

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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## **THE SECULAR CITIZEN**

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# Ryan Global Schools in Mumbai records 100% pass result in IGCSE March Series 2020

Mumbai, May.19, 2020: The Cambridge Assessment International Education, IGCSE March Series 2020 Results were announced today. Ryan Global School recorded a 100% pass results in all their three Mumbai schools for the consecutive year. Ryan Global Schools are located at



Kharghar, Chembur and Andheri in Mumbai. All the 41 students of Ryan Global Schools who took the Cambridge IGCSE March Series 2020 examination have successfully received their ICE Certificates, with many students excelling and achieving their ICE distinction and ICE Merit.

Speaking about the excellent results, Dr. Madam Grace Pinto, Managing Director, Ryan International Group of Institutions said, "We are immensely grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for the spectacular IGCSE results of our Ryan Global Schools in Andheri, Chembur, Kharghar and Bengaluru. We are proud and happy that our students have performed exceptionally well and achieved 100% results for yet another year in a row. We congratulate our students for their sincere efforts and perseverance. We are grateful to the parents for their support. The unwavering commitment of our teachers who have put in relentless efforts in training and supporting the students have borne

fruits. We wish all our students success and a bright future ahead."

## Key Achievements of Ryan Global School:

### Ryan Global School, Kharghar

- ◆ A total of 15 students appeared for the Cambridge Assessment International Education, IGCSE -March Series 2020.
- ◆ 2 students achieved ICE distinction. The ICE distinctions holders are students VasuJha and AdityaNegi
- ◆ 5 students achieved ICE merit.
- ◆ All the students have achieved the ICE certificate



### Ryan Global School, Chembur

- ◆ A total of 13 students appeared for the Cambridge Assessment International Education, IGCSE -March Series 2020.
- ◆ 5 students achieved ICE distinction. Student VrishinRao is one of the toppers in distinction holders.

- ◆ 5 students achieved ICE merit.
- ◆ All the students have achieved ICE certificate.

### Ryan Global School, Andheri

- ◆ The distinction holder and topper Deepansha Narain scored 92% gaining scores 5\*A and 2A.
- ◆ The rest of the students have received their ICE certificate and are either in the list of distinction holders or merit holders.

### About Ryan Global School: (Need Boilerplate)

Ryan Global School is a part of the renowned Ryan International Group of Institutions. The group owes its success to the dedicated Management Team developed by our Founder Chairman Dr. Augustine F. Pinto, ably supported by the Managing Director Madam Grace Pinto.

Ryan Global School is a state of the art, technologically advanced, co-educational day school that undertakes an international curriculum. The school has a broad interest in the field of quality education and excellence committed to enabling academic development of young minds. The school empowers the students to raise their academic and personal potential in a dynamic environment that values analysis, dedication and observation. We are a community which acts with sincerity and respects everyone's individuality, learning together as global citizens. Students flourish in an environment that provides a base for healthy development and encourages success. The distinctive 'buzz' of excitement about learning at Ryan Schools is extremely contagious.

—Ronida

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# The Spirit of Human Kindness

by Don Aguiar.

Lockdown is all a bit of a shock being enforced in just four hours from the time PM Modi made this announcement, and honestly, even if you followed the build up from the start like some sort of Bollywood film there really wasn't any way to predict how this pandemic would have impacted modern life.

**In the PM's previous national address, the government hinted at triumphalism against the virus. Honestly declaring victory now is a fatuous claim. While in his latest national address he made ridiculous claims of India becoming a superpower due to Covid-19 crisis, tall promises about 20LCr package (not even 10% of earlier 1.7LCr package has reached people), but not a word for the migrant labour whom the cruel lockdown has destituted & forced to walk back! He insisted that the country should view the Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity to achieve economic self-reliance, and stressed on the importance of promoting "local" products.**

Life will move on beyond 2020. But we must make sure that our argumentative democracy is still chattering away. Or else coronavirus would still have won.

I have to take a little step back when people say it heralds the return to a simpler way of life. Well yes it does, apart from we have the internet, home shopping and deliveries, endless things to binge out on with the television, and some people even have the ability to ignore basic pieces of advice.

Also when would that simpler life have been? Any time in the 20th century you have, well erm, two mas-

sive world wars that impacted our way of life pretty radically, in both the pre- and post-war years. Before that, anything that hit on such a wide level, was probably plague or such. So yes. I agree, things are a little simpler at the moment, work from home, teach from home, and just stay at home. But there are wider implications.

Within days of the lockdown been declared, frantic migrants went on a massive exodus. India had inflicted an avoidable catastrophe on itself by creating a humanitarian crises. Without their daily income, hungry and homeless the migrants took to the national highways. The scorching sun didn't bother them, neither did the fact that their homes could be over 300Kms away. Even those who survive death will live in abject poverty. **The government of the day seems oblivious of that reality and got flummoxed by the human lives versus livelihood binary and appeared as dumbstruck as a deer caught in the headlights. They could handle neither.**

For anyone in the entertainment, hospitality and freelance worlds the impact has been devastating. While governments have moved to ensure jobs are saved, (virtual) unemployment lines are getting longer and the world of the self-employed, small businesses and family firms will come out of this crisis a much changed place.

But chin up, come on! Where is your optimism and perseverance? In fact they are alive and well. This simple age has come with some extraordinary technological advantages and surprises. While we may moan about the lack of human contact, days and evenings can be filled with virtual tastings, with close friends where conversations can take place in a more intimate environment.

Some of this was available, to a certain extent, pre-Covid-19, but, like the

mobilisation of home delivery service, it has gathered a tremendous pace.

It's not just if you are looking to fancy a little culture? There is a wealth of talent out there that normally would be kept busy treading the boards or buried in orchestra pits in the evenings. Institutions like the NCPA, the Royal Opera House and Netflix / Amazon are all hosting a heap of events online. So if you fancy getting dressed up and catching a show in your own home, you can.

Top class musicians are taking to the web and playing intimate gigs. I say intimate, because when was the last time you watched someone like Herbie Hancock or Pink Floyd play as if you were sitting next to them?

Also if you are off work, or facing this horrible phrase 'furloughing' and you have time on your hands, perhaps it's the moment to take up a new hobby, improve that old hobby you always meant to, or just give back to the community. Here in the tiny village, in the city, I live in, the notes have gone round for volunteers to help with the elderly and infirm. Simple tasks can help someone out, like picking up prescriptions, bits of shopping, even a quick chat through the open window, or posting letters. While there might be some interesting campaigns about paying kindness forwards on the net, this sort of local love is invaluable.

If you live in a city, plenty can be done to help your fellow humans. Your local restaurant and bar might be offering take-away food and drinks or cocktails, while some may be doing vouchers for when they reopen, putting money in their tills; all this helps look after those folk behind the stick. Local convenience shops, family-

(Contd.. on p. 6)



## Reach out to the Needy

— Fr Michael G.,  
Vasai

The Coronavirus crisis has put a huge strain on most families, but the impact of this crisis has hit low-income families very hard. Before the pandemic, many of these families were already struggling to pay for their house rent, food and other basic needs. Now with the growing number of business organisations laying off many low-wage employees, these families find themselves with zero income and a lot of uncertainty about when relief from the crisis will arrive.

There are millions of people around the world in dire need of some of life's most basic necessities such as food, water, clothing and shelter. As citizens of humanity, it is our moral responsibility to come to their assistance and aid.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

## How illogical

In March when the migrant *majdur* in the cities were not infected, were suddenly at 8:00 p.m. locked up into their *jhoadpattis* in the Cities. Now in May when some of them have turned positive with Corona-virus, they are allowed to go into their villages that are totally negative! Imagine this event can turn India into a catastrophic nation with regard to corona pandemic! How illogical moves by the government!

Poor villagers-relatives of the migrant workers! They have no choice but accept the fate of Corona! Only almighty God can save us from the stupidity of our rulers!

## Charity during pandemic & after

Covid -19 has destroyed lives and livelihoods. It will take years to recover. For some, never. Normalcy may never return. More likely we will have to live with a new normal situation. Many will be rendered jobless with no other source of income. We must take care of them and help them get back on their feet. But our concept of charity will need to change with the changing times. During the pandemic our charity must be focussed on those who have lost their jobs---those who have no other source of income. Our parish priest Fr Michael Pinto sends out messages repeatedly informing us to not send maids with letters of recommendation for aid. He says that during the pandemic all other aid stands suspended. Church aid will be given only to those who have lost their jobs and have no other source of income, like migrants, barbers, hawkers etc. Maids get salaries and they should be given their salaries. That, I believe, should be the template for charity during the pandemic. There are tens of thousands out there who have lost their jobs with no other source of livelihood. Our charity must be directed towards them.

After the pandemic eases up ,regular charity (rations, financial , medical , educational aid , etc) to the marginalised sections may resume, but with much more due diligence, so that all available resources are better utilised. It will be necessary to identify those who are really needy. Due diligence must be undertaken at regular

intervals, as is done by SSVP. There are people who only look poor or act poor. An old family member , usually a wizened old grandmother, for example, will be sent to the parish office with a letter of recommendation. But on minute scrutiny it may be found that the children and grand children of the old grandmother, are found to be flaunting expensive mobile phones. Hence, it will be necessary to put in place a strong mechanism to identify the really deserving. Animators, parish councillors, respected members of the community must be in the loop. Just doling out rations and money will not do . It is the hard earned money of parishioners.

Due diligence also implies regular checks of all beneficiaries, not only present but even past. Standards of living very often improve over a period of time. I know of a case, (some years ago )where the beneficiary received a sizeable amount as medical aid. Today the person, by God's grace is very well off. Such persons must be identified and politely requested to return the money, if they have not done so already.

—Prof Robert Castellino,  
Mumbai

## From pandemic to endemic

From pandemic to endemic is the latest warning from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the progression of the corona virus which , according to experts in the organization has come to stay and may never go away. There are also little hopes of a vaccine being developed, on the lines of other vaccines, to tackle illnesses like measles, etc, even though hundreds of laboratories across the world are working on the vaccine and have sounded a note of hope. There is also no specific time for the elimination of the virus and no one can predict the time of its departure. All this is very distressing and disturbing news for suffering humanity , more because

(Contd.. on p. 7)

# Lock Down, Slow Down, Move Down



**T**wo scenarios appear. At one end there is the doomsday predictor, who says that the world in general and India in particular will be in dire straits with millions finding hard to make both ends meet. On the other hand there is an optimist who sees a golden opportunity in crisis. His opinion is based on the unprecedented unity shown world over cutting across party loyalty which came



C.K. Subramaniam

on display time and again during the course of Covid-19. The lock down should not let down our people in general and the Indian economy in particular. We have seen the slow down of economy world over. Now it is time to move down with high spirits and see how to overcome a ticklish situation.

India's manufacturing activity plummeted to a record low in April as the corona virus lock down imposed by the government forced factories to shut down and consumers to stay indoors, a private survey showed. The trend continued during most part of the month of May and may continue for the best part for the month of June as well. Earlier, we were looking for results and profits. But in the present position even survival is somewhat difficult.

How have Indians been coping with the lock down over the past few months. Data from other sources also suggest a rise in anxiety and mental health problems during the lock down. A recent survey by the Indian Psychiatric Society suggests a 20% rise in cases related to mental illnesses because of

uncertainties relating to issues such as finance, work, health, and stress in relationships. This crisis will definitely change priorities of Government, society we live and individuals. This too will pass so too opportunities to correct including staying positively.

The disruption in wholesale markets and transportation hurdles have ravaged the rural economy. Farmers are chopping orchards, ploughing blooming fields of flowers and selling produce at throwaway prices. The absence of field-level assessment by insurance companies is making compensation difficult. The government has been promoting cultivation of pulses and oil seeds over food grains for the past few years. There has been record production of food grains with each successive year, leaving the government granaries overflowing. Now it is time to have a holistic approach and come out of the rut with grit and determination. Government aid is the need of the hour.

Only through proper public policy interventions and giving stimulus through cash flows the economy can be resuscitated. Our economy is now demand constrained due to large scale unemployment. It is during these times the government is expected to create more public sector jobs rather than privatization of the same. The central government is trying as much as possible and the decision of the migrant laborers should be taken by the state governments as to how they have to bring back their laborers, believing that some responsibility is also there with state governments as well. But unless all the state governments come together in the difficult time of this pandemic, then only we can expect good results. So the government of all the states will have to fully support the central government then only it will best results in the days to come and we will fight this corona war in the best way possible.

(Contd.. from p. 4)

run corner shops that can stay open, shop there rather than the supermarkets.

**As a quick aside, despite all this technology connecting us together like never before, try writing a letter or card to someone. I guess in all this I am really asking you, good reader, to have a think about where you are, what you would normally do and the people you normally interact with, are they okay? If in need, can you help them? There has never been a better time for us to overrun with the spirit of human kindness.**

(Contd.. from p. 5)

experts in the WHO have thrown up their hands in a virtual surrender and left it to governments and people to evolve their own strategies. We see this happening in India today as there is an alarming daily rise in the number of Covid-19 positive cases. There were 618 confirmed cases of Covid-19 at the start of the lockdown on March 25. The number stands at 1.12 lakhs, as of today, even at the end of three lockdowns and severe restrictions by state govts. Why is this happening and what is the solution, is what the experts should tell us. As of now then, the message seems both clear and distressing 'What cannot be cured has to be endured'.

—A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto Porvorim

## Open Cemeteries for Covid 19 Victims

On Monday 25th May 2020 I gave Complaint letter to the Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg Police Station (Police Inspector Sarang Sadashiv Lambe) and the Medical Officer BMC F/South Ward ( Ms. Dr .Anita Inamdar) against the Management Trustees of the Sewri Christian Cemetery which is not allowing Burial of Christian Covid 19 victims, they are not even allowing burials in the Family Purchased graves , which is very high handed behaviour of the Management of Sewri Christian Cemetery.

Even I have my Family grave (purchased in 1904) in the Cemetery.

I spoke to the Medical Officer BMC F/South Ward and she very clearly clarified that there is no direction from the BMC to Sewri Christian Cemetery for refusing Covid 19 victim dead bodies.

On 19 May 2020 a letter was given to the Sewri Cemetery requesting to allow burials of Covid 19 victims but still the Sewri Christian Cemetery

which is the largest Cemetery in Asia and having enough space are refusing burials of Covid 19 victims, even in the family grave they are refusing.

Sewri Christian Cemetery is not a private personal property, it's a public registered Cemetery for all the Denominations Sects of Christians.

The Present Cemetery authorities have taken law in their hands and has no respect for the Law of the land , Court orders neither they are respecting the Covid 19 dead victim which they are obstructing Respectful Burials of the dead and hurting the religious sentiments of the Entire Christian Community. They are neither bothered about the Court Order which is very unfortunate.

At this time of Crisis the Sewri Christian Cemetery is thinking they are above all the laws and not respecting the Law of the Land. Neither respecting the Dead and the Sentiments of the Bereaved families.

Last week two Covid 19 victims funeral I personally executed one at Deonar Christian Cemetery and another at St.Peters Cemetery , Mahalaxmi. When these Cemeteries are allowing Burials of Covid 19 victims then why not the Sewri Christian Cemetery. The personal hidden agenda of the Management of Sewri Christian Cemetery is not understandable, which needs to be investigated and offence to be registered against them and other Cemeteries refusing Burial of Covid 19 victims.

The BMC Should take over the Cemeteries which are not allowing Covid 19 victims and appoint administrators to execute Burial of Covid 19 victims. We can help and support the local authorities in executing Burial of Covid victims.

No Cemeteries are private and all the Cemeteries should be opened up Under the administration of BMC including the Church Cemeteries within Church premises for their respective Church parishioners because all the formalities and documentation of a Covid 19 victim and even otherwise

is regulated by the Government and BMC ( Like Police NOC, Death Registration, Death Certificate etc)

**Cyril Dara**  
**Church Activist**  
**Secretary- Christian Reform**  
**United People Association**  
**(CRUPA)**

## 40 test Covid-19 positive following German church service

Frankfurt, May 25, 2020: A church service in Frankfurt is being blamed for the spread of coronavirus in the German city.

According to the city's health department, more than 40 people contracted Covid 19 after attending a worship service at Gospel Christians Baptist Church on May 10.

"Most of them are not seriously ill. As far as we know only one person has been admitted to hospital," Rene Gottschalk from the health department told the DPA, a German news agency.

Churches in Germany have been free to hold services since the beginning of the month as long as they adhere to official social distancing and hygiene rules. Singing is also prohibited.

The development comes as Donald Trump said churches in the US were now free to hold public worship, deeming them "essential services".

In the UK, the government said churches wouldn't be allowed to reopen until July "at the earliest". It has brought together a taskforce to oversee the issue of places of worship chaired by communities secretary Robert Jenrick. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, leader of Catholics in England and Wales Cardinal Nichols and Daniel Singleton from Faith Action network are all part of the group.

Source: premierchristian.news

# NOW THAT WE ARE TOLD COVID 19 VIRUS IS GOING TO STAY WITH US, WHAT PATH LIES AHEAD?

by Eric D'Sa

**T**o the surprise of many, Covid 19 virus has caused severe disruption across the world. Hardly a country has been spared. However, there are variations both among and within countries, in the number of cases and the fatality rates. In general, N.Europe and the U.S. have borne the brunt of the infection, while Asian and African countries have been relatively less affected so far. It is not yet clear why such geographical differences exist. India had reported its first case on January 30, 2020; as of May 17 it has reported 1,06,750 cases and more than 3,300 deaths. In comparison, the U.S. and the U.K., which also reported their first cases around the same time, recorded over 14,77,516 and 2,24,330 cases, and over 89,272 and 34,796 deaths, respectively.

The relatively young population of India has been suggested as a possible factor for this stark difference. However, while older people are at highest risk from the more severe consequences of COVID-19, there is no evidence to suggest that younger people are immune to the infection. Differences in case ascertainment may explain some of the patterns: South Korea and Germany tested widely in an effort to identify cases, whereas some countries including India offered testing (at least in the initial stages) to only those with a history of foreign travel or with close contact with a known case. However, this does not explain differences in mortality. This may be due to our being inoculated with BCG vaccine or the spicy food we eat providing us the required immunity.

Low temperature and low absolute humidity have been suggested as factors influencing transmission. But this theory needs further proof. Genetic variations may be a possible explanation. During the 2003 SARS epidemic, specific genetic variants that provided resistance or susceptibility to infection were identified in different populations. Population-specific differences such as ACE2 (which permits virus to enter the body) may partly explain

the differential infection rates of COVID-19. It is also possible that some Asian and African populations have been exposed to a multitude of coronaviruses previously, which has provided some cross-immunity. The SARS epidemic did not affect South Asian and African countries significantly. The West Asian countries which bore the brunt of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) do not appear to be significantly affected by COVID-19.

Early adoption of countrywide preventive measures may have also played an important role. While European countries

**YOU THE CITIZENS  
DECIDE:**

reacted with restrictions and closures, it remains a question if these measures were taken too late. India closed its doors to foreign travellers early on in the outbreak and has not seen the surge that could potentially have been expected for a population of 1.3 billion people. However, Sweden for example, has still not adopted major restrictions and not seen a large surge in cases.

If the epidemic does spread with generalised community transmission, the healthcare, social and economic implications will be significant. The lockdown in India has played a role in preventing an exponential surge in cases but whether sufficient notice should have been given to the migrant workers to leave the cities and additional trains and buses provided to do so. There is also a big question if there was a need for a total strict national lockdown and it would have been better if it should have begun in the large cities where the disease had first appeared.

However, now as the nation unlocks gradually a measured public health approach is critical in controlling this epidemic. Current approaches are largely urban-centric with little focus on rural dynamics. A decentralised approach is required to man-

age the large rural population, and the success in Kerala may serve as a useful model. Governments may consider mobilising and training a range of healthcare providers (including providers of primary care, and traditional healthcare systems) in responding to this situation. Crucially, the current practice of isolating all cases in hospital settings is not sustainable if cases increase.

As it would be impractical to test everyone with symptoms, a case definition based on symptoms and local epidemiological context may be used to diagnose suspected COVID-19 cases. Those with mild symptoms (and their household contacts) should be advised to stay at home. If cases cannot be managed at home, community centres may be deployed for isolation. This approach will ensure that hospitals are available to those who really need them. The lifting of the lockdown needs to be undertaken in a phased manner.

One approach would be to ensure that the vulnerable, such as the elderly above the age of 65 and the those with pre-determined disease are protected beyond initial lockdown periods, while restrictions are lifted for the majority of the healthy younger population. The disease has generally been mild among most people affected in the subcontinent, and it is possible that herd immunity may be developing through gradual exposure among healthy individuals.

While lockdown measures are lifted in a controlled manner, government public health agencies need to continue to promote hygiene measures. Physical distancing will need to be continued. Public health messages need to be locally tailored and consistent. They require not only awareness, but also resources as these are largely middle-class concepts and not easy to practice in crowded areas where there is no running water. In conclusion, the approach to the management of Covid 19 virus needs to blend acute disaster management strategies with longer-term public health measures.

# Will The CBCI Be Prophetic On The Catastrophic Scenes In The Country?



-Fr. Michael G. Vasai.

What is the role of Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) with regard to socio-political happenings specially when the poor are deeply affected? Is it not bound to issue a public statement on the present pandemic situation in the country?

The Central govt. is pushed -too late but never too late- to operate more 'Shramik' Special trains for stranded migrant workers. The Bihar government said on 19th May that it would bring back over 20 lakhs migrants, in about 800 trains, over the next few days.

The migrant workers are reaching their villages somehow. Some on foot, some on cycle, some by private vehicles, and some by Shramik trains. Many are dying on the way due to hunger, accidents and fatigue by the roadside, on railway lines, in accidents; some are committing suicide. When they reach their villages what fate awaits them is only to be guessed! This is the case not only in Bihar alone but U.P., Jharkhand, Haryana, and in Telangana. Even in Maharashtra the situation is chaotic.

Human life seen degraded! Pathetic scenes all over the nation! Shameful to humanity!

For last several days, near our Vasai Rly stn. there is a huge crowd of people gathered in the hope of catching trains to go to their mulukh. They are sitting in the hot sun during the daytime and sleeping in the nearby open fields in the nights! Though they earn their bread honestly with their hard work, today they stand as beggars before local volunteer groups for food, water and other necessary things. I am a witness. Similar chaotic rush gathered at Bandra station three days ago. On Gujarat high ways crowds are taking law in their hands. Looking at the total scenario in the country one wonders whether **this is our democratic nation India or totally an anarchic state?**

In such situation Holy Mother the Catholic Church has done gigantic relief work in all the dioceses in the country. Priests, religious and laity have worked hard helping the migrants. **But together with relief work has not the Church something to say and even to pass a judgement? The CBCI must issue a public statement**

**on the present catastrophic situation in the country. The statement should express Church's solidarity with suffering poor and with the government struggling to cope with the pandemic. The statement may also contain certain suggestions and corrections to those in authority for better dealing with the pandemic.**

By now the migrant labourers in cities are affected positive by Corona. The news is that one fourth of Biharis returning home are affected! They are going to spread the virus among their innocent families and neighbours! Has the government acted wisely and responsibly? *Of course CBCI statements will be interpreted politically. Even then as John the Baptist The Church needs to shout, "It is not lawful for you to..." (Mark 6. 18)*

-Fr. Michael G.,

St. Paul Church, Nanbhat,  
Post Sopara, Vasai (N)  
Dt. Palghar, 401203.

# Are we NOT betraying 'Laudato Si'?

**M**ay 24, 2020 completes full five years of Pope Francis' path-breaking and incisive Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' - **On Care for Our Common Home**. It was the first major Papal teaching on a subject of critical importance namely 'the environment'. 'Laudato Si' meaning "Praise be to you" are the first words of the celebrated 'Canticle of the Creatures' of St Francis of Assisi. The Encyclical which came months before the landmark **2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, (COP 21)** which was held in Paris in fact set the tone for world leaders to come to grips with real causes which were responsible for environmental degradation and which ultimately caused climatic changes with disastrous results everywhere.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

In the opening statements of the Encyclical, Pope Francis makes his intention clear *"to address every person living on this planet"* (#3). He says *"this sister (mother earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life"* (#2).

In the first Chapter, he states that *"we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation"* (#48); he deals here with several 'aspects of the present ecological crisis': pollution, waste and the throw-away culture; climate as a common good; displacement and migration caused by environmental degradation; access to safe drinking water as a basic and universal hu-

man right; loss of bio-diversity; decline in the quality of human life and break down of society; global inequality. He also denounces unequivocally the use of pesticides and the production of genetically engineered (GE) crops.

Pope Francis strongly notes that *"the earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production"* (#32). In making such statements, in taking a stand for the 'care of our common home', Pope Francis has indeed created several enemies among the rich and powerful-who are bent on profiteering; those engaged in the extractive industry by plundering very precious and scarce natural resources. This was indicative from the fact that Gallup Poll conducted in the United States a little after the Encyclical was released, showed that his ratings had plummeted by more than 18% points among fairly large sections of Americans and particularly the wealthy and other vested interests.

Pope Francis certainly did not lose any sleep because there was a drop in his popularity; he has been in consistent in his love for the poor and his commitment to the protection of the environment. Throughout the Encyclical, insists that we have been called to be stewards of the creation which God has entrusted to us. He ensures that **'Laudato Si'** focuses on human rights violations and injustices. He does not mince words when he says *"in the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, committing oneself to the common good means to make choices in solidarity based on a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters"* (#158).

What is paramount in the final analysis says Pope Francis is a radical com-

mitment to ensure positive change, which is the need of the hour. For this he says, every section of society must play a definite role in a collaborative and concerted manner. The Pope does not spare the priests of the Catholic Church and he calls upon them to engage with the faithful on environmental issues. Further, he challenges international and national Governments and mechanisms saying, *"the same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. A more responsible overall approach is needed to deal with both problems: the reduction of pollution and the development of poorer countries and regions"* (#175)

'Laudato Si' is a document which disturbs and at times has a threatening tone. Therefore there is always the danger that many would like to cosmeticize this powerful document: to tinker with bits and parts, to be selective and comfortable in its reading; to do non-threatening acts like growing trees, propagating alternative technologies, not using plastics, having environmental education, making environment project work etc. Whilst all these acts are suddenly good and may lead to something more sustainable, 'Laudato Si' is path-breaking, radical in nature, it makes one uncomfortable and touches every single dimension of our human existence. The Pope invites all to an ecological conversion, to change directions so that we can truly care for our common home; not to pay heed to Pope Francis' prophetic words; to rubbish this timely and important message or to relegate it to mere tree-planting would certainly be a great disservice not to the Pope but to Planet Earth!

On 22 April, Earth Day Pope Francis praised the environmental movement, saying it was necessary for young

people to **“take to the streets to teach us what is obvious, that is, that there will be no future for us if we destroy the environment that sustains us”**. Recounting a Spanish proverb that God always forgives, man sometimes forgives but nature never forgives, Francis said, “If we have deteriorated the Earth, the response will be very ugly. “He further went on to add, *“We see these natural tragedies, which are the Earth’s response to our maltreatment. I think that if I ask the Lord now what he thinks about this, I don’t think he would say it is a very good thing. It is we who have ruined the work of God.”* Saying the Earth was not an endless deposit of resources to exploit, he said, *“We have sinned against the Earth, against our neighbour and, in the end, against the creator.”*

Interestingly, a lead article in ‘The Hindu’ (23 May 2020) says that during lockdown the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEFCC) panels cleared or discussed thirty projects in biodiverse forests. The projects including mining and a highway, were brought up during virtual conferences; but Environmental scientists say that site inspections are a ‘crucial component’ of project evaluation. In fact the current Government has clearly abdicated its role as the protector of India’s rich biodiversity. Almost all forests from the Aravallis in North India (incidentally the Aravallis are regarded as one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, which acts as a water recharge zone, are green lungs which shield the dust that blows from the Thar desert for most of North India and ultimately saves a vast region from desertification); then there are the rich bio diversity areas of Dehing Patkai and Dibang Valley in the North East, Talabira in Odisha, Hasdeo in Central India, Western Ghats across West and South India – all these are being indiscriminately being opened up to industries. Not only is biodiversity being destroyed but the people living in these forests, the adivasis, and the indigenous peoples will certainly lose their natural habitat.

Already the regime has made its intentions clear to deprive those who were living in the forests for centuries, of their legitimate rights to these forests.

In another blatantly anti-environmental decision the Finance Minister announced a few days ago, commercial mining of coal by the private sector, ending government monopoly on the sector. When the world is doing away with fossil fuels – India is helping a few rich to destroy our fragile ecosystems and amass huge wealth.

The recent **AMPHAN** cyclone which has devastated the lives of millions overnight and the COVID - 19 pandemic are no flashes in the pan. These have their roots in our consumeristic lifestyles our callous attitudes towards the environment and our lust for profiteering which makes us very insensitive to the destruction of our fragile ecosystems.

In the context and mandate of ‘Laudato Si’ what has been the stand of the Church in India

- have we internalised the document, individually and collectively: made it our own?
- do we take a stand on human rights violations and injustices (#158)
- are we truly concerned about the ‘jal, jungle aur jameen’ of the adivasis? The way the Government and the powerful are trying to deprive them of the forest lands? do we truly identify them, accompany them in their struggles?
- do we have the courage to take on the powerful vested interests: be it the Government or even some of our ‘benefactors’ who have no qualms of destroying the environment? ( the destruction of the Aravalli range and the Western Ghats, the Narmada Dam, Sardar Patel Statue, Mithi Viridi, mining, the polluting industries – the list is endless)

Not being able to say an unequivocal ‘yes’ to any of the above is a clear indicator that we have not (individually and collectively) mainstreamed the spirit and message of ‘Laudato Si’ but in fact been a betrayal to it!

It is the ‘Laudato Si’ week and the Global organisers have given us a Common Prayer for this fifth anniversary; we need to say it with one heart and in one voice:

*Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
You created us in your image and made us stewards  
of all your creation, of our common home.*

*You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.*

*Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.*

*Help us to be conscious that our common home*

*belongs not only to us, but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.*

*May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.*

*Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.*

*Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.*

*Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,*

*Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good,*

*Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected, in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

*We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

Through this powerful Encyclical Pope Francis puts one pertinent question **“what kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”** (#160). Do we have the COURAGE to answer this question and ACT NOW?

*\*(Fr Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights and peace activist/writer. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*

# M'lore Hero of the sky - 'Vande Bharat'

- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

**T**he Corona Virus terror has brought the world to its knees as never imagined, and still beyond imagination. Our own Corona Warriors in every sphere, are waging a relentless war with support as best as possible - it has been mentioned that 'In a war there are no winners', but being positive facing the enemy is the best needed strategy. Medics, transporters, food providers, NGOs, experts and so on, just to name a few along with the Government machinery are deep in this wide open battle. The worst sufferers as seen are the migrant and expatriate workers, who have lost their jobs and living and now aim only to get home even thousands of miles away. It is distressing to note the chaos; yet airlines, rail and road transport is geared up to serve as best as possible even with extreme requirements of safety and prevention - Vande Bharat Mission is now in forefront. In the process of this rescue operation of several skilled experts and professionals are in risky roles with a magnanimous aim, gallant heroes of the present.

Air India Express Commander/Pilot, Capt. Michael Saldanha, is Mangalore Base Manager, Check Pilot responsible for 30 pilots here. He has volunteered and so have a dedicated crew, during these critical times to fly 'Vande Bharat Mission' rescue flight from Gulf countries for stranded people. His first relief flight was on May 7, 2020, Dubai to Kozhikode with 177 passengers and second one May 20, Muscat to Bangalore and Mangalore with 180 passengers - indeed his exemplary sense of duty to country in this circumstance is worthy of recognition and overnight he has captured the hearts of his city. Mangalore is proud of the true blue young man a dyed in the wool Kudlagar. May 20 morning, preparing to ferry an empty



aircraft, 'to keep a patriotic tryst to rescue around 180 stranded expats (about 114 for B'lore & 68 for M'lore) from Muscat, Oman'. Our esteemed readers will like this, so, lets take to the skies with our Captain.

Capt Michael Saldanha, has been an AI pilot for 12 years of which 8 lucky years in Mangalore, after he trained in the US for highly complex Boeing's, he earned his commercial pilot licence endorsed in India and wears his wings with distinction. He is well rooted in Mangalore, did his studies in historic St. Aloysius College and then RV Engineering College Bangalore. Now, is with his parents and a brother at Valencia, on both sides he has deep roots of local Konkani origins. Talking of flying and aircraft he with all seriousness says, "God's gift to man is to produce a machine and fly in the sky." He is a person hitched to God,

no doubt confirmed by a renowned priest here.

'Vande Bharat Mission' rescue flight from the gulf, went fairly well given it was the first experience for all, he explained, "There are too many uncertainties and lot of unfamiliarity, but along with an excellent SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) and guidelines worked out by all concerned he and the crew's confidence levels went up. All of us on these missions feel sad at the plight of our compatriots, but very good to see the happiness on the faces when they get to homeland. I have now done two special missions and more will surely follow. This corona virus is indeed a tough one and all care is needed. I always feel grateful to the Airlines, the many kind officials involved and definitely to God above" He mentioned that nec-



(Contd.. from p. 12)

essarily he and his crew have volunteered on this mission as none can be called up routinely. It gives us all associated, a patriotic pride unlike a normal commercial flight. Virus tests are conducted before and after the flights, quarantines on medical norms are maintained for all members of crew. On the last flight one crew member developed symptoms later and is undergoing treatment - so risk is ever present.

These flights have built-in risks of several types for the passengers too and following the regulations and discipline are vital for all concerned. There are bound to be very ill people in wheel chairs bound for treatment at home, aged folk, pregnant ladies, small children and many kinds of workers. After, strict protocol is followed, there will be no much contact within the aircraft, no meal services; food and drink in a box will be on each seat for the passenger, with sanitizing stuff. Under the circumstances there are many people who need to urgently return to their native land now, few seats will be left vacant on the plane for emergencies, but, all medical safety precautions will be strict and safe. One has to be conscious and safe considering that the same air is recycled by the atmospheric systems of the plane and supplied in the cabin all through the flight. Mangalore airport is very safe now with advanced landing and communications equipment and there

are no issues, the management and technicals are fine. Air craft are fully sanitized after each round trip by experts in the field and fear is excluded.

Capt Michael Saldanha, a young man was very specific that he got all encouragement and support from his family and folk at all times for these operations, his Mom and close confidant a social figure, Ms.Freida who's father Col J W Soares held a special post as Commandant in Cannanore,

in his time. The Captain's father Mr. Placides Saldanha is the well known scion of an ancient family here and takes pride in running his estates in Chickamagaluru. Maternal grandmother Blossom Soares in spite of age is a good sounding board. It is well worth noting that his father's parents are unique - Grandfather Paschal Saldanha (1907-70) was a Police officer who won 'President's Gold Medal' and later went into Coffee estates as a nature lover, grandmother 'Addy' was the first Catholic lady MLA of South Kanara in the Madras Presidency after independence and an untiring social activist then. On this occasion many more aviators of the past and present from Kanara, are graciously remembered, many are based in Mumbai too. Let us always laud our great achievers everywhere and cheer all in these times of peril and test - A Supreme power and devotion to life will overcome all.



Work Is Worship

# Work is Worship



**Work Culture  
Would Change  
With Corona Virus**

**W**ork place spirituality is a novel concept with potentially strong relevance to the well being of individuals, organisations and societies. The common problems faced by most of the corporates are stress, absenteeism, organisational politics, absence of team work and so on. Large numbers have been struggling with anxiety, depression and lack of motivation. Going back to work will trigger a huge range of emotions.



Jayanthy Subramaniam

Many with existing health conditions are reluctant to regroup until vaccines are dished out. Work is worship and we Indians just touch the entrance of the office before starting the work in right earnest.

The spontaneous and unannounced mass remote working trial shone a

blinding spotlight on unprepared businesses. When the tide goes out you see who's lost their swimming trunks, who's been working out and who's wearing their wife's knickers all will come in open. IT teams were flooded with requests to configure remote systems. Hardware sold out. Software took some getting used to, but all in all the imposed home office project has generally been hailed as a huge step forward for work place. This is largely dependent on the worker's home situation and individual roles of course. Some staff are not permitted to access sensitive data externally, not all jobs can be done remotely especially from the Banking sector where the client's details are to be kept secret and not revealed outside.

Social distancing will be the part and parcel of future working in India. This sets new limits on workplace capacity: bums on seats. Facility managers and consultants are frantically re planning offices, reducing numbers and marking out spacing with sticky tape. More needs to be done, but a return to desk cubicles isn't the answer. The uniqueness of the current situation is that nobody has a definitive answer for how to work through the post lock down / pre-vaccine period. Management must engage with employees to agree a way – and be prepared to change tactics if needed.

Employer responses to staff fears will come under the microscope. The big losers in the next 12-18 months will be firms that ignore corona concerns raised by their team, dismiss home office requests and fail to consider staff anxiety. Businesses with short term views will lose out to long term strategists. Now is the time to buy loyalty with empathy to retain your best assets. It is time to enhance trust among people with an increased disconnectedness. Moreover, motivated organisational culture leading to better organisational performance in future. At the same time there should be job satisfaction. We should cultivate a renewed community sense and positive outlook for maximum output.

Management should be visible with regular team meetings to deal with problems and concerns. Human emotion, empathy, open minded communication and understanding have to take the lead. Employees with fears and anxieties should be supported in order to feel safe at work. Businesses need to be flexible with their staff. The office does not represent work itself, presenteeism is dead. The uniqueness of the current situation is that nobody has a definitive answer for how to work through the post lock down / pre-vaccine period. Management must engage with employees to agree a way and be prepared to change tactics if needed. There lies the real success in the post Corona virus scenario.

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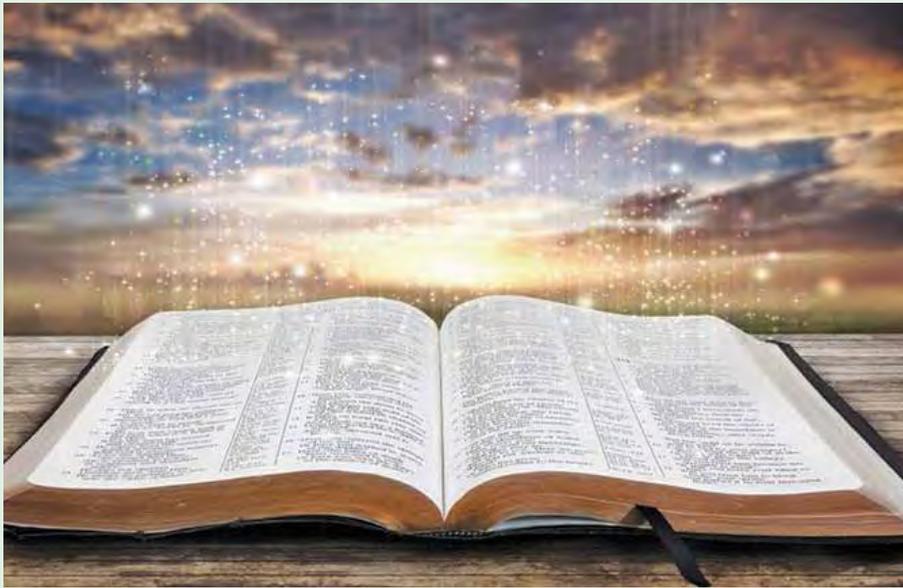
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# A Timely Reflection On The Holy Bible



**T**aken as a whole the fact cannot be denied, the Bible is holy and has attributes of the divine Word of God. today, and for some time to come the looming threat of Covid-19 will plague the bastions of every human mind with doubt and fear that one could be infected at any time. This can be overcome by reflecting a little more on the inner secrets and truths within the Scriptures.

The Bible is woven of two threads, the Old and the New Testaments consisting of 66 Books: 39 in the Old Covenant and 27 in the New Covenant. The word Bible means a collection of writings. It may surprise you that the natural divisions of the Bible are a remarkable illumination of the faith in many fields of human endeavor.

The natural divisions of the Bible begins with the Book of Genesis informing us that God also divides. He divided the light from the darkness during creation. In the holy structure of the Bible we are told that there are seven divisions. I discovered that the number seven identifies the perfect work of God.



BY MELVYN BROWN

As for example in creation, the world was designed in seven days. There are seven colors in the rainbow, seven notes in the major scale, and Joshua marched seven times around Jericho on the seventh day. God instructs us of the seven fold purification of the Bible. In Revelation the Lord introduces us to a seven sealed book. (Rev.5:1). "Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne, a scroll, written on both sides, sealed with seven seals."

The sixty-six books of the Bible has each book as a whole within itself yet, each book has a total of 1,189 chapters: The Old Testament has 929 chapters, and the New Testament with 260 chapters.

The New Testament is divided by History, Gospels and Prophecy. The Old Testament has divisions in Law, History and Prophecy. From Isaiah to Malachi are 17 books, some include major prophets and some with minor prophets.

In the Book of Isaiah it is worthy of notice to find the prophet making the promise of the Virgin birth. You can

find it in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin is with child and bears a son and calls his name Immanuel".

It is surprising to know that the Bible has 31,102 verses. The total number of chapters 1,189 (the Old Testament has 929 Chapters. The New Testament has 260 chapters. ) In the English Bible there are 8,000 different words. Someone said that Shakespeare used 25,000 words in his writings. I replied that God said more with less number of words.

When you reflect on the Bible in your quiet moments during the lockdown, you will discover many encouraging ideas and words to give you the peace of mind you need and to overcome the phobia of what might happen.

Let us focus our spirit to perceive the magnificence of the Bible. It truly shows us the way and teaches us to believe in the words of Christ, " I am the way, and the truth and the life". (Jn.14:6). And the Holy Bible reveals it all.

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## A husband's funny attempt at giving his wife the perfect gift.

A man was sitting on the edge of his bed watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off, he asked what she'd like to have for her birthday. Looking at the mirror his wife said. "I'd like to be 8 again" On the morning of her birthday, he woke up early, made her a nice big bowl of CHokos and took her to an adventure park. They had an amazing day! He put her on every ride in the park. They sat in all the dangerous roller coasters as well.

5 hours later they staggered out of the adventure park. The wife's head was spinning and her stomach felt upside down. The husband then took her to McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy meal with extra french fries and a chocolate milkshake. Then he took her to a movie where they ate popcorn, coca cola and all her favourite chocolate. They had an amazing time.

Both of them finally reached home and collapsed on the bed exhausted. The husband leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well dear, what was it like being 8 again?" Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. She said, "I meant I wanted to become thin! Like I was when I was 8! You idiot!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## Humour In Morning Walk

As a regular morning walker I feel the pulse of the people going around me as they wish me on the way. I first go through a park cum playground and as I enter an adjacent park I feel the newly laid walking track suit my style of walking. I never exert too much but at the same time try to walk briskly so as to sweat it out at the end of my morning routine. This has become a way of life. But at times you get much more energy and enthusiasm to walk like a military man and it attract others as well. In the sunny morning day as I was walking stiff with my right and



left legs going in a systematic way as I pass through my friends sitting at the Centre of the Park they did make a note of it. One among my friend did notice and started shouting left - right, left-right and I kept up the spirit and walked according to his command. But I could not continue to do for a longer duration and my friend did not stop his command. To overcome this act of military parade in a public park, I did turn and salute my friend while continuing to walk in the same style. Noticing my undue respect for him, he stopped his command of saying left-right and thereby I escaped being subjected to more upright steps till the end of the walking track. My other friends fell into laughter and appreciated my spontaneous way of making my presence felt without hurting them in any way.

C.K. SUBRAMANIAM

\*\*\*\*\*

Son in law complaint to mother in law:  
There are thousands of problems in your daughter?  
Mother in law replies: That is why she could not get a nice husband!

Wife: Why do hate when Sunday finishes..

Me: I don't hate but I fear of Monday!

"Coronavirus won't last long because it was made in China," read one meme.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Riddles

- What gets wetter and wetter the more that it dries? **A towel!**
- What's really easy to get into, and hard to get out of? **Trouble.**
- What is full of holes but still holds water? **A sponge.**
- Where can you find cities, towns, shops, and streets but no people? **A map.**
- A girl fell off a 20-foot ladder. She wasn't hurt. Why? **She fell off the bottom step.**

## Save Sparrow

A little sparrow once with zest,  
Built a small but beautiful nest.  
She thought it was sound and strong,  
And did not even guess anything would go wrong.



But one day, down poured the rain,  
And her efforts went in vain.  
Her dreams were destroyed and so was her nest,  
She did not know what to do next.

She was hurt by the fury of nature,  
But decided to take a step towards future.  
She built another nest,  
With equal hope and zest.

Her first nest was good,  
But in its place now stood  
A more beautiful home,  
That was built not with twigs but with hope.

— C.K. Subramaniam

# Pandemic Provides Protagoras Paradox



**C**orona continues to rule us! It appears that the nature has decided to go in for a total overhauling of the earth with a clear message that we should not take her for granted.

While the reason for the outbreak is yet to be found, I noticed that the people around us stare at each other with suspicion that the other person is the reason for the pandemic. The word, Pandemic is not to be taken lightly or carelessly. If this word is misused, it can lead to unreasonable fear and unnecessary suffering.

Covid-19 Paradox dilemma can be compared with the case of Protagoras versus Euathlus which was fought in Greece some 2000 years ago. The outcome of the case was that whichever way you look both have equally convincing arguments, one can go either way in supporting the Protagoras (the advocate) or the Euathlus (the student) and would not be wrong. The assessment of Coronavirus paradox can be seen as both paradoxical and dilemmatic.

I remember, in one of the TV Comedy shows, a similar situation was played.

The Minister of a State, on a telephone show, gets a call from an aam admi who tells the Minister that there was a flood in his area and the lives are in danger. The minister seriously replies back to the caller that it was the handiwork of the Opposition Leader and he was behind the flood! It looks we are as serious as this politician. It's becoming a blame game!



C.K. Subramaniam

The Corona helped us learn to celebrate all events without invitees. No cinemas, no social gatherings, no malls visits, no long queues in temples, no festivals, no marriages, no travels, no hospitals, no treatments, no junk foods, no liquors and many other luxuries which we thought were a must for survival. We have now learnt the meaning of 'no' and also learnt to live without these activities. In short, a good control on expenses to satiate human lust, however rich or poor one might be!

The crime rate at national level has drastically reduced is a cheering news. We are lucky that the burglars and pickpockets have not formed a union for their demands otherwise they would have gone in for a nationwide protest.

There are no chain snatching on the

roads. Rape, molestation and eve teasing have diminished in the past 60 days. The road accidents are less in numbers now. Jokes apart, many have realized the importance and difficulties to get adjusted with each other's temperament. Corona thus has cleared the secret of a successful married life is not to be at home too much!

We needed one virus to bring us into the right path that too in a short period of time. We are changing unknowingly. We are learning new habits and new life style. Yes, let this be the benchmark to start a new life. The air is now pure and free from dusts. The trees appear green and fresh. We get the smell of the real soil and the fragrance of the flowers during early mornings was a forgotten privilege. It's quite interesting to hear and listen to the chirping of birds early in the morning. The sky is so clear and we can now see the moon, stars and high rise buildings clearly from a distant place at nights. The nature appears to be over enthused. This is soon going to be a memory!

Life has many ways of testing us; either by having nothing at all or by having everything happens at once. Whatever comes, we will have to accept it with folded hands; no other way! It is certainly not a case of Protagoras Paradox! Stay safe and healthy!

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# Post Covid Church: With the Smell of the Sheep

The Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC), in a recent press release, has acknowledged the crucial need to extend succour to people during and after the lockdown. The Church in India needs to go in for hard decisions to overcome hardships of her people.

The latest issue of Indian Currents titled: "Post Covid Church: With the Smell of the Sheep" contains the following challenging analytical pieces.

1. The Church has to re-invent itself: have the courage to read and interpret the signs of the times and play a prophetic role writes Cedric Prakash in "Indian Church: Changes and Challenges."
2. This crisis of Covid 19 will continue for a long time. The Church must get ready to cope up with the emerging situation says Dr Prakash Louis in "Lockdown Exit Strategies for the Indian Church."
3. Leaders of religion have to come out of their comfort zones and get involved in the pressing concerns of the society, suggests MD Thomas in "Faith Leaders."
4. Plight of millions of migrant workers in the country should help priests and religious to review their commitment and reinvent for building the kingdom of God here and now states Varghese Alengaden in "Weary Workers"
5. The humanitarian crisis faced by us today, 'paralleling the scenes of partition', is a wake up call reminds Anto Joseph in "Road to Misery."
6. During the various 'phases' of lockdown, the working class was never provided with any financial 'relief package' writes Pachu Menon in "Economic Revival."
7. The entire economic package announced by the Prime Minister Modi is designed not to support the workers and the poor but to push forward the agenda of pro-corporate reforms asserts Jacob Peenikaparambil in "Botched Response to Economic Crisis."
8. Lockdown has caused irreparable damages to the lives of the people, especially lower middle and those living below poverty line reports ML Satyan
9. Online education may be getting popular but since it is in its infancy, many teachers need time to adapt to digital learning writes Aarti in On-line Classes

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# Lock Down Over- Look For Better Future



**L**ock down must be immediately lifted as it is not solving the purpose. In spite of lock down cases are not coming down but going up day by day. People living in congested place cannot maintain social distance. Better give work to this people where social distance is maintained along with sanitation. Chief Minister who are unable to do their duties should resign so that some capable person enforce the law strictly. Keeping people in lock down is not answer for this. How long the Government can take care. It built the foundation, now it is up to State Governments and the citizens to protect themselves. Massive work done by Central and all most all State Governments is to be appreciated. Thanks to all the health workers, we are able to survive and look for a better future.



Jayanthy Subramaniam

Even in such hard times, people have not stopped taking sides and politicizing every small issue.

My response is completely apolitical, it is up to the State Governments to handle the situation and they are better aware of the on ground realities, hence if the CM or heads of the States are making a statement we should give a fair hearing at least and not put on our political lens in a manner that the whole purpose of tackling the particular issue is defeated. Freedom of speech should not mean the freedom to think and speak irrationally.

Government has already started its

process of lifting this lock down gradually. It was not imposed abruptly. Initially the situation was in control but something unfortunate happens which results in increase in number of cases in every state. Maharashtra is worst effected, Lock down should be lifted gradually week by week and not on bi-weekly basis. Probable plan for next two weeks should be declared when announcement is made for first week. But simultaneously it should be made clear that it is subject to change. Total master plan should be for 10 weeks and it is to be followed strictly without deviation.

As the head of the state government one must be having more clarity on the situation. Lifting the lock down suddenly will have bad impact, but on the other side taking long time to control the situation will have many other issues. So a detailed guidelines to the citizens has to be given on how to keep one can keep safe and live with the Corona. Handling Covid-19 is not politics. Politics can be applied for ending abruptly ending the alliance for vested interests. Nothing is sudden and nothing is abrupt as claimed. If there is inefficient person controlling pandemic, whatever time you allow, he will find it short. One has to see how his peers are performing and take effective steps that are required.

Lock down is over and it is time to think for better future. Now, when there is a gradual withdrawal of restrictions, it is up to the State Governments to act and handle the situation. For two months everyone got trained and now they have to perform - be it the state Government or the general public. Maharashtra State probably realising that it cannot handle the coalition pressure, is passing on the buck to the Central Government. Though the lock down now seems to be sudden it was absolutely necessary. The problem with the lock down was detention of migrant labourers for indefinite period. Our political parties and trade unions leaders could not assess the sentiment of the labourers. It is collective fault of our leaders. The labourers could be allowed to move comfortably to their homes during lock down period.

Lock down is not a solution now. It should be lifted immediately otherwise middle class will be in big trouble. Already jobs are gone. Rather the government should start giving the confidence to the public by educating them about how to deal with Corona virus and that it is not life threatening. There lies the real success of the state government and not looking for lame excuses for their own failures to address a sensitive issue.

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Mobile : 9096141335

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**6841 MUMBAI :** Anglo Indian / Keralite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : mrsannieroy@yahoo.co.in

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**6797 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Five Star Hotel in Mumbai. Contact email : johnserrao14@yahoo.com

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**6485. MUMBAI:** North Indian R.C. Bachelor, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for an MNC in Mumbai as Back Office Executive. Contact email : awr88@rediffmail.com

**6228. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in December 1972). Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs., Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.S.C. A/C Tech. Course, working as a A/C. Technician in Voltas. Contact email : lawrencedias321@gmail.com / Mob: 8291056939

**6172. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in February 1978), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Position : Financial Consultant. Seeks a alliance from RC graduate/pst graduate spinster. Contact email: raceangelreb@yahoo.in

**6508. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.. working as a Asst. Manager in German Company. Contact email : colind.3010@gmail.com

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denidsouza854@gmail.com

**7127. MUMBAI :** Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Edn. Ph.D., Student. Contact email : exmi2019@gmail.com

**7109. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Associate Consulant. Contact email : helendsz27@gmail.com

**6690 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, smart, intelligent, Edn. CS., LL.B., working as a Asst. Company Secretary. Seeks a suitable educated and well settled bachelor. Caste no bar. Contact email : joylinafaroz@gmail.com.

**7105. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Microbiology, (Pursuing Ph.D., ) Assistant Professor. Contact email : 1991divine@gmail.com

**6868 CANADA :** Goan Roman

Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. Medium, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., HR Toronto and International Business Management Toronto. Only U.S. and Candian Citizens from good family background apply. Contact email :

sugarlog2009@hotmail.com

**7103. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (Separated), (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5', Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a HR. Contact email :

mail2tinafernandes@gmail.com

**6970 MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CS & LLB., working as a Company Secretary. Contact email : mendonsajacinta@gmail.com

**7092. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Talent Acquisition. Contact email : vinishadesouza@gmail.com

**7117. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in English Literature, Teacher by profession. Contact email : examiner2019@gmail.com

**7091. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 44 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, work-

ing as an Assistant Manager Presales for a multinational firm. Contact email : priyaquadras@gmail.com

**7098. MIRAJ :** Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Dental Science, Doctor by profession. Contact email : dprebentisch@yahoo.com

**6998. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1998), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Marketing & Advertising Professional. Contact email : richard.dsouza17@gmail.com

**6983. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Educated, working. Contact email : joaquimbalbina17@gmail.com

**6972. M.P. :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Manager. Contact email : anitabilung@gmail.com

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**7126. U.S.A. :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with a MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

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## Delhi archdiocese holds virtual interfaith prayer against Covid-19

By Robinson Rodrigues

New Delhi, May 18, 2020: The leaders of various religions in the national capital on May 18 came together for a virtual interfaith meeting to pray for each other.

The Commission for Interreligious Dialogue of the Archdiocese of Delhi organized the program on Zoom Meeting App.

During the prayer meeting Archbishop Anil J T Couto of Delhi urge all to become Good Samaritans to everyone who is in need.

“Today, thousands of people are out there in the open, on the roads, walking the journey of their existence. We need to be Good Samaritans to them,” the Catholic archbishop said.

Father Felix, the secretary of the commission, quoted Pope Francis to say that the prayer meeting was a response to the threat of the Coronavirus pandemic with the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness. It was an attempt to help each other by sharing inspirations and hopes, the Divine Word priest added.

Pope Francis had earlier invited believers of all religions to unite in prayer, fasting and works of charity on May 14.

Among those who attended the online prayer meeting were Swami Shantatmananda of Ramakrishna Ashram, A K Merchant of Bahai Community, Goswami Sushil Maharaj Ji of Maharshi Bhrihu Foundation, Venerable Kabir Saxena of Tushita Meditation Center, Maulana Muhammad Iqbal Mulla of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Vivek Muni Ji Maharaj of Mahavir Jain Mission, Brahmakumari Sister Sadhna, Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar of Judah Hyam Synagogue, and Sahib Giani Ranjit Singh of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, besides priests and laity of the archdiocese.

## Kerala diocese removes licentious parish priest

Karimpan, May 22, 2020: Idukki diocese in Kerala has removed a parish priest after his explicit pictures with a married woman appeared on social media platforms.

Father James Mangalasseril has been removed from the post vicar of St George Forane Church, Vellayamkudi, after “serious allegations were raised in social media platforms,” says a May 21 press release from Father Jose Plachickal, the diocesan public relations officer.

Father Mangalasseril’s removal from the vicar’s post came four days after the diocese was alerted about the incident.

The public relations officer also said that the diocese has formed a three member commission to probe the matter..

He said the nationwide lockdown to fight the coronavirus has hindered their work. “The commission could not meet all those they wanted to question because of the lockdown, hence the delay in taking further actions,” he added.

The diocese with headquarters at Karimpan town in Idukki district belongs to the Syro Malabar Church, the larger of two Oriental ritual Churches in India.

Father Plachickal described the scandal as “unfortunate” as it “defames the image

of the diocese and the faithful.” He said.

The incident came into light after some revealing pictures of the 58-year-old priest with the woman appeared on WhatsApp and other social forums. The priest had reportedly given his cellphone for repair. The technician allegedly leaked the photos to social forums.

Some parishioners have expressed surprise and disbelief over the incident. “I can’t believe that Father James is that type of a person. I think the pictures are morphed,” a parishioner told Matters India on condition of anonymity.

However, he wants the priest punished if he is found guilty. “If found guilty he should be given proper punishment, without any delay,” he added.

While the PRO’s press note is silent on the priest’s present whereabouts, some Malayalam online papers reported that he was undergoing treatment for his eyes.

The online papers also said Father Mangalasseril held prominent position in the diocese such as the vicar general from 2013 to 2017. He was rector of Mar Ephrem Minor Seminary from 2008 to 2013.

He was ordained a priest on January 3, 1990.

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