.

Harvest Festival:

Our church Harvest Festival has been planned on Sunday the 10th Feb. 2008, starting with a special service at 8:30a.m.. As it has been our practice in the past, we have divided the congregation into groups. Each group has co-ordinators. Please get in touch with your group coordinators who will guide you in the preparation of the item assigned to the group. We do hope that you will extend your cooperation and help for making this Harvest Festival a grand success. If you find your name is missing in the list put on the notice board, please feel free to join any group of your choice.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for

The Harvest Festival.

The Healing Ministries in our country specially at CMC.

The confirmands and the confirmation service.

All the worship service programs during this Lenten season.

FLOWERS , COFFEE & BREAKFAST – FEBRUARY 2008

Date	Flowers	Coffee	Break fast
3	Mr. Pancharatnam		Dr. Raju Titus Chacko
10	Rev. Charles	HARVEST	
17	Dr. Ravi Korula		Dr. Ravi Korula
24			The Macadens

AREA FELLOWSHIP MEETING, FEBRUARY - 2008

Date	Area	Time	Host Family	Phone
19	Gandhi Nagar	06:30p.m.	Mr. George Koshi 7, 22 nd East Cross Road, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore – 632 006.	2242017 9443242017

Birthdays:

1st February

Anand Norman

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Lily Priya Jasper,

2nd February

Dr. Pradeep Mathew Poonnoose,

Mr. D. John Samuel

Dr. K.S. Jacob

3rd February

4th February

Roshni Koshi

5th February

Mrs. Annette Clifford Paul

6th February

Anand Samuel Rajkumar

7th February

Dr. Larry Jacob James

Mrs. Meena Nathan Cherian

8th February

Lilly Nakka,

Mrs. Cynthia Binoy Philip

Mrs. Esther Prasad Rao

Mrs. Sylvia Anbu

9th February

Jessica Priyadarshini,

Mrs. Caroline Sam Wilson

10th February

Lathika Annie Eapen

11th February

Mr. Pradeep Jeyathilak

12th February

13th February

Dr. B. J. Prashantham

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Thomas Divakar David,

14th February

Mr. Richard Chilman
Dr. Mrs. Sujatha Thomas

15th February

Mr. Abraham Shadrack Samuel

16th February

Mary Mani Philip

17th February

18th February

Mr. Joseph George
Dr. Mrs. Jennifer Priscilla Premkumar
Mr. Sam Wilson
Dr. Mrs. Koyeli Mary Korula
Dr. Mrs. Ranjeet Jonathan

19th February

Mrs. Jennie T. Job

20th February

Dr. Mrs. Mary Jacob

21st February

22nd February

Anaika Mary Thomas
Dr. Mrs. Lilly Thomas
Dr. Kurien Thomas
J.C. Manuel

Dr. Mrs. Rashmi Jesudas

23rd February

24th February

Mr. K. Ravi kumar

25th February

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Preethi Elizabeth Kurian
Dr. Mrs. Sarojini Pancharatnam
Dr. Samuel Chittaranjan

26th February

Dr. Mrs. Elizabeth Mathai
Dr. Mrs. Linda Nathaniel
Dr. Samuel Solomon

27th February

Dr. Mrs. Gigi Chandy
Deepak Abraham Raj

28th February 2000

Gabriella Sharon David,
Rohit Jesudas

29th February

Kamalina Preetha Chittaranjan

WORSHIP SERVICES, FEBRUARY - 2008

01st February : First of the Month

07:00a.m. : Holy Communion service.

03rd February: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Humility

07:30a.m. : Holy Communion I
Celeb. : Rev. Clive
Preacher : Rev. Charles

09:30a.m. : Morning Prayer I
Leader : Mrs. Sheila Samuel.

Readings : Micah 6:6-8, Romans 12:14-21, Luke 18:9-14, Psalm 143:1-10.
Hymns : 94, 66, 149, 317.

06th February: ASH WEDNESDAY (Lenten Season begins)

The Cross : The sign of reconciliation

06:30p.m. : Holy Communion Service.
Celeb. : Rev. Charles
Preacher : Rev. Harris Sukanandam
Readings : Micah 2:1-13, I Thessalonians 4:1-12, John 3:13-21, Psalm 51.
Hymns : 92, 33, 192, 358.

10th February: Sixth Sunday before Easter

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

Cleansing Power of Christ

08:30a.m. : Holy Communion I (sung)
Celeb. : Rev. Charles
Preacher : Rev. Clive
Readings : Zechariah 13:1-9, I John 1:5-10, Mark 1:40-45, Psalm 130.
Hymns : 285, 413, 87, 63.

13th February: Lenten Devotion.

06:30p.m. : Lenten Meditation.

17th February: Fifth Sunday before Easter.

Faith in Christ

07:30a.m. : Holy Communion II
Celeb. : Rev. Charles
Preacher : Rev. Immanuel Sundararajan
09:30a.m. : Morning Prayer II
Leader : Dr. Lionel Gnanaraj.
Preacher :?
Readings : I Kings 17:17-24, Colossians 1:1-12, Mark 9:14-29, Psalm 34:1-15.
Hymns : 425, 61, 287, 375.

20th February: Lenten Devotion.

06:30p.m. : Lenten Meditation.

24th February: Fourth Sunday before Easter

Confirmation Ser vice

09:30a.m. : Holy Communion I
Celeb. Preacher : Rt. Rev. Dr. Y. William
Bishop in Vellore
Readings :
Hymns :

LENTEN MEDITATIONS

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 6:30p.m.

Date	Sub Title	Reference	Speaker
13 Feb	Christ : The High Priest	Heb.4:14,15	
20 Feb	Christ : The Prophet	Deut.18:15-19	
27 Feb	Christ : The King	Isa.9:7	
5 March	Christ : The Son of Man	Daniel 7:13-27	
12 March	Christ : The Suffering Servant	Isa.53, Mt.17-24	